**Written evidence from pupils at Brixham College**

“Personally, I wouldn't know where to go for sexual health advice, I didn’t know there was a clinic or where it is and I think that’s bad. If I wanted to go on the pill I wouldn't know what to do. Young people need to know these things and there needs to be more work on promoting it. I’d also be really scared they would call my parents so I think there needs more advertising on the fact that these services are confidential. We also need more information on what to do if you are pregnant and it’s unwanted. Practical advice like who to contact and when it would still be confidential. A sexual health nurse in school you trust would be good. I think mental health services and sexual health should be in two different areas, unless it’s counselling etc. to do with sex or sexual abuse.

I learnt what sex meant from a dictionary at primary school in Year 4. I think sex needs to be talked about even at a young age as it can be done appropriately depending on children’s ages. Our lessons now we are in secondary school are good but there needs to more. Like more lessons on CSE and keeping yourself safe. It’s easy to get into bad situations if you don’t know about risks. Everyone should be able to have a girls group like us, it shouldn’t matter if you're loud or naughty, quiet and well behaved girls are just as likely to be having sex or at risk of CSE. I feel more comfortable with outside agencies coming in and delivering sessions on topics like this rather than teachers we know. That can be awkward a lot of the time. If it’s taught in school it really depends what teacher you get and it shouldn’t be like that. Teachers have to be confident with the topic and be willing to talk about anything that comes up. I think we need to learn more about LGBT too, like how two girls would have sex. That’s never talked about.”
"We need a more local sexual health clinic and it would be better for this to be inside a doctor’s surgery, as if the clinic is somewhere separate lots of girls may be uncomfortable as if they are seen often rumours can be spread and this puts people off from visiting.

I think it’s really important that more is done for young people’s mental health and having somewhere like a hub, linked with sexual health could be a good idea. This has to be more local to Brixham than Torquay, which is where you’d need to go now.

I think a service in school would be good but it would need to be confidential and appointments not made through teachers. Maybe a drop box where you could fill out a form and the nurse would get back to you.

I think it’s important that lessons around sexual health starts earlier, it’s too late to learn about STI’s in Year 8, even if you’re not having sex, something could happen to you and you need to know about consent and how to report it if abuse happens to you. You need to know how to get support and not be embarrassed."

“We need a sexual health clinic in Brixham, it’s not ok that we have to travel all the way to Torquay. The distance is too far. It would be better too if the sexual health clinic was with other services so people wouldn’t know what you’re going in for, otherwise you could be judged. It would be good to have a sexual health nurse in school, but even better to have someone out of school that you could see easily.

I think the sessions like in the girls group need to be delivered to everyone. Everyone needs to know about consent and CSE. It’s good to have outside agencies come into schools as we can be more open and definitely learn more when it isn’t a teacher we personally know”.

“All young people need to know where the sexual health clinic is and that it’s confidential. I didn’t know it even existed. For me, I think it would be good if it was somewhere quiet and out of town a bit, I wouldn’t go if I thought someone might see me. I think it’s important for it not to be at school as I
wouldn’t trust a nurse not to inform teachers, or teachers might see you speaking with the nurse.

I think the way we are taught PSHEE in Flexible Learning Days is good as we get to talk and think about a subject all day. I think boys should learn more though, like about periods and how to be respectful to women. That all links to sex. Boys have to be responsible for sexual health too”.

“I don’t think sexual health services should be at school or from teachers, I think only qualified, independent people with experience of the subject should be delivering it or giving advice. I think the Flexible Learning Days we have aren’t enough, we need more information about contraception and the options and how to get them. People also need to stop using posh words and terminology, that’s not how we speak. If they want us to know those words fine, but the way we talk needs to be recognised too. Teachers need to take it seriously and I don’t think they always realise how important this stuff is for us to know and for us to talk about it.

I think there should be a sexual health clinic in Brixham, but somewhere quiet where people won’t see you”.

“I think there needs to be a sexual health clinic in Brixham or at least Paignton, but I think it needs to be a bit hidden, not in the main part of town, you don’t want to be embarrassed.

I think it would be good if more about sex and contraception was done in Science lessons”.

“I think it would be good to have a hub for sexual health and emotional support all in one place. It needs to be confidential and young people need to be really aware of this. I think lessons need to start earlier like in Year 7 and girls groups given to all. I think a peer mentoring scheme would be good, maybe young people will speak to other young people about stuff more easily. They could listen to them and tell them where to go for more information or help.”

“A sexual health clinic nearer or in Brixham is necessary. It’s a really long way away even by bus at the moment. I think if you’re desperate you should be able to get some help at school and I think things like condoms should be more available. I think sexual health services should be in the same place as mental health services and it should be that you can turn up and ask for support and self-refer. We should have more lessons on all of this, mental health and sexual health – we need specialised teachers teaching it too, who know what they’re talking about, who feels comfortable talking about these things too.”
things. I’d feel more comfortable having someone come in and teach us who wasn’t part of the school'.