



FPA Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Introduction

This strategic plan has been developed with the input of FPA staff, senior management and trustees. It sets out what we aim to achieve during 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019 and has a UK-wide focus.

Vision and mission statements

Our vision is a society where everyone can make positive choices about their own sexual health and wellbeing.

Our mission is to champion people's right to sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing through advocacy, campaigning, education and information.

Our values:

- FPA values integrity, equality and diversity.
- FPA values open and honest communication.
- FPA values high quality and innovation in everything we do.

Background

FPA was part of an instrumental movement pioneering the rights of women and men to have the freedom to control their fertility through contraception. In 1930 we set up the National Birth Control Council with 20 family planning clinics ‘so that married people may space or limit their families and thus mitigate the evils of ill-health and poverty’.

Since then, FPA has contributed significantly to a social and sexual revolution which has changed and improved the lives of millions, including securing free contraception provision through the NHS since 1974.

In 2013, sexual and reproductive health services in England experienced significant change with the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferring responsibility for public health to local authorities. We now operate in an environment in which funding has been significantly reduced. Following the success of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, there is also less of a policy focus on sexual and reproductive health, while the underlying threat to the abortion rights continues. In Northern Ireland, abortion continues to be legal in only very particular circumstances.

Sex and relationships education (SRE) is still not statutory in all schools and we continue to live in a society that can be embarrassed to talk openly about sex.

Communicating information is a core aspect of our work. We have worked with the Department of Health, and more recently with Public Health England, to provide a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information service to the public and professionals. The government digital-first approach has had a significant impact on the way we distribute information. As we embrace digital transformation we aim to continue as the leading provider of sexual and reproductive health information and ensure that no one is excluded from receiving high-quality information.

As one of the leading sexual health charities in the UK we work for sexual and reproductive health and rights for people of all ages, encompassing contraception, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), pregnancy choices including abortion, sex and relationships education (SRE), sexuality, sexual wellbeing and pleasure. This reflects the principles of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Declaration of Sexual Rights, which states that having sexual rights adds to the freedom, equality and dignity of all people. FPA is the UK Member Association of IPPF.

Our work is underpinned by the principle that all citizens in the UK have the right to access high-quality information, education, and sexual and reproductive health services without prejudice.

FPA – strategic areas of intent

We have identified three strategic areas of focus to guide our work over the next three years. They describe the impact that we aim to have and will help us achieve our vision and execute our mission.

Those of reproductive age, parents, people with learning disabilities and older people will have improved access to high-quality information, education programmes and training by 2019.

High-quality sex and relationships education (SRE) will be a part of ALL primary and secondary UK national curriculums by 2019.

ALL women in the UK, including those in Northern Ireland (NI), will have ease of access to NHS abortion services by 2019.

To help us achieve our aims, we intend to grow our volunteer base, with at least one volunteer supporting each main strand of our work. In addition, we will strengthen our links with external partners and collaborate with organisations which require sexual and reproductive health expertise.

Key areas of work

The following key areas of work will help us deliver on our strategic areas of intent.

Those of reproductive age, parents, people with learning disabilities and older people will have improved access to high-quality information, education programmes and training by 2019.

FPA will:

1. Develop high-quality information, training and education by:

- a. providing gold-standard, quality-assured information on the full range of contraceptive choices and on sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- b. delivering high-quality education and training programmes on sexual and reproductive health, including specific programmes tailored to the needs of people with learning disabilities
- c. providing the evidence base on stigma around HIV, in particular, working with key professionals to reduce the stigma related to HIV
- d. ensuring information is relevant across all life stages, so as to promote lifelong sexual health and wellbeing.

2. Disseminate high-quality resources with maximum reach, by:

- a. reaching broader audiences and specific target groups through the use of digital and print information
- b. running educational programmes to enhance the skills of parents and people with learning disabilities in sexual and reproductive health
- c. training professionals so that they are able to offer support on sexual and reproductive health issues.

High-quality sex and relationships education (SRE) will be a part of ALL primary and secondary UK national curriculums by 2019.

FPA will:

1. Ensure resources used to teach SRE are of the highest quality and standard by:

- a. working with expert bodies, such as Brook and the PSHE Association, in order to develop and deliver good SRE
- b. engaging with key stakeholders such as teachers' unions and education charities to provide them with examples of high-quality SRE practice
- c. producing high-quality SRE resources for schools, such as young people's booklets and an online primary school tool.

2. Be one of the leaders in the fight for high-quality SRE to be implemented in schools by:

- a. campaigning and lobbying government to change current law
- b. campaigning for SRE components to be part of teacher training
- c. working with school champions to share and act on SRE good practice
- d. working with parents and school governors so that they can act as key advocates in moving the agenda forward.

ALL women in the UK, including those in Northern Ireland, will have ease of access to NHS abortion services by 2019.

FPA will:

1. Provide accurate impartial information supporting those who need to access an abortion by:

- a. running pregnancy choices counselling services in Northern Ireland
- b. ensuring all our educational resources and programmes cover the choices that exist with regards to abortion
- c. challenging anti-choice campaigners who provide inaccurate information.

2. Lobby for a change in the abortion laws and practices across the country by:

- a. actively lobbying and carrying out advocacy work with Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly to further the aims of abortion rights
- b. engaging parliamentarians on the issue of unequal access to abortion services across the UK, with particular reference to Northern Ireland.
- c. campaigning for women in Northern Ireland to freely access NHS abortion services, especially, but not limited to, in cases of pregnancy as a result of sexual crime and fatal fetal abnormality
- d. actively supporting the campaign for abortion to be removed from criminal law across the UK.
- e. partnering with key organisations.