

Section A: NICE to complete	
Name:	Owen Brigstock Barron
Job title:	National Programme Manager – Sexual Health, Reproductive Health & HIV
Address:	PHE
Guidance title:	Condom distribution schemes
Committee:	PHAC A
Subject of expert testimony:	C card distribution scheme
Evidence gaps or uncertainties:	[Please list the research questions or evidence uncertainties that the testimony should address]
<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there UK based work that might be of interest to committee but may be unpublished? • What activities are being commissioned (or re-commissioned). What do you expect to be commissioned in the future? What would you like to be commissioned in the future? • What trends/patterns/changes in commissioning practice have you observed in recent years? • Which individuals, services or organisations are best placed to intervene, where are the statutory requirements and where do responsibilities lie (impact of change to LA from NHS)? • Who should (or most likely to be in a position to) take action / pick up any recommendations that NICE may make? • Where do you think the key evidence gaps are? 	
Section B: Expert to complete	
Summary testimony:	[Please use the space below to summarise your testimony in 250 – 1000 words – continue over page if necessary]
<p>Across England condom distribution schemes form a common element of local sexual health, reproductive health and HIV prevention programmes. This testimony will focus on one type of multicompetent condom distribution scheme often called C-card. A C-card scheme is a type of condom scheme, normally aimed at young people (under 25's) which enables (once registered) access to condoms, lubricants and other safer sex products for free with the presentation of a credit-card style registration ID document.¹</p> <p>In 2014 Brook and Public Health England (PHE) produced national best practice guidelines for implementing and commissioning C-Card schemes; these build upon previous guidelines issued by Brook in 2008. In this guidance Brook and PHE explored the common factors seen across C-Card schemes nationally and collated some of the key policy context(s) for commissioning such schemes.</p> <p>Typically C-Card schemes are locally funded by local authorities, following the transfer of responsibility for public health (including prevention) to local government in April 2013. To provide further clarity on the new commissioning arrangements PHE published 'Making it Work'² – A guide to whole system commissioning for Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and HIV in 2014. This guide alongside PHE's strategic action plan for 'Health promotion for sexual and reproductive health and HIV'³ provide a comprehensive overview of current responsibility for commissioning of SH, RH & HIV programmes and the landscape within which C-Card schemes operate.</p> <p>One of the key strengths of multi component condom distribution schemes such as C-Card is their whole</p>	

system approach. They often work across a number of organisational boundaries, encourage joint working and enable staff across a range of organisations to offer a sexual health provision.

Over time C-Card schemes have evolved and changed. Some schemes have developed a more integrated approach incorporating their C-Card scheme into a wider offer. Leeds City Council have developed the 3 in 1 scheme which includes C-Card, Chlamydia testing and pregnancy testing. Whilst the scheme still operates with a fully functioning C-Card element the scheme offers a more holistic model of sexual health provision. This could be seen as beneficial for the young person accessing the scheme in terms of provision (volume of access points/number of services) but also in terms of maximising resources in relation to staff training and advertising (all covered under one umbrella programme).

In recent years some schemes have been commissioned over larger footprints (multiple local authority boundaries). Such examples include the 'Come Correct' scheme in London, which is funded across more than 20 Local authorities⁴. This enables local areas to buy into a pre designed scheme, enabling added value and the potential to benefit from economies of scale.

This NICE guidance review specifically asked for evidence to indicate whether condom distribution schemes are effective in the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's). From the evidence review completed it is clear that little published work exploring this specific link exists. One of the largest sources of evidence will be held by C-Card schemes in operation. A large number of these schemes will be undertaking extensive monitoring and evaluation of their programmes on a regular basis, as recommended in the Brook/ PHE C-Card guidance. Publication of this local evidence would be extremely beneficial and enable the potential for a national evidence synthesis to explore C-Card scheme(s) effectiveness in STI prevention.

In terms of implementation of any NICE recommendations; the publication of local C-Card data and evaluations would be taken forward by the responsible commissioner (usually Local Authorities) or their designated provider. For the production of a national evidence synthesis of C-Card evaluations/data a statutory body with a responsibility in system leadership and evidence provision (such as Public Health England) would be well placed to deliver.

References (if applicable):

¹ Brook; Public Health England. C-Card condom distributions schemes: why, what and how. 2014. https://www.brook.org.uk/attachments/C-Card_condom_distribution_schemes_-_What_why_and_how_-_July_2014.pdf [accessed 19.04.2016]

² Public Health England. Making it work: A guide to whole system commission for Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and HIV (revised edition). 2015. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408357/Making_it_work_revised_March_2015.pdf [accessed 19.04.2016]

³ Public Health England. Health promotion for sexual and reproductive health and HIV: Strategic action plan 2016 to 2019. 2015. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488090/SRHandHIVStrategicPlan_211215.pdf [accessed 19.04.2016]

⁴ Come Correct - Pan London C-Card scheme. 2015. *Come Correct - Pan London C-Card scheme - Home*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.comecorrect.org.uk> [Accessed 19 April 2016].