

Reference: FOI.ICB-2324/140

Subject: Fertility Policy

I can confirm that the ICB does hold the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Your Fertility Policy. Funded Fertility Treatment for Same Sex Couples, based on the The Government policy paper Women’s Health Strategy for England.</p>	<p>BNSSG’s policy for Infertility Assessment and Treatment has been updated and approved by the ICB Board. The revised policy addresses elements of the inequity of access to infertility services, including some of those faced by same sex female couples. The revised policy can be found at Infertility Assessment and Treatment - NHS BNSSG ICB</p> <p>The purpose of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) ICB’s Infertility Assessment and Treatment Policy is to support people who need to be assessed because they are having problems achieving conception using whatever method is appropriate for them. Depending on the result of that assessment, the policy’s purpose is to then support people to have interventions, according to certain clinical criteria, that could help achieve conception.</p>

	<p>BNSSG ICB are aware of the government’s Women’s Health Strategy for England updated on 30 August 2022 and the 10-year ambitions and actions the government says it will take for fertility care. As noted in the Ministerial Forward, it is a ten-year strategy setting out the aspirations for improving equality of opportunity in accessing health services. BNSSG ICB is awaiting updated guidance on the implementation of the Women’s Health Strategy from The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and NHS England. Guidance is due for publication in 2024.</p>
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The information provided in this response is accurate as of 11th July 2023 and has been approved for release by Geeta Iyer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Primary and Community Care for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.