



# **Sexual Health Needs Assessment – service provision**

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## Clinic attendances and sexual health screens

### Service provision

Since the Health and Social Care Bill (2013), the commissioning responsibility for sexual health is shared amongst a number of different organisations. This commissioning responsibility is tabled below:

**Table 1: Commissioning responsibilities in relation to sexual health**

Local authorities	NHS England	Clinical commissioning groups
Comprehensive open access sexual health services including: genitourinary medicine (GUM); contraceptive and sexual health services (CASH); enhanced services in primary care, e.g. sub-dermal implants, intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCD) and emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) in pharmacies; HIV screening in those not diagnosed and GUM care of those living with HIV; and sexual health aspects of psychosexual issues.	Sexual assault services  HIV care and treatment  Cervical screening  Core provision of contraception in general practice	Abortion services  Vasectomy services  Non-sexual health aspects of psychosexual issues

As stated in the introduction this health needs assessment (HNA) is primarily focused on service provision and aims to inform the commissioning of these services. However, it will serve to inform and advise where the responsibility sits with commissioners, other than the authority.

Current sexual health services are located in more than 60 sites across Lancashire. The examples below give an indication of the range of current services and are divided into the following categories:

### Genitourinary medicine (GUM)

There are five dedicated GUM clinics that serve the Lancashire population. They are located in the main urban areas of Lancashire: Lancaster, Blackpool, Preston, Burnley and Blackburn with Darwen. However, Lancashire County Council commissions only three of these: Lancaster, Preston, and Burnley. The remainder, commissioned by neighbouring authorities, also includes Liverpool, which serves the West Lancashire population.

GUM clinics primarily only provide sexual health screening and don't generally provide contraception.

### **Contraception and sexual health services**

Contraception services across Lancashire include primary care, both general practice and pharmacy provision, and community contraception and sexual health services. Excluding primary care there are more than 60 individual sites across Lancashire, typically these sites provide 2-3 hour sessions a week. Commonly they offer chlamydia screening, but not HIV testing or other sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening.

In addition, all methods of contraception are not available at all sites at all times.

### **Chlamydia screening services**

In each locality providers deliver the chlamydia screening programme, they are responsible for the achievement of [Public Health England's Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) outcomes in relation to the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) relevant to the locality area they serve. The main provision is within the sexual health services, with some additional screens gained as part of outreach activities.

In some areas primary care supports the NCSP, however, this universal service across Lancashire results in a poor yield per annum, being around 1,000 screens.

### **Outreach**

In order to meet the requirements of the geography in some localities there are additional outreach services. The outreach services operate from less traditional sites, for example children's centres and colleges of further education.

### **Young people's services**

Across Lancashire, there are a range of different young people's services. The allocation for these services is part of the block payment and therefore there is no definitive young people's resource allocation.

In east Lancashire, Brook, a specific young people's service provider, operates in the centre of Burnley and Blackburn with Darwen. In central Lancashire, including West Lancashire, there are two young people's sites: Talkwize in Preston and Wiseup in Leyland and Chorley. In north Lancashire, there is no dedicated young people's site, but young people do have some dedicated sessions and there is also a young people's outreach service.

### Young people's condom schemes

Each area has a condom scheme, provided by the sexual health service provider. The cost of these services differs by area and the approach also differs. In terms of branding there is no standard brand.

### Education and training

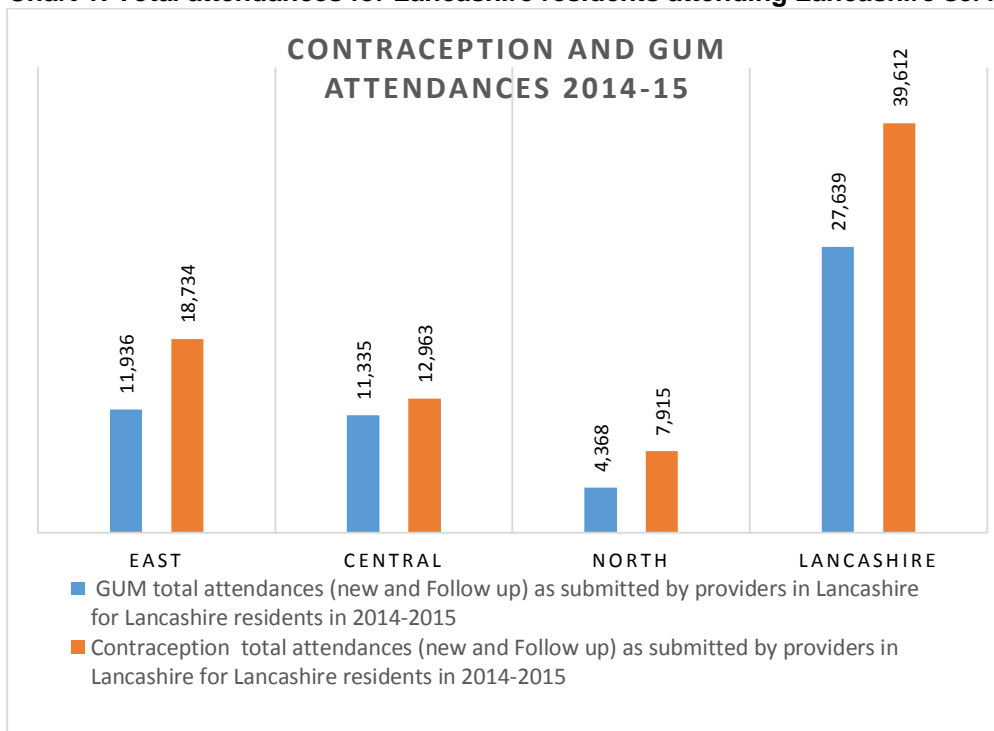
All sexual health service providers undertake education and training. This training includes internal assurance in respect of their own staff, and external placements for nurses and medical students undertaking sexual health training. Current provision of education and training is not standardised and varies by locality.

Some providers are commissioned to provide additional education and training, for example in the east of the county, the provider offers all primary care the Sexual Health in Practice (SHiP) programme. The SHiP programme consists of a number of different awareness sessions that includes HIV. Other providers, such as north Lancashire provide awareness raising sessions for the young people workforce as part of their outreach service. Providers also offer education and training that varies in approach, to a range of different agencies as part of the NCSP.

### Service utilisation

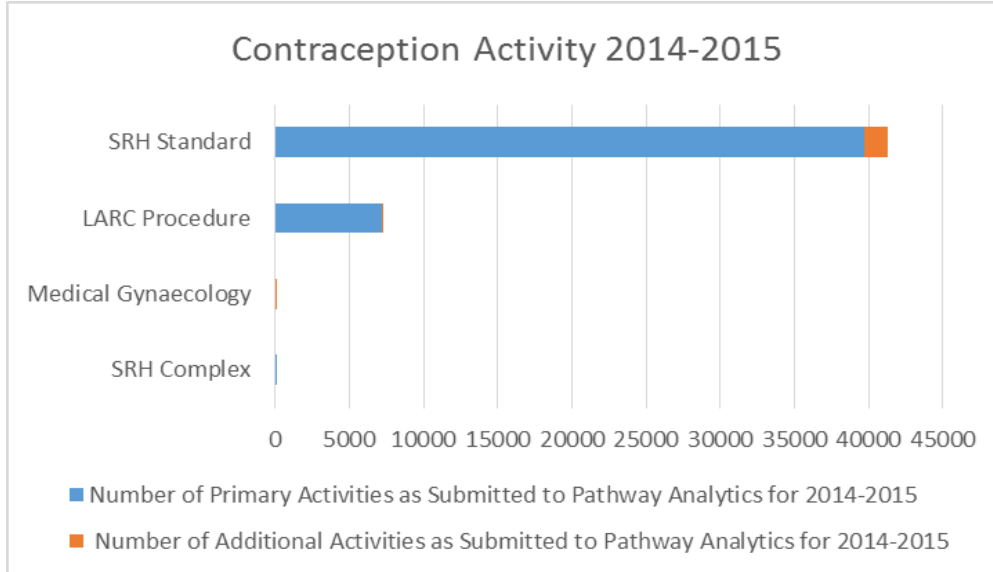
Large numbers of Lancashire's residents access services annually, with more than 39,000 individual attendances for contraception, and more than 27,000 for GUM services (attendances are not the same as attendees, which are less).

**Chart 1: Total attendances for Lancashire residents attending Lancashire services 2014-15**

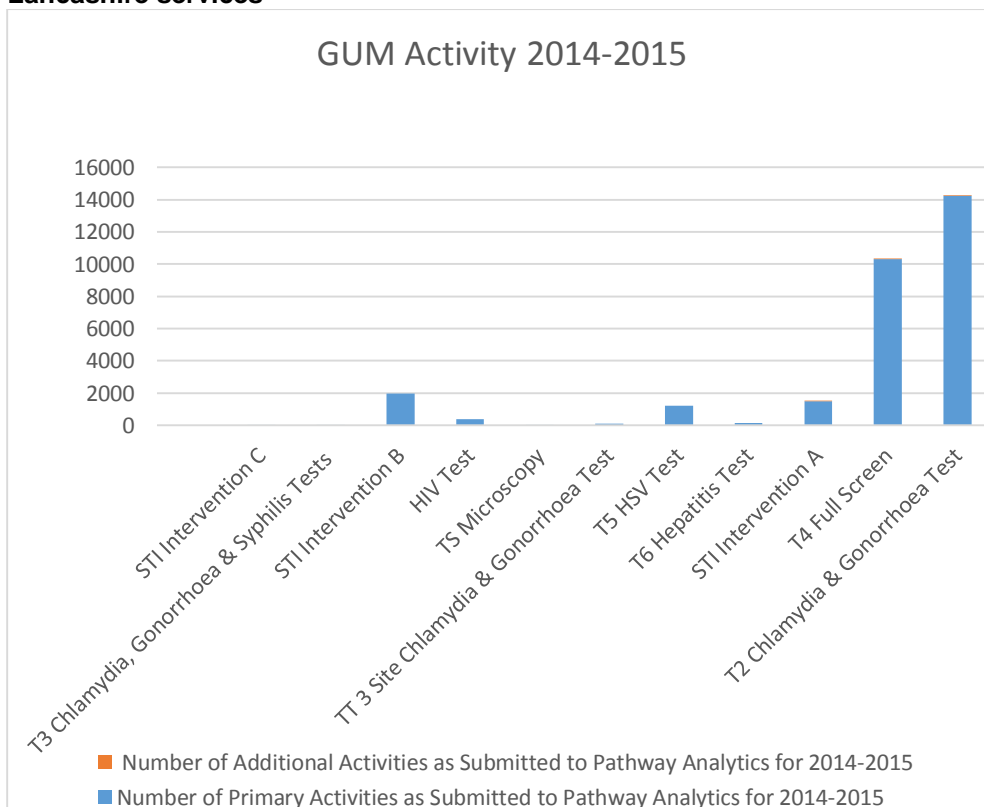


Charts two and three below indicate the nature of the current activity across Lancashire with sexual reproductive health (SRH) standard being the most frequently seen activity, and SRH complex care being very infrequent. The uptake of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) uptake across the county is 17.5% of the total activity for contraception. When looking at the percentage of the total by area, north is the highest at almost 19%, with east and central at 15.5%. Similarly with GUM, the activity is primarily chlamydia screening, with the more complex care being infrequent.

**Chart 2: Contraception activity 2014-2015 for Lancashire residents attending Lancashire services**



**Chart 3: Genitourinary medicine (GUM) activity 2014-2015 for Lancashire residents attending Lancashire services**



In conclusion, the responsibility for the commissioning of sexual health services is fragmented across a number of commissioners. In Lancashire we are faced with the inherited position of three different primary care trust (PCT) areas and as a consequence the following currently exists.

- A range of payment mechanisms for sexual health services, ranging from payment by results, to historic 'block' contracts with a fixed yearly payment.
- GUM services are separate from contraception services – there are no integrated (STI and contraception) services across Lancashire.
- Not all methods of contraception are available at all sites at all times.
- There is a lack of dedicated universal and standardised provision for young people.
- Most sites offer a few sessional hours a week.
- There are few central hubs where services are open long hours.
- Saturday and Sunday opening hours are limited and not available in all localities.
- Evening clinics are available primarily in contraception.
- Primary care is a main provider of contraception, but undertakes limited, or no STI screening.
- HIV screening in primary care is not universal, with uptake in central and north being limited.
- LARC uptake in primary care is low, with oral contraception being the main method prescribed (82%).
- Condom schemes are not standardised and branding differs.
- IT systems differ and there is no information sharing across the different providers, or even between primary care providers.

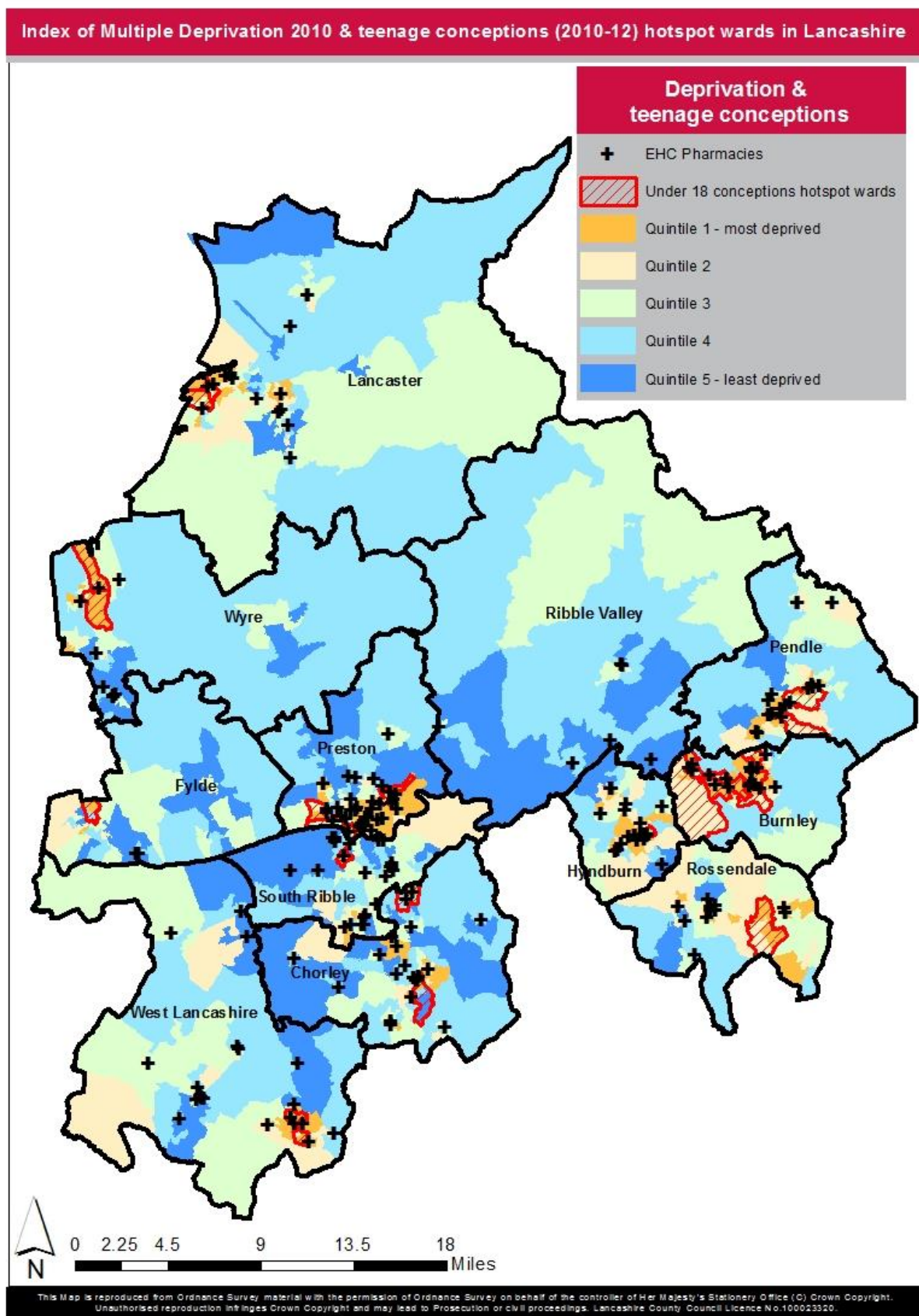
## Recommendations

- Simplify the payment mechanisms for sexual health services, ensuring fair and appropriate payment for services delivered.
- Integrate (STI and contraception) services across Lancashire.
- Ensure all methods of contraception are available at all sites at all times.
- Implement a dedicated young people's provision equitably across Lancashire.
- Ensure central hubs offer flexible and longer opening hours, including evening and weekends according to need and demand.
- Ensure localities are served with local service provision based on data within the SHNA.
- Increase uptake of HIV screening in primary care.
- Increase uptake of LARC in both sexual health services and primary care.
- Standardise delivery and branding of condom schemes.
- Ensure IT systems enable information sharing across the different providers, including primary care providers.

## Appendices

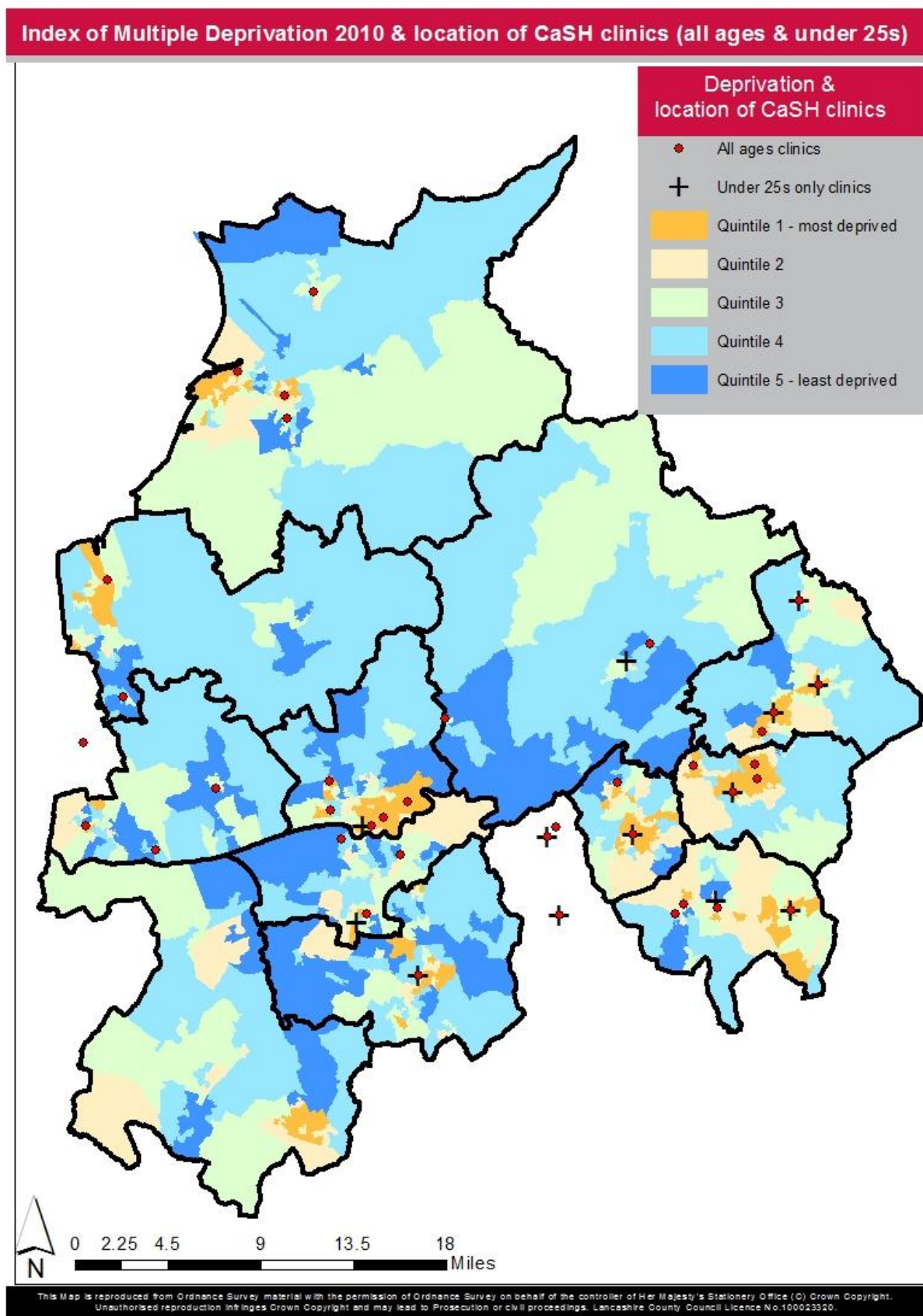
### Appendix one

Map showing hot spot wards for teenage conception, by deprivation quintile



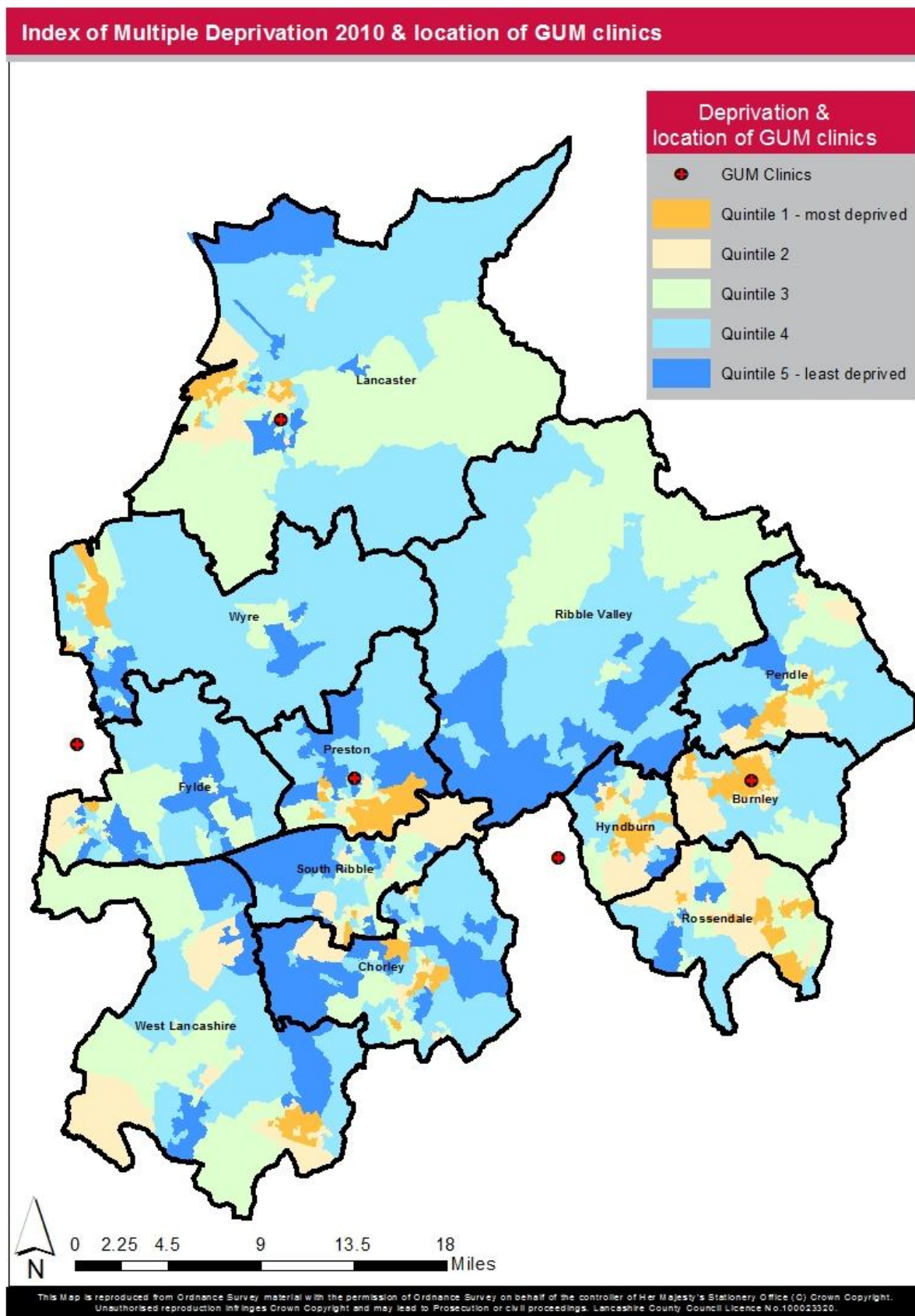
## Appendix two

Map showing location of CaSH clinics for all ages, and under-25s, by deprivation quintile



## Appendix three

Map showing location of GUM clinics, by deprivation quintile



## Appendix four

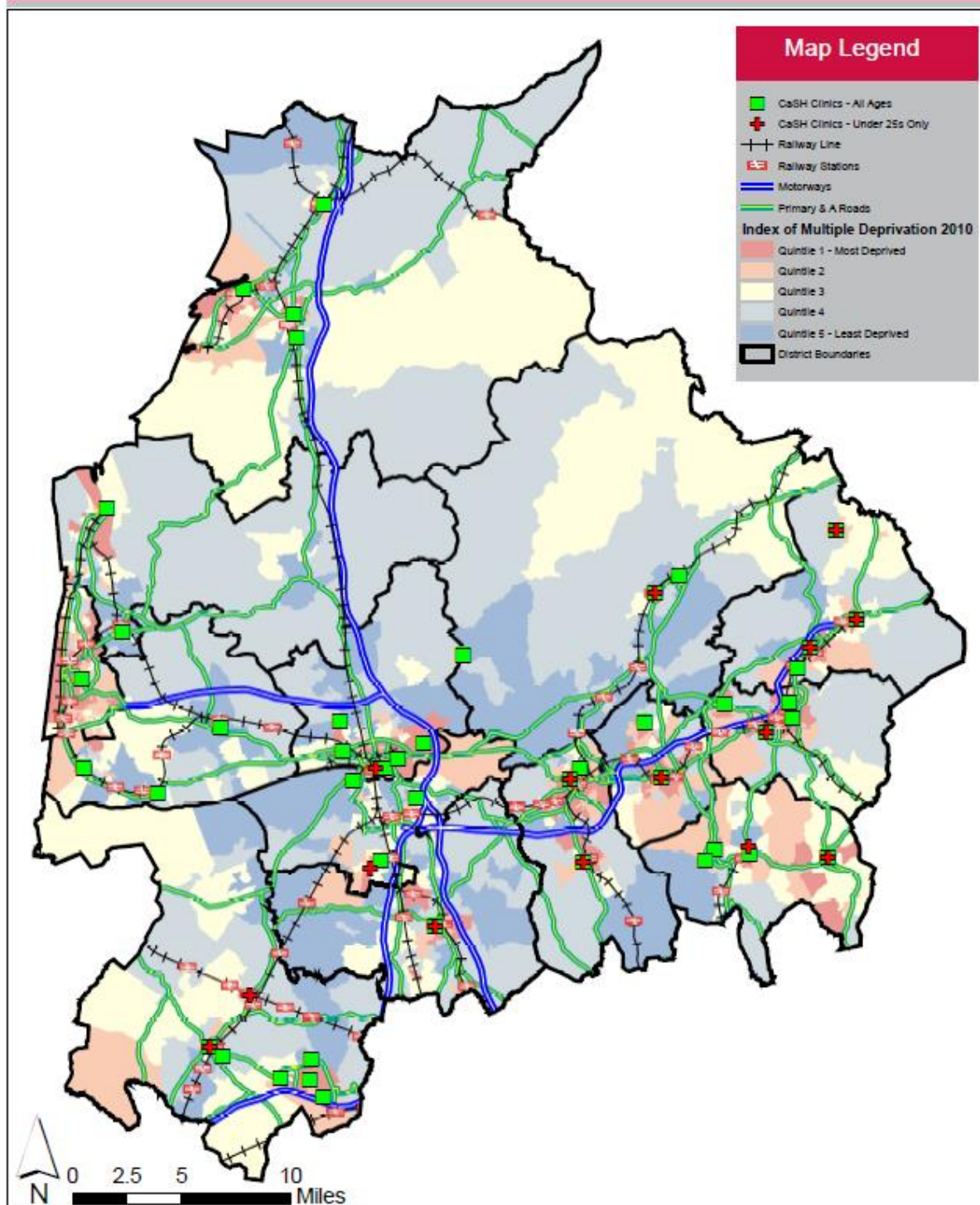
Location of CaSH clinics and transport links

## CaSH Clinics and Transport Links



Map created : February 2015

Map scale : 1:370,000



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