

1 July 2004



Pat Troop to open Sexual Health Conference in the North West

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University are to hold a conference to address the massive problem of soaring Sexually Transmitted Infection rates across the region.

The conference will be opened by Professor Pat Troop, HPA Chief Executive and former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England. The morning part of the conference will address the new HIV/AIDS figures, announced by the Centre for Public Health, and tackle issues such as related legal matters.

The afternoon session will release and address disturbing new statistics for Sexually Transmitted Infections, such as gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis. These statistics will make shocking reading as:

- Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea are at record levels.
- Gonorrhoea rates have hit a new peak in the gay community
- Syphilis continues to be a significant problem in major conurbations such as Manchester and Blackpool
- For the second year in succession, the majority of new HIV cases resulted from heterosexual sex.

Details of the conference are announced on the day that a report to Primary Care Trusts by the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University reveals that 725 new HIV and AIDS cases were reported in the region in 2003.

Notes to editors

1. The conference will be held in the Village Hotel and Leisure Club in Bury, Greater Manchester, on **Thursday 8 July**. Speakers will be available for interview by prior request. The Sexually Transmitted Disease figures will be published by press release.

2. The Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University provides an HIV surveillance service on behalf of Primary Care Trusts in the North West Region. The centre has today published an HIV/AIDS report for 2003. That report and accompanying press release are available electronically from Michela Morleo at Liverpool JMU on 0151-231-5859.
3. For further information, including details of the conference programme, contact Hugh Lamont at the Health Protection Agency on 07764-906508 or pager 08700-555500, asking for pager number NWR130. Alternatively, contact Michela Morleo, Press Officer for the Centre of Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, on 0151-231-5859.

Ends