

Creating a whole Practice Strategy

"We used to rely on Joe to handle sexual matters, but now he's left.."

Practice Manager

It's easier to talk about sex with the backing and involvement of colleagues. So if at all possible, set up a whole-practice strategy.

Make discussion of sexual topics part of practice meetings; have a 'round' of issues practice staff have met in consultations. This will not only normalise conversations which include such topics, it will lower the awkwardness level. It will also, crucially, allow discussions of embarrassing or difficult cases. More suggestions for extra exercises to use with staff can be found here.

Be clear to clients — on waiting room noticeboards and on the practice website — that staff are happy to discuss sexual issues. If some staff are not happy, then they should make it clear to clients that it is possible to have a one-off consultation with another member of staff.

Accommodate clients who want longer appointments, same/different-gender appointments or appointments with practitioners they feel comfortable with.

Have available in-practice sexual health information that is accurate, trustworthy, up-to-date. Our Hand-Out ([LINK](#)) and Resources ([LINK](#)) on this website give suggestions of organisations that can provide you with information leaflets and other helpful material.

Create your own personalised page on our Hand-Out, adding local organisations and practitioners (get to know them as personalising contacts improves communication). Then photocopy and fold in four. Distribute these Hand-Outs to staff, explaining that these are to give to clients if discussions on sex prove difficult or if more information/signposting is required.

Support those staff who feel comfortable about discussing sexual topics by encouraging them to attend CPD to further increase their knowledge, comfort and confidence."

Support those staff who don't feel comfortable by briefing them to at least ask an initial question of clients, knowing they can then refer on to further information, another practice member or an outside consultant/therapist and / or pass over the Hand-Out.