

Say Your Goodbyes to STIs

This Union Notes:

This section should include any facts, figures or statements that you believe are relevant to the topic of your policy. Remember in this section clear and effective referencing is important.

1. The Health Centre at the University of Warwick is only capable of “Organising tests for HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B.”¹
2. If a student “would like to have a ‘full STI screen’ that can check for things like Gonorrhoea or Trichomonas you will need to attend a GUM clinic. Occasionally the Coventry GUM service will come to the University to offer an outreach screening session for asymptomatic people. The students union may be able to tell you if any sessions are planned for the near future.”² – These sexual health clinics are only available if both ISHS and the SU can collaborate to provide this service. No other services are available at the University of Warwick, or provided by Warwickshire District Council for this testing, except for ISHS remote testing.
3. Whilst the SU organises Sexual Health Clinics in collaboration with ISHS Coventry, these are only available several times a term. There is no permanent testing point available to students on campus throughout term-time.
4. According to ‘Avert’, Global Information and Education on HIV and AIDs, “Despite rates of late diagnosis being on the decline, this remains one of the key challenges facing the UK. Late diagnosis means 442 people still died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2016 and 428 in 2017.”³
5. A report published by Public Health England (PHE) reveals that “across all STIs, the highest rates of diagnoses continue to be seen in 16 to 24 year olds.”⁴
6. The University of Warwick does not provide, nor outsource Sexual Health Services as of present.
7. Not everyone is able to travel to off campus testing facilities, even if they exist. This may be due to a disability and/or fears of discrimination.

This Union Believes:

This section should include opinions or supporting statements for your policy.

1. Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Sexual Health related diseases/ infections are clearly prevalent in the average age range of the student population in the UK.
2. Lack of sexual health services could lead to late diagnosis, and consequently more severe symptoms. In turn, early diagnosis would reduce the development of these symptoms and thus relieve further strains, for more complex treatment, on the NHS.

¹ <https://www.uwhc.org.uk/Student-Health/Sexual-Health-at-UWHC>

² <https://www.uwhc.org.uk/Student-Health/Sexual-Health-at-UWHC>

³ <https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/western-central-europe-north-america/uk>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-data-reveals-420000-cases-of-stis-diagnosed-in-2017>

3. The University of Warwick provides no Sexual Health Services or materials for the student population. Thus, in this department, the University is lacking in its duty of care to students.
4. The University of Warwick Health Centre provides no support for students who wish to receive a full STI screening or tests for: HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B. This is a private decision on behalf of the Health Centre, which does not correlate with the needs of its predominantly student cliental.
5. Between the University of Warwick and the University of Warwick Health Centre, full STI screening and tests for: HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B, should be made available on campus, free of charge, to all students.
6. Whilst the SU continues to fill this gap in Sexual Health Services, by organising drop-in clinics for students, the Union's time and resources could be better spent lobbying on both a local and national scale for increased Sexual Health Services for students. Furthermore, the Union is not a healthcare provider, and instead should be raising awareness and education around the topic, in the hopes of preventing late diagnosis in students. Moreover, the Union should be made independent of this testing, in order to ensure that the Union can successfully advocate for students without conflicts of interest arising.
7. Regular and reliable on site testing would benefit all students, particularly those from liberation communities.

This Union Resolves:

This section should be about how you want the SU to react, the outcome of this policy. Remember to mandate specific departments/sabbatical officers; this will make things easier for future accountability

1. Mandate the Welfare and Campaigns Officer to lobby the University of Warwick Health Centre to provide extended Sexual Health Services and blood tests to students, on site.
2. In the eventuality that the University of Warwick Health Centre cannot provide these services: mandate the Welfare and Campaigns Officer to lobby the University of Warwick to source an alternative service.
3. Mandate the Democracy and Development Officer and President to lobby the University of Warwick includes the consideration of Sexual Health and blood testing services in the terms and conditions of any future Health Centre buildings or extensions.
4. Mandate the Welfare and Campaigns Officer to look into providing Sexual Health Clinics on Campus in collaboration with ISHS Coventry, both the University and Health Centre fail to provide these services.
5. To lobby for effective sign posting to secondary services, and ensure these are as inclusive and accessible as possible.
6. To ensure that liberation part-time officers are involved and consulted in the above campaigns/efforts.

Policy History		
Action	Body	Date

(Please leave the above box blank)