

Information for parents, carers and professionals

What is the Bridge service?

It is a dedicated, easy-access service for people with learning disabilities, which offers screening for sexually transmitted infections, (including HIV) and a full contraceptive service. It also offers treatments and advice, information about sex and sexual health. Free condoms and lubricant are also available.

Where is the service offered?

The Bridge service is offered at two clinics: The Archway Centre in north London, and Mortimer Market Centre in central London.

Who can use the Bridge service?

Anyone with a learning disability can come to the Bridge service, no matter where they live. The services are completely free.

Do you need an appointment?

Yes, it is best to make an appointment. However, if it is an emergency during clinic hours, we will try to be flexible.

Can someone accompany the client?

Yes, of course, but we will always ask the client whether they are happy to have the accompanying person in the room with them while they are being asked about their sexual history.

How long will the appointment take?

We would recommend you allow up to two hours for a sexual health check-up, including tests, but 'Quick-Check' appointments are available too if there are no issues or symptoms.

How will the client get their results?

Some results might be available the same day, however, we will discuss with each client the best way for them to get their results — this could be by coming back to the clinic one week later or by telephone, text, email or letter.

Will everything the client tells the clinic be confidential?

Yes. We will not share anything the client tells us with anyone else. However, if the client reveals that he/she or someone else is at risk of harm, we may have to tell someone. But we will always talk to the client first.

Does the client have to give their full address?

We only need a full postcode, not a full address. We need the postcode so we can get paid for the appointment. The only other thing we need is a way of contacting the client, and that can be a phone number or email address. There is no need to give a full address if the client doesn't wish to give it.

How can I refer someone to the service?

A client can refer themselves, or they can be referred by GPs, family members, carers or other professionals if they have the client's consent.

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