

An evaluation of the Action and Support in Pregnancy (ASC) Emergency Contraception Scheme

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Summary

The aim of this study was to investigate the extent to which the current service in 2014 meets the needs of the local population and to identify how the service could be improved in the future. Objectives included: Identify and explore service users views and concerns about the current service by capturing qualitative and quantitative data, evaluate the extent to which the current service is fit for purpose and to make recommendations for how the service could be improved in the future. Findings were that this study demonstrated that the current pharmacy service offered appears fit for purpose. Privacy was no longer an issue with the addition of consultation rooms being the main facilitator in overcoming this. This study provides evidence that pharmacy is key in reducing unwanted pregnancies. The main limitation to this study was the small sample size, however it is encouraging that the young women surveyed welcomed additional sexual health services being made available from pharmacy. Recommendations to the public health team were surrounding the accessibility and promotion of the current service, to increase awareness of the service, to ensure that signposting is available and to consider the development of other sexual health services being offered through pharmacy.

Work Undertaken

Community pharmacists in Coventry offering the ASC scheme were asked to distribute questionnaires to service users between September and November 2014. Completed surveys were received from 53 service users which equated to a response rate of 20.4%. The average age of respondents was 19.6 years old. Half of service users surveyed choose pharmacy due to privacy (32%) and ease of access (18%). The majority of service users had either used the service before (47.2%) or had heard about it from others (21.6%). All of the service users thought pharmacy was a good place to access EHC. A significant proportion of service users would wait to see if they got pregnant if they could not access the pharmacy service (41.5%). When asked about additional information 81% wanted more information on the pill and 84.9% wanted more information on sexually transmitted infections. It was planned to run a focus group for service users to discuss their thoughts on the service, unfortunately one service user attended so this was conducted as a structured interview and her thoughts and opinions on the service she had experienced were collected.

Project Outputs

I have shared the research and my write up with public health Coventry and I am hoping to be able to present a poster at an upcoming conference. I have not considered publication of my data as yet.