

## Sexual Health: Chlamydia Screening

### Summary

HALE holds Chlamydia screening sessions at colleges, pubs, night clubs, music events, and on our MOV. We use these sessions to recruit screeners as well as carrying out the tests themselves, and also recruit young people to become screeners from CLASH courses, via facebook and at other promotional events. We also use our Facebook page to engage with young people about events and information relating to our sexual health work.

Our sessions aim to create a friendly and relaxed environment which is easily accessible and encourages young people to attend who would not normally access mainstream services. The young people who become screeners are trained to engage their peers in discussions around sexual health and relationships. They are paid to carry out the screening tests alongside a HALE staff member.

- 100% of screeners said that they felt more confident talking about sexual relationships after completing their training
- 100% said they were more aware of the impact of alcohol on health and relationships

### Our impact

We have screened 130 people so far during 2011, and have recruited a further 29 to become peer to peer screeners. Our innovative approach has led to HALE having the highest Chlamydia screening rate amongst voluntary organisations in Bradford.

We have approximately 40 people attending the Mobile Outreach Venue every Friday night who we engage with to educate them in a relaxed way about the impact of alcohol, sexual health and relationships. Young people enjoy attending the MOV for screens as they say they feel more comfortable talking to staff in that environment than they would in a doctors surgery.

Our trainers report that their confidence has increased they are able to approach their peers in a confident and professional manner to explain all aspects of the screens and sexual health. They are able to speak to their peers about safe and healthy sexual relationships in a way which is neither threatening nor embarrassing.

### Comments from participants

“We did 5 screenings this evening everyone was so friendly, so much was going on was really good I’m defo more comfortable being around other young people this experience has given me so much confidence”

“Sooo enjoyed the screening training can’t wait to get started”

“I can’t believe how quick that was I thought the test would take ages and the person doing the test would be dead snobby and look down their nose at me, it’s great I would defo do one again”.