

## **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Health and Wellbeing Board  
**Date:** 22 September 2015  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Paula Whittaker

### **Report Title**

**Halve It HIV Pledge**

### **Summary**

Trafford Health and Wellbeing Board signed up to the Halve It HIV Pledge. The Half It HIV goal for Trafford Council is to halve the proportion of people diagnosed late with HIV (CD4 count <350mm<sup>3</sup>) by 2020.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the actions that are already in place in Trafford to identify and test people at risk of HIV
- The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to recommend that all primary care health professionals should routinely offer and recommend an HIV test to patients at high risk in line with British HIV Association (BHIVA) guidelines.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to give support for public health to work with local community organisations to promote HIV testing among high risk groups.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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# TRAFFORD HALVE IT HIV PLEDGE

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. HIV needs to be treated as a chronic condition rather than as a fatal illness.
- 1.2. There is no need for more counselling prior to an HIV test than for any other testing.
- 1.3. It is important that we reduce late diagnosis rates of HIV as the prognosis for individuals with the disease is greatly improved if treatment can be started in a timely manner, and early diagnosis can reduce the risk of onward transmission.
- 1.4. Diagnosed prevalence of HIV is increasing in England generally and also in the North West and in Trafford (Figure 1). There was 13% increase in the rate in England between 2010 and 2013 and 24% increase in Trafford in the same period.

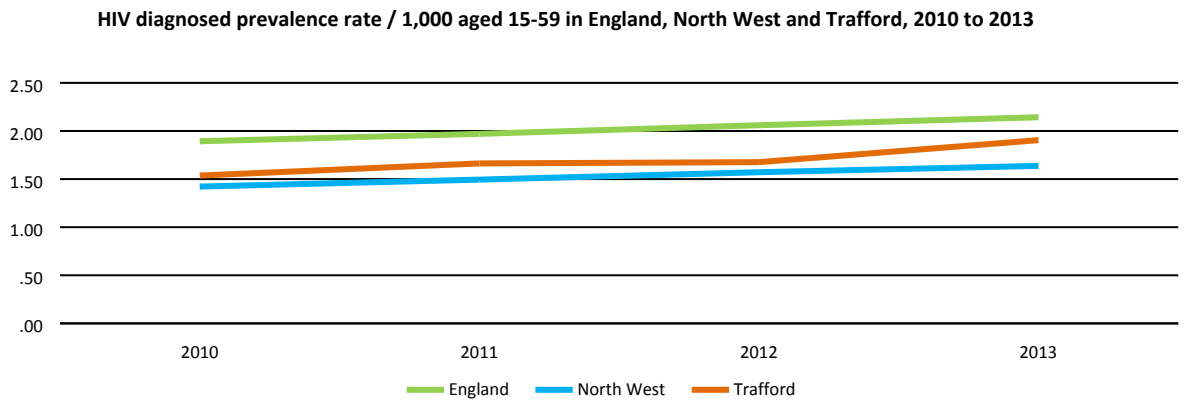


Fig 1: HIV diagnosed prevalence rate  
Source of data: PHE, 2014

- 1.5. Sexual health data from PHE shows that in Greater Manchester, the highest HIV diagnosed prevalence rates in people aged 15-59 years were in Manchester (5.8) and Salford (4.8) followed by Bury and Trafford (both approximately 2) as shown in Figure 2 below.

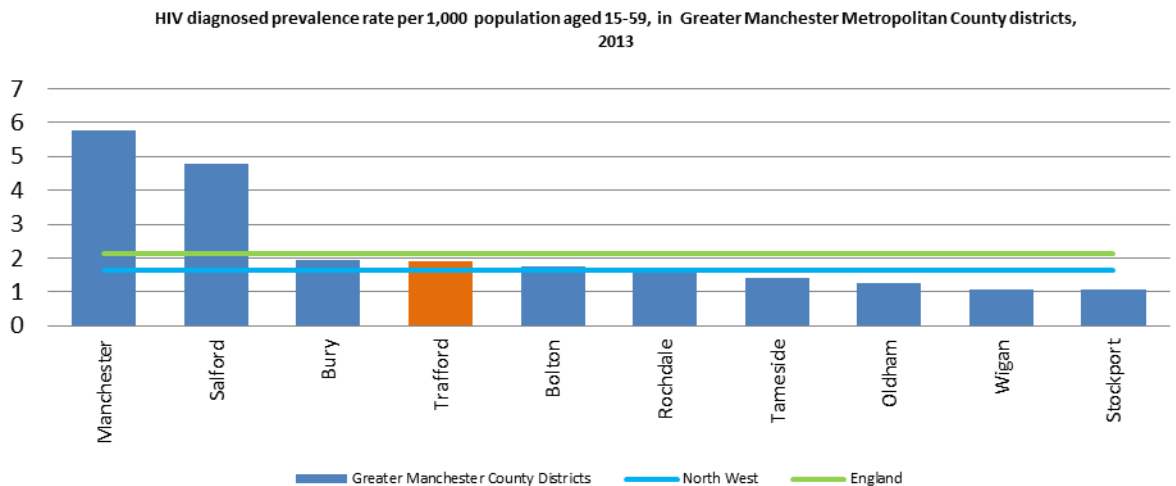


Fig. 5: HIV diagnosed prevalence rate in GM MCD  
Source of data: PHE 2014

- 1.6. In Trafford 30 new cases of HIV were diagnosed in 2013. The route of infection was men who have sex with men (MSM) in 50% of cases and heterosexual sex in 40% of cases, with the remainder transmitted through injecting drug use, mother to child and undetermined routes.
- 1.7. The populations at greatest risk of HIV in Trafford are MSM and people who were born in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent arrivals from Eastern Europe are also at increased risk.
- 1.8. **CURRENT PROVISION**
- 1.9. The integrated sexual health service provided by Bridgewater offers HIV testing to all clients accessing the service. Trafford Council also commissions a range of prevention activity focussed on high risk population groups.
- 1.10. LGBT Foundation, formerly known as The Lesbian & Gay Foundation (The LGF), is a national charity delivering a wide range of services to lesbian, gay and bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities. The LGBT reaches and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people via a range of targeted work including information and advice on many health and social issues faced by LGBT people, as well as tackling continued problems of discrimination and violence. The LGBT provide Information resources, wellbeing services, counselling, advice surgeries, social and support groups, substance misuse programme, LGBT carers programme, pop-in service, telephone service, condom and lube distribution scheme, sexual health testing, outreach services, sexual health training, women's programme, consultancy & training. Trafford Council commission LGBT to support the provision of clinical services through facilitating and supporting the provision of an HIV and sexual health testing service for men who have sex with men and to provide targeted outreach in identified locations.
- 1.11. George House Trust (GHT) provide a support service for all Trafford residents living with HIV and tailored interventions for a) men who have sex with men and b) heterosexual women and men – in particular, women and men from black African communities, black Caribbean communities and Eastern European countries living in Greater Manchester, to reduce the onward transmission of HIV.
- 1.12. The Black Health Agency (BHA) works to raise awareness and increase motivation amongst black and minority ethnic (BME) people to use condoms and test regularly for HIV. This is achieved through community development, outreach, information and advice and group training and awareness sessions.
- 1.13. The Black Health Agency are also commissioned by Trafford and Salford councils to support South Asian women through one to one and group work with sexual health and wellbeing. The Jeena Project works to challenge the inequality and injustice that Asian women experience and aims to offer them a safe space within which they can access information, advice and support services that are easily accessible and that are set within a confidential, non-judgmental, and culturally appropriate & gender specific framework. The

target population is South Asian women including Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sikh and Indian origin in Trafford aged 16 plus.

## **2.0 NATIONAL SEXUAL HEALTH COMMISSIONING STRUCTURE**

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care Act (2012) divided responsibilities for the commissioning of sexual and reproductive health services between local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England. Since April 2013 Local Authorities commission comprehensive sexual health services, including HIV testing and HIV prevention and NHS England commissions HIV treatment and care (including drug costs for prophylaxis).
- 2.2 The Specialist Commissioning Team within NHS England is currently reviewing the quality of HIV treatment provision in the North West and will be making recommendations for the changes required to ensure that all services meet the required standards.

## **3.0 FUTURE ACTION**

### **3.1 TRAFFORD INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE**

- 3.2 Individuals at higher risk of HIV are offered support in the behaviour change required to reduce their risk (for example the consistent use of condoms) by the integrated sexual health service. Higher risk individuals seen in Trafford sexual health clinics are also encouraged to undertake an annual HIV test.

- 3.3 The integrated specialist sexual health service commissioned by Trafford Council will be recommissioned with a start date for provision of September 2016. The specification for the service includes improving awareness of HIV and the importance of regular testing in order to reduce late diagnosis, reducing the prevalence of undiagnosed sexually transmitted infections including HIV, reducing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections including HIV and reducing the proportion of residents diagnosed with HIV at a late stage of infection. The service provider is required to work with NHS England to fulfil the requirements of the national specification for HIV outpatient treatment.

### **3.4 PRIMARY CARE**

- 3.5 Given that people already attending sexual health services are offered HIV tests regularly, the biggest opportunity for increasing the number of tests offered to people at high risk of HIV in Trafford is through primary care. GPs see over 85% of their population each year and the average patient visits the surgery five times each year.

- 3.6 There are two circumstances which provide valuable opportunities to diagnose HIV infection in primary care:
- i. when the patient presents with symptoms or medical conditions possibly associated with HIV
  - ii. offering an HIV test to an asymptomatic patient because they are or may be at risk of HIV infection

- 3.7 There is evidence that a significant proportion of people who present late with HIV infection have been in contact with doctors in preceding years with symptoms which, in retrospect, were related to HIV.
- 3.8 In order to raise awareness and aid identification of high risk patients in primary care an education session will focus on delivery of sexual health care in primary care for nurses and GPs in January 2016.
- 3.9 To support primary care in promoting the uptake of HIV tests among those at risk, local voluntary organisations, such as Voice of BME in Old Trafford, will be asked to raise awareness of the risk factors for HIV and the importance of early testing with their contacts.
- 3.10 POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS
- 3.11 We currently routinely offer post exposure prophylaxis as part of our HIV prevention offer. Recent research has shown that pre-exposure prophylaxis can also be effective in reducing the spread of HIV. However the cost of this is extremely high; individuals remain at risk of other sexually transmitted infections; and it may undermine efforts to increase the consistent use of condoms, which are by far the most cost effective method of preventing HIV. Within Public Health Trafford we would recommend that no decisions on pre-exposure prophylaxis should be made until NICE has reviewed the evidence for this.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the actions that are already in place in Trafford to identify and test people at risk of HIV
- 4.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to recommend that all primary care health professionals should routinely offer and recommend an HIV test to patients at high risk in line with British HIV Association (BHIVA) guidelines.
- 4.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to give support for public health to work with local community organisations to promote HIV testing among high risk groups.