

Young People and Sexual Health:

Reducing Risky Behaviour through Education and Engagement



Wednesday 4th September 2013

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel
Brussels



Young People and Sexual Health:

Reducing Risky Behaviour through Education and Engagement

Overview

Sexual health and sexually transmitted infections remain a significant public health problem in Europe, with untreated STIs potentially leading to serious short and long-term consequences for individuals.

Young people aged 16-25 are the most vulnerable, with chlamydia being the most widespread sexually transmitted infection in Europe. As such, there is a need for young people to find a positive and safe approach towards their sexual health, and measures need to be taken at the EU level to ensure the sexual well-being of young Europeans.

Whilst much has been done to curb the rising level of infections in countries such as Sweden, where children are taught about sexual health at a primary level, it is clear a more comprehensive strategy is still required. Due in part to a negative perception of sexual education or a fear that it will encourage sexual activity, adolescents are often denied education, information or health services that would otherwise have helped them to make capable, informed choices. There is an urgent need to raise awareness and provide easily accessible education through both formal and informal channels and youth-friendly sexual health services.

Furthermore, it is important that the internet and social media platforms are utilised in order to promote sexual health and well-being, with the impact and reach of these tools considered in any action intending to address the lack of awareness and poor sexual health education.

This timely international symposium will provide an invaluable opportunity for participants to examine current sexual health related challenges and assess the progress made so far in tackling sexual health issues among young people at an EU level. The symposium will allow delegates from all sectors to exchange ideas and share best practices in improving the sexual behaviours of all young people in Europe through the development of innovative education, engagement and awareness strategies.

“ **[Sexual and reproductive health] problems are rooted in a biomedical dimension, yet their origins lie in human behaviour – the domain of the social scientist. Social norms govern the expression of sexuality and sexual behaviour in every society, and these norms sanction reproduction. Health-compromising practices often reflect social norms (e.g. child marriage, intimate partner violence). They increase people’s vulnerability to risk of adverse outcomes while limiting their ability to adopt healthy behaviour. Sociopolitical forces and social and economic exclusion (including poverty, unequal access to services, and gender inequalities) may also act as major influences on sexual and reproductive behaviour and choices.**”

- UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, 2012

Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

In the heart of the European district you will find the Silken Berlaymont Brussels. It offers warm hospitality and an exclusive setting, combining fine architecture with comfort and elegance.



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Promote teenage sexual health through better communication, sex and relationship education and access to services**
- ✓ **Share best practices and understanding of sexual behaviour and sexual outcomes**
- ✓ **Help shape a positive and holistic EU-wide approach towards sexual health**
- ✓ **Delineate appropriate frameworks for multi-sector coordination**

Who Should Attend?

- Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinators
- Sexual Health Strategy Co-ordinators
- Local, Regional and National Health Services
- Sexual Health Treatment/Advisory Services
- Teachers and Senior Schools Staff
- Counselling Services
- Child Psychologists
- Sexual Health Support and Outreach Services
- Local and Regional Education and Children’s Services
- Health Promotion Advisers
- School Nurses and Health Visitors
- Child and Education Psychologists
- Family Planning Specialists/Associations
- Looked After/Children in Care Teams
- Drug and Alcohol Action Teams
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Social Care Professionals
- Child Protection Officers
- National Governmental Agencies
- Third Sector Representatives
- Academics
- Social Services
- Gender and Development Organisations
- Sexual Health NGOs
- Sexual Health Associations
- Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Services
- Reproductive Health Alliances
- Health Education and Research Centres
- National Societies for Sexology
- Sexuality and Health Foundations
- Associations for Clinical Sexology
- Youth Forums
- Youth Organisations
- Social Inclusion Organisations
- National Schools for Public Health
- Institutes of General Practice and Community Medicine
- Psychoanalysts
- Family Practitioners

Young People and Sexual Health:

Reducing Risky Behaviour through Education and Engagement

Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Raising Awareness of Sexual Health among Young People**
- Empowering Young People Through Sexual Health Education in Schools
 - The Role of Families in Influencing Young People's Sexual Health Behaviours
 - Stimulating Sound Engagement of the European Youth With the Issue of Sexual Health
 - Summing-up the Challenges and Proposing Possible Solutions
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Sharing Best Practices in Tackling Sexual Health Issues at the EU Level**
- Active Promotion of Sexual Health and Healthy Sexual Behaviours within the EU Health Programme 2008-2013 - How Far Has Brussels Gone?
 - Effectively Engaging Young People to Influence and Improve their Sexual Behaviours
 - Examples of Successful Campaigns and Projects - Recommendations for the Future
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Emerging Trends - The Impact of Social Media in Influencing Sexual Health and Young People's Sexual Behaviour**
- Utilising Social Media to Promote Sound Sexual Health Communications and Support Schools and Families in Delivering Effective Education
 - Effectiveness of "Infoveillance" - Monitoring Social Media Users' Searches
 - Successful Examples of Implementation of Social Media Strategies to Prevent and Raise Awareness of Sexual Health
 - Recommendations
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:40** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 15:00** **Improving Sexual Health of the European Youth on a Multi-Level Basis**
- National Sexual Health Strategies in Europe - Examples of National Best Trends
 - Discussing the Effectiveness of EU Actions to Monitor and Tackle Sexual Health Issues Amongst Young People
 - Is There a Need for a Harmonised Approach to Sexual Health of the Young Among EU Member States?
 - Methods of Information Sharing Between Different Actors at Different Levels
- 15:30** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 16:00** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:10** Networking Reception
- 16:40** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

- Date:** Wednesday 4th September 2013
Time: 10:00am – 4:40pm
Venue: The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



Speakers Include

- ✓ **Karolien Dekkers**, Programme Advisor and Regional Youth Focal Point, International Planned Parenthood Federation (confirmed)
- ✓ **Lies Verhetsel**, Youth Policy Officer, Flemish Centre of Expertise on Sexual Health (confirmed)
- ✓ **Simon Jones**, Director, Youth Services, Living Well (invited)
- ✓ **Otilia Sfetcu**, Senior Epidemiologist, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (confirmed)
- ✓ **Evert Ketting**, Senior Research Fellow, Nijmegen Department of Public Health, Radboud University (confirmed)
- ✓ **Luigi Petito**, Manager, Boys and Girls Partnership (confirmed)

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact:

Parvin Madahar on +44 (0) 20 3137 8630

or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk