

The HIV & sexual health charity for life

News

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Terrence Higgins Trust launches new sexual health clinic for young people in North West London with local youth charity

HIV and sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and social exclusion charity P3 have launched a walk-in Fast Test clinic at P3's Kilburn Youth Centre to help young people in North West London combat increasing levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The service, run in partnership with Camden PCT, encourages young people to take control of their sexual health by providing a friendly, welcoming space that offers a range of sexual and reproductive health services, including simple tests for chlamydia, HIV and other STIs.

In 2007, those in the 16-24 age bracket accounted for nearly half of all STIs in the UK, and approximately one in ten under 25s in the UK currently has chlamydia without being aware that they have it. Part of the reason chlamydia is so widespread is that most people with the infection have no symptoms, and it only takes one sexual encounter to pass it on. If left untreated chlamydia can lead to serious health problems, including infertility.

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The chlamydia test offered by THT's Fast Test clinic involves taking a urine sample which is then posted off to the lab; results are available within a week. For those who test positive, THT will provide antibiotics to treat the infection free of charge. HIV tests can be taken using a finger-prick blood test, and the results provided within an hour. The clinic also offers information and advice on STIs and safer sex to young people, as well as giving out free condoms, the contraceptive pill and contraceptive injection. P3's youth workers are also able to provide advice and information on a range of youth services.

Adam Wilkinson, London Operations Manager for THT said: "As far as good sexual health is concerned, going for regular check-ups is just as important as using condoms. We know that a lot of young people feel nervous about visiting sexual health services, which is why we've made the whole process at our Fast Test clinic at P3's Kilburn Youth Centre as quick and easy as possible. Sessions are free, with no need for an appointment, and so we hope young people in the area will be encouraged to come along and take control of their sexual health."

The Fast Test service takes place at Kilburn Youth Centre, 12-22 Kilburn High Road
London, NW6 5UH. Sessions take place every Saturday between 12.00pm and 3.00pm. For further information, please contact THT on 0845 12 21 200 or P3's Kilburn Youth Centre on 0207 328 7172.

Ends

For press information please contact Will Harris in the THT press office on 020 7812 1629, email will.harris@tht.org.uk

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Notes to editors

1. Terrence Higgins Trust is the UK's leading HIV and sexual health charity with centres across England, Scotland and Wales. We're here to provide information and advice about HIV and sexual health and offer a range of services including sexual health checks, counselling and support groups. We campaign for a world where people with HIV live healthy lives, free from prejudice and discrimination and we promote good sexual health as a right and reality for all. Terrence Higgins Trust relies on donations to deliver a wide range of services. To make a donation, visit www.tht.org.uk
2. P3 is one of the UK's foremost charities tackling the root causes and effects of social and economic exclusion. With a range of services including housing, mental health support, youth advice services, outreach, link worker schemes, sexual health and social enterprise, P3 works with thousands of people each week to empower them in reaching their full potential. www.p3charity.com
3. www.kilburnyouthcentre.org.uk