

ITEM No ...3.....

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT ON: GETTING TO ZERO HIV TRANSMISSIONS: HIV FAST TRACK CITIES INITIATIVE

REPORT BY: CHIEF OFFICER, DUNDEE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

REPORT NO: 346-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the HIV Fast Track Cities global initiative and to recommend that Dundee signs up.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the UNAIDS Global HIV targets and Tayside's commitment to getting to Zero HIV transmissions by 2030;
- ii) Agree that Dundee should become an HIV Fast Track City; and
- ii) Remit the Chief Officer of Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership through the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Managed Care Network (MCN) to establish a group involving Council and NHS services and relevant partner organisations to put in place a local implementation plan by the 31st January 2020.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 HIV

- 4.1.1 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus which attacks the immune system. HIV is a chronic, lifelong infection which can be managed successfully by antiretroviral therapy (ART). There's no vaccine or cure for HIV but the current treatment, taking daily tablets, stops the virus from replicating and damaging the body's immune system. Progression to advanced HIV disease or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which is defined by a number of clinical conditions, can be controlled by good adherence to ART. People diagnosed with HIV and on ART are able to live long and healthy lives. The availability of effective treatments means that it's important to know your status and take an HIV test if you're at risk of being infected.
- 4.1.2 A person with a sustained, undetectable level of HIV viral load in their blood is unable to transmit HIV to their sexual partners. Evidence from clinical and scientific studies is the foundation of the now universally accepted statement that Undetectable Equals Untransmittable or **U=U**. The U=U Consensus statement can be viewed on the [Prevention Access Campaign website](#).
- 4.1.3 HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the form of an antiretroviral combination drug became available on the NHS in Scotland in July 2017. PrEP aims to prevent HIV infection among people at highest risk of infection as part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention, this is alongside regular HIV testing and safer sex practices.

4.1.4 The main areas for public health action in Scotland are reducing the number of HIV transmissions taking place, diagnosing infections early and to diagnose (or re-diagnose) early-infected individuals who come to Scotland.

4.1.5 With treatment as prevention and the introduction of PrEP we now have the tools to get to zero HIV transmissions. However, the ongoing, significant outbreak of HIV in People who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) in the city of Glasgow reinforces the need for adequate and accessible to testing as well as tailored treatment and care for specific populations.

4.2 The Fast Track Cities Initiative

4.2.1 The Fast Track Cities initiative is a global partnership between a network of high HIV burden cities, four core partners – the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the City of Paris – and local, national, regional, and international implementing and technical partners. The initiative's aim is to build upon, strengthen and leverage existing HIV programmes and resources to accelerate locally co-ordinated, city-wide responses to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

4.2.2 The initiative was launched on World AIDS Day 2014. Mayors, government officials and health officials gathered in Paris, and 26 high HIV burden cities first signed the *Paris Declaration on Fast Track Cities*.

4.2.3 Glasgow was the first city in Scotland to sign up in 2019, and Dundee would also be joining cities such as Manchester, London, Amsterdam, Melbourne and New York as Fast Track Cities.

4.3 What does being a Fast Track City mean?

4.3.1 Becoming a 'Fast Track City' and joining this global initiative would sign up Dundee to delivering and sustaining the UN's 90:90:90 HIV targets.

These targets are to have:

- 90 per cent of people living with HIV knowing their status,
- 90 per cent of people with diagnosed HIV on treatment,
- 90 per cent of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads.

4.4 Current data

4.4.1 The most recent Health Protection Scotland (HPS) HIV surveillance report (HIV treatment and care in Scotland: summary report to 31 December 2018, Health Protection Scotland, August 2019) records that there are 5,881 people living with HIV in Scotland, of whom 91% are diagnosed, 98% are attending for specialist HIV treatment and 94% have undetectable viral load.

4.4.2 Scotland has now achieved UNAIDS 'Fast Track' 90-90-90 targets. However, there is evidence that a significant proportion of individuals are diagnosed late, or very late with major consequences for their own health as well as providing an ongoing risk of transmissions to others.

4.4.3 Local prevalence data is not available by NHS Board area or for local authorities so it is not possible to accurately state the proportion of the local population diagnosed, and specific treatment figures for Dundee are not currently available. However, HPS reports 379 people living with HIV in Tayside, of whom:

- 91% are attending for specialist HIV treatment
- 93% have a suppressed viral load

The proportion of people who are diagnosed late and very late is higher in Tayside than the Scottish average, although caution should be exercised as the number of new diagnoses each year is small.

4.4.4 Other targets that we would be signing up to are:

- Getting to Zero: ending new HIV infections by 2030
- Put a stop to HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Stop preventable deaths from HIV-related causes
- Work to improve the health, quality of life and wellbeing of people living with HIV across Dundee

4.5 Implementation Plan

4.5.1 We would be building on effective preventative interventions, testing and treatment arrangements. However, in order to reach these more ambitious targets we need to put in place an evidenced-based implementation plan that will address range of factors affecting HIV transmission and access to care, including the important role of stigma. The Fast Track Cities have an implementation strategy which is focused around five implementation points: Process and Oversight; Programme Interventions; Monitoring and Evaluation; Communications; and Resource Mobilisation. Cities are asked to use this as a tool to put in place an implementation plan which takes into account local issues.

4.5.2 The multi-agency Sexual Health & Blood Born Virus - Managed Care Network (MCN) brings together expertise from across the field, already has clear governance in place and a proven track record in delivering on ambitious public health and whole systems improvement. An implementation group bringing together Council and NHS services and key partners in the third sector will be set up under the auspices of the MCN. This group will also ensure that there are effective ways engaging and acting on the voices of the community living with and at risk of HIV. The group will run a city-wide service gap analysis and then work on a local implementation plan to address the gaps. The MCN will be asked to produce a draft implementation plan by January 2020.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANN ERIKSEN
EXECUTIVE LEAD – SEXUAL HEALTH & BBV
NHS TAYSIDE

DATE: 16 OCTOBER
2019

DAVID LYNCH
CHIEF OFFICER
DUNDEE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

