

1741 Fighting Institutional Homophobia in the Health Service

Passed 15 October 15

Proposer: Theo Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ Officer)

Seconded: Grace Robinson (Sexpression)

Union notes:

1. That the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is responsible for 5% of all cancers worldwide and HPV-related cancers are increasing, with HPV directly causing 7,084 cancers in the UK last year.
2. HPV is most commonly transmitted sexually.
3. In 2008, HPV vaccination of girls aged 12-13 in schools with a catch up programme for all girls under the age of 18 was rolled out nationally after recommendations from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
4. That there is no vaccination programme in the UK for men who sleep with men (MSM) after the JCVI indicated that vaccinating boys was unlikely to be cost-effective, and that vaccinating girls would provide 'herd protection' to boys.¹
5. That delaying gender-neutral HPV vaccination until 2020, as the JCVI suggests, threatens the lives of 400,000 boys each year.²

Union believes:

1. That vaccinating women only implies that they are solely responsible for transmitting and preventing HPV. In reality, anyone can transmit HPV and should be protected against the virus.
2. MSM are the group of men most at risk of HPV infection and its consequences. MSM are, for obvious reasons, completely unprotected by a girls-only vaccination programme, however high its uptake.
3. That the cost of £20-£22 million per year to vaccinate boys is more cost effective than compared to the cost of treating HPV related diseases, which in men alone stands at over £32 million per year.

Union resolves:

1. To mandate the LGBT+ officer to:

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/373531/JCVI_interim_state_ment_HP_vacc.pdf

²<http://www.hpvaction.org/uploads/1/7/8/5/17850843/jabs-for-boys-report.pdf>

- a) Sign and share the [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition by HPV Action and encourage UUEAS members to sign the petition.
- b) To lobby East Anglian MPs to sign the current Early Day Motion in parliament on vaccinating young boys against the HPV vaccine.
- c) To join with the NUS LGBT+ campaign to ensure that we are campaigning for a gender neutral vaccination against the human papillomavirus.