

Sexual Health & HIV Policy eBulletin: Highlights from 2015 reader survey

MEDFASH conducted its most recent on-line survey of regular eBulletin readers in June 2015. The main aim of the survey was to obtain feedback on the eBulletin to ensure it continues to be as relevant as possible to those working in sexual health and HIV and to look at ways in which it could be further improved. The survey also asked respondents some specific questions about the commissioning and provision of sexual health and HIV services in their local area.

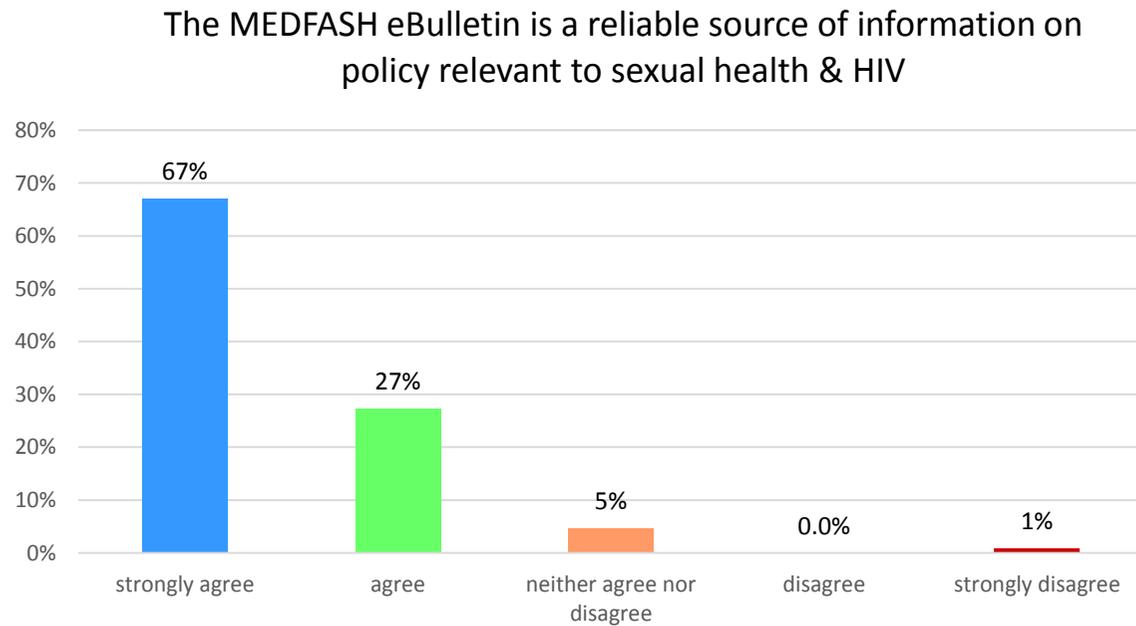
245 readers completed the survey (or parts of it), a response rate of 9.4% based on the current eBulletin database (2,617).

Respondents at a glance

| Top respondents | Where they work | Location |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurses • Doctors • Commissioners • Public Health Specialists • Sexual Health Advisers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Health Services (eg NHS GUM; NHS Sexual & Reproductive Health; NHS Integrated Sexual Health Services; Independent Sexual Health Services) • Local government public health • General practice • Voluntary sector | <p>Fairly evenly spread across the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% north of England • 23% midlands and east of England • 28% London • 21% south of England • 8% other parts of UK, Europe and further afield (US, Canada etc) |

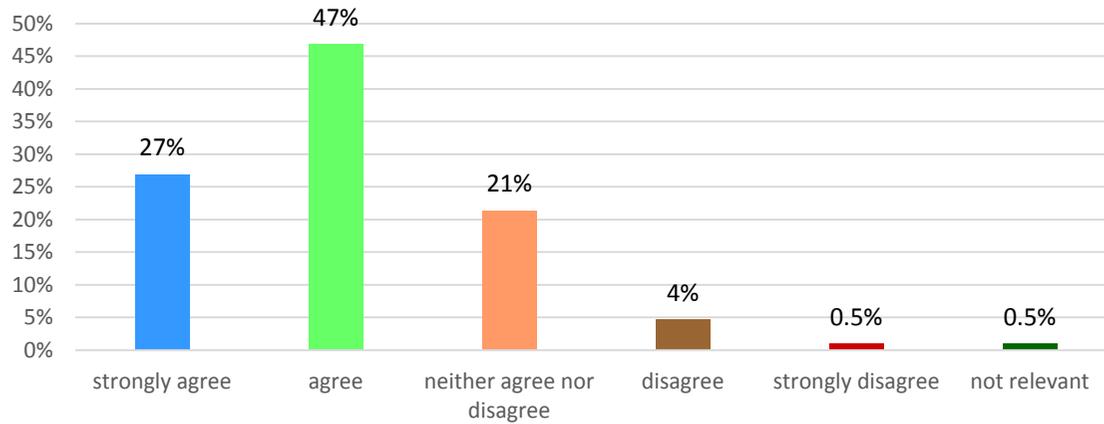
What they said about the eBulletin

94% of respondents strongly agree or agree that the eBulletin is a reliable source of information on policy relevant to sexual health and HIV

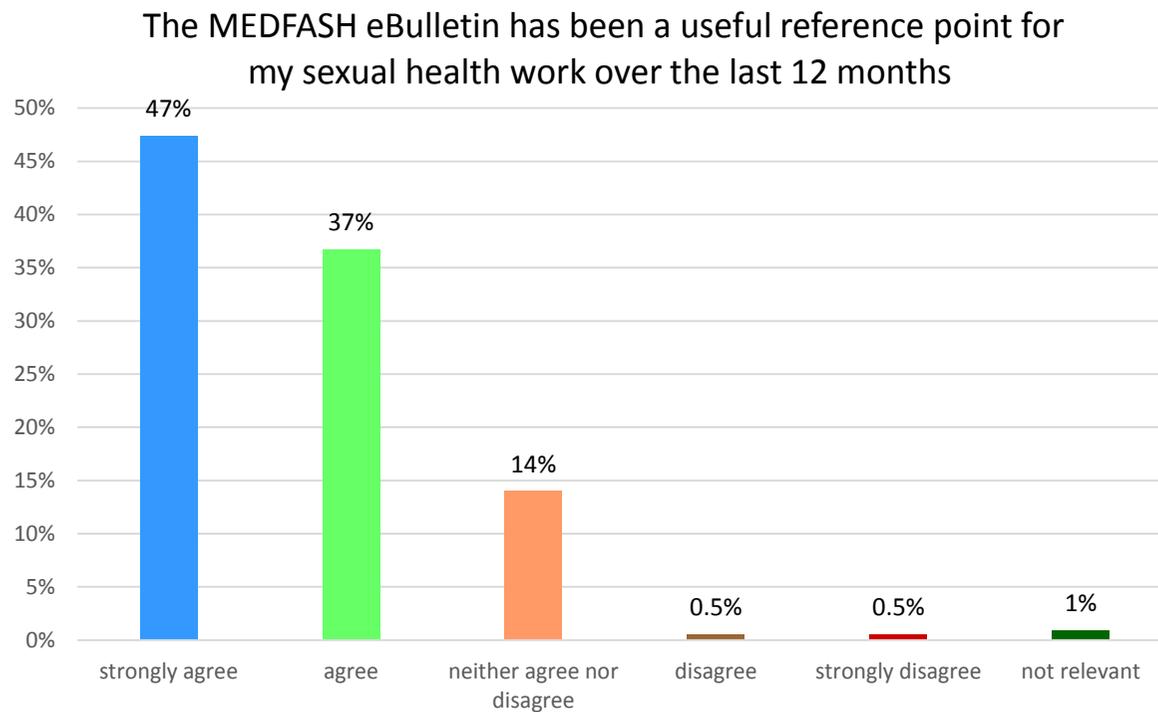


74% stated that the eBulletin is one of their main sources of information for national policy developments in this area

The MEDFASH eBulletin is one of my main sources of information for national policy developments relevant to sexual health and HIV



Over four out of five respondents (84%) strongly agree or agree that the eBulletin has been a useful reference point for their sexual health work during the last 12 months



What else they said about the eBulletin

- **Over four out of five respondents (82%) find the eBulletin eFeature informative and 93% of respondents find the eBulletin round-up section useful**
- Respondents identified the following areas of most interest to them in the round-up section (in order) : **policy developments; service standards and guidance; research and evidence and commissioning issues**
- Respondents were most interested in the following topics areas (in order): **STIs; HIV; reproductive health (including contraception and abortion); health promotion / prevention and public health evidence.**
- **Two thirds of respondents (66%)** agreed that the eBulletin is about the right length and that it should continue to cover items directly related to sexual health and HIV as well as items that have broader relevance (only 12% felt it should be shorter). **85%** agreed monthly is the right frequency.

Overall view of the eBulletin (selection of responses)

- *'It is a vital resource as previous communication channels for disseminating this information have broken down since PCTs were disbanded'*
- *I find this eBulletin the best and most comprehensive update in the SRH field. Its format is clear and providing links for further information makes this very useful'*
- *'An excellent and essential resource, which offers an overview of all the current thinking across sexual and reproductive health. In these challenging times, it offers a manageable insight into current developments across commissioning, policy and provision'*

- *'An excellent resource which rounds up the most essential data and updates'*
- *'Useful and assists me with keeping current on issues that affect my role and service provision'*
- *'I always find something relevant and interesting in the eBulletin. It's a newsletter I look forward to'*
- *'Good resource which helps keep me updated with up to date research and promotes best practice'*
- *'The perfect digest to meet my professional needs'*
- *'Excellent resource, well used by senior clinicians in our service'*
- *'Informative, vital reading given plethora / speed at which things are happening'*
- *'A very up to date informative bulletin that I find useful and often discuss content with my colleagues'*
- *'I - and members of my team - find it an invaluable reference source'*
- *'Excellent resource, covering the whole sexual health area'*
- *'Excellent resource - nothing else out there that does this job'*

The vast majority of comments were along these lines with only 7 (out of the 146) respondents commenting more negatively on the length of the eBulletin, its 'England only' policy focus and lack of time to read it.

Suggestions on how to improve the eBulletin

Nearly half of those who answered this question indicated that the eBulletin should stay as it is:

- 'keep doing what you're doing, it's not broken so don't try to fix it'
- 'None, happy with current format'

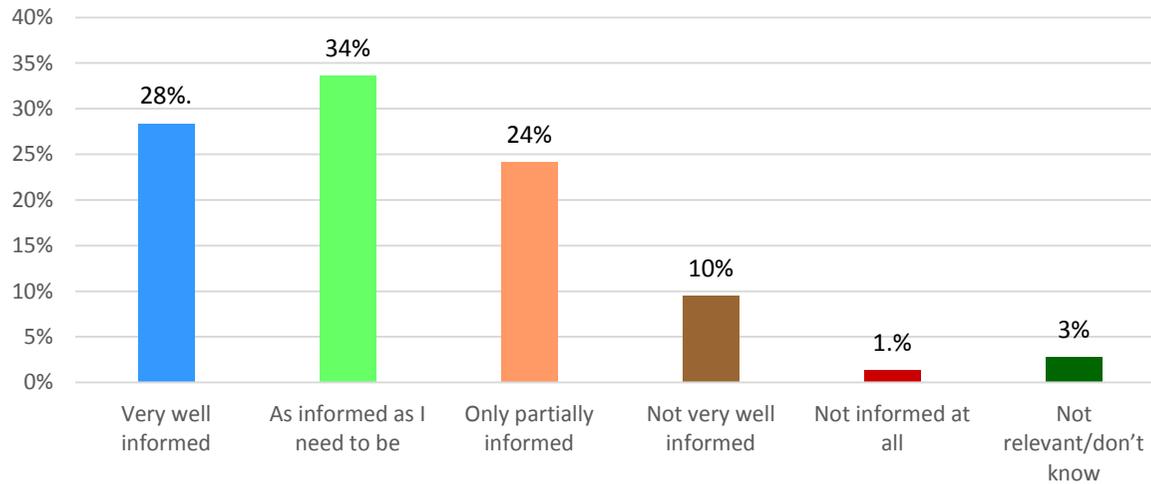
The few suggestions that were made included the following:

- more interpretation of 'what this means for sexual health'
- more on commissioning
- more nursing related issues
- more local perspectives
- more UK wide information
- PDF option for printing

About commissioning and provision of sexual health and HIV services locally

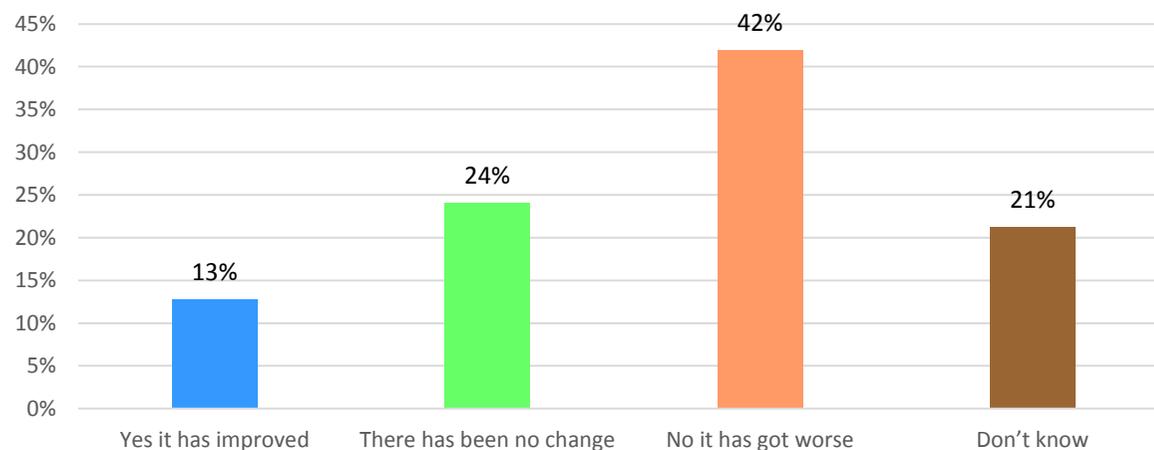
Nearly two thirds of respondents (62%) indicated that they felt 'very well informed or as informed as they need to be' about the commissioning and provision of sexual health and HIV services in their local area

How well informed do you feel about the commissioning and provision of sexual health and HIV services in your local area?



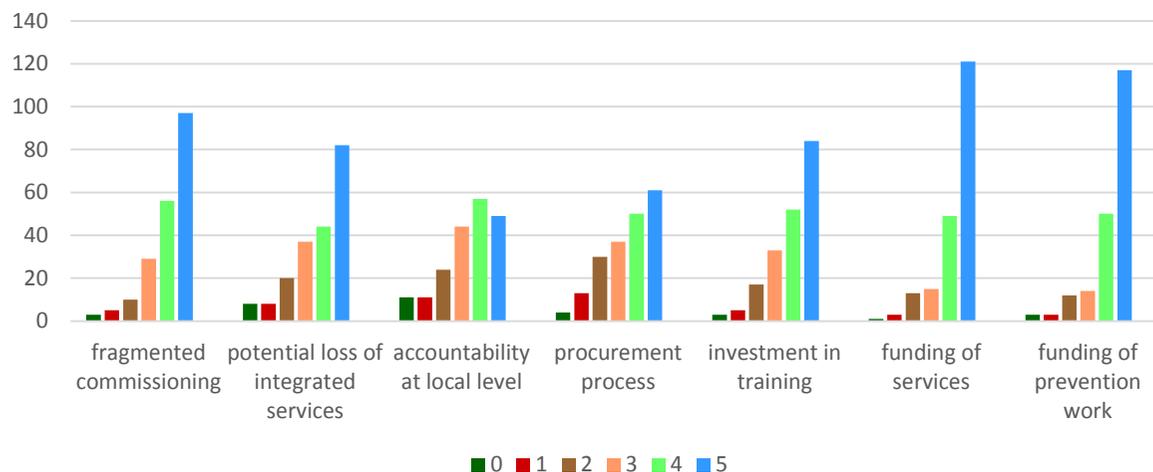
Over two fifths of respondents (42%) think that the local provision of sexual health services ‘has got worse’ since local authorities took on responsibility for commissioning these services, with a further 24% indicating that there has been ‘no change’ and only 13% indicating that local provision has improved

Do you think the local provision of sexual health services has improved since local authorities took on responsibility for commissioning these services?



Top three issues respondents are concerned about are funding of services, funding of prevention work and fragmented commissioning

Our last survey identified some key issues of concern in relation to the commissioning and provision of sexual health and HIV services. Respondents were asked to RATE their *current* level of concern on the following issues:
0 = not concerned at all and



If you would like to see a copy of the full 2015 report, please send an email to: enquiries@medfash.bma.org.uk