

**Why are condoms available within the community as well as from health clinics?**

Evidence suggests that young people often don't feel comfortable accessing traditional sexual health services but that they see workers in the community as being a credible source of information and support. The relationship is informal and individual support can be provided on sensitive issues. Everyone involved in the scheme are trained and continually supported to provide the best service possible.

### **13 - 15 year olds**

It is a fact that some 13 - 15 year olds do have sex. A national study showed that only 50% of 13 - 15 year olds reported using contraception when they have sex.

All 13 - 15 year olds will be encouraged to speak to a responsible adult and these professionals will ensure that young people know that it is OK to say no if they do not want to have sex. However if they are determined to have sex they can be signed up to the scheme or issued with a single condom.

**By providing condoms aren't we encouraging more young people to have sex?**

This is a popular misconception. There is no evidence to suggest that providing condoms will encourage early sexual experimentation, nor increase pregnancy rates. The scheme is NOT about encouraging young people to have sex, but about encouraging those young people already having sex or about to have a sexual relationship, to have safe, healthy sex.

The provision of sexual health advice, information and resources rather than increasing the likelihood of early sexual activity, may indeed delay it.

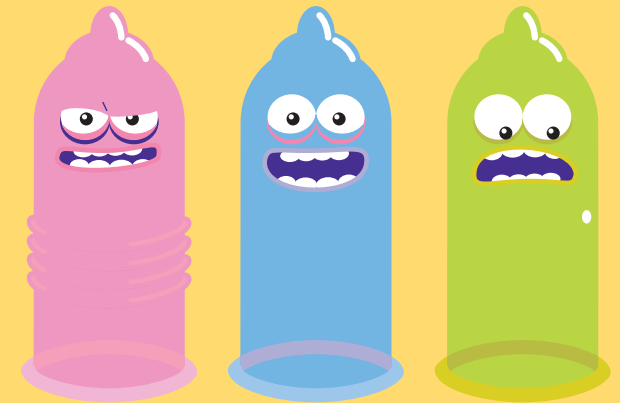
If you require further information on the scheme or a list of distribution sites please feel free to call:

**0845 050 9530**

or visit our website at

**[www.ruthe1.co.uk](http://www.ruthe1.co.uk)**

## **Information Leaflet for Parents & Carers on the Isle of Wight Condom Distribution Scheme**



The Isle of Wight Condom Distribution Scheme is a key part of an Island wide initiative to reduce sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies. This leaflet hopes to explain the details of our service and answer any questions or concerns that you may have as parents and carers.

## What is the Condom Distribution Scheme?

The Scheme is a coordinated condom distribution network providing quick, easy & confidential access to free condoms and advice from trained people in a variety of settings. This access aims to reduce the unprotected sex and sexually transmitted infections by encouraging the use of condoms.

The scheme is NOT just about giving out condoms, it also allows young people the opportunity to explore sexual health issues, raise questions in a confidential environment and gain information about sexual health services.

It will actively promote the 'delay' message which encourages young people to think carefully about whether or not they are physically or emotionally ready to have sex.

## How to access the scheme...

Young people will be able to sign up to the scheme by visiting one of our designated distribution centres.

A trained professional will assist them in completing a registration form, providing literature & giving them a simple demonstration, thus ensuring that they have the necessary skills and information to make informed decisions regarding their sexual health. They will then be issued with a CD Card which they can use at a number of sites to obtain their free condoms.

A list of sign up / distribution sites which include GP surgeries, youth centres and other community settings is available by telephoning:

0845 050 9530

or by emailing

[ruthe1@iow.nhs.uk](mailto:ruthe1@iow.nhs.uk)

Please note that the scheme does not hold personal information other than age, sex & postcode in accordance with the Department of Health monitoring service. We DO NOT ask for names or full address.

## Why on the Isle of Wight?

The Isle of Wight like the rest of the UK would like to continue to reduce unintended teenage pregnancy & sexually transmitted infections, particularly Chlamydia, which, if not treated, can have long-term health effects.

The Condom Distribution Scheme is a key part of the Island's overall strategy to carry this out.

In conjunction with this scheme we shall shortly be introducing a free Chlamydia Screening Programme for 15 – 25 year olds which will be available for the whole Island.

Further details on both schemes can be found on our website.