

1989–2010

21 years of Waverley Care

“Waverley Care is like a light in the darkness for so many individuals! It has opened its doors to people who have been turned away by others, and welcomed in strangers to make them friends.”

Sheena McDonald Patron



Waverley Care²¹
making a positive difference



1991

On 25th January 1991 the building was handed over to Waverley Care and it was named Milestone House.

“What strikes anyone on entering Milestone House is the relaxed atmosphere and the natural cheerfulness.”

Chairperson

Visits to Milestone took place by Sean Connery, The Duchess of Roxburghe, Sir Ian McKellan, Michael Forsyth, Virginia Bottomley and many others.

HRH the Princess of Wales officially opened Milestone House in October.



1989

Waverley Care Trust had its first meeting on 17th February 1989 chaired by Eleanor McLaughlin, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the first chairperson. The Trust was offered a site at the western gate of the City Hospital in Edinburgh to build the UK's first purpose built AIDS hospice.

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1990

The constructors began working on the hospice site on 23rd April 1990.

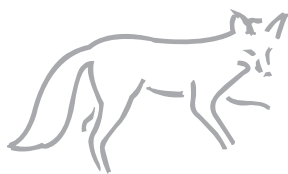
1992

A grant was received from BBC Children in Need to provide a crèche facility at Milestone and the post of childcare worker was created. This provided a break for parents and specialist support for the children.

Fundraising, although challenging in the face of a recession, was successful in maintaining services.

“Waverley Care has shown a constant ability to adapt to changing circumstances, and always comes up with new and flexible responses to these changes.”

Gordon Scott HIV Clinician





1993

1st November 1993 Waverley Care Trust extended its services by taking over responsibility for Solas – previously an independent HIV community support charity.

7th July 1993 we won the Scottish Business in the Community 'Best Business Community Relationship Award' presented to Solas and BT plc for the HIV information project.



1997

Most service users were under the age of 40 and we were seeing more co-infected Hepatitis C positive service users.

Milestone was seeing sustained HIV related dementia. Waverley Care adapted by providing additional one-to-one care to residents who were affected.

Internet access was introduced to Solas.

1994

Waverley Care Core values are:

- Preserving the quality of life, dignity and independence of those with whom we work
- Affirming the importance of family and friends
- Celebrating life
- Affirming each service user as a unique and valued human being.

The charity's original Director Roger Kent leaves Waverley Care and is replaced by David Johnson.

1995

Milestone house has had 319 service users registered as using its services. 155 residents have died – 86 of those passed away at Milestone where both they and their family and friends were given the best possible care.

At Solas nearly 100 volunteers were involved in service delivery working 13,650 hours.

1996

New drug treatments were introduced and they were seen to have a beneficial effect on many of those taking them.

The Buddy Service was launched to provide one-to-one support and friendship to people whose friends and family may have abandoned them on disclosure of their diagnosis.

1998

The success of prevention programmes, which we were involved in the development of, helped limit the spread of HIV but had not yet succeeded in preventing the steady advance of new infections.

1999

The 'Celebration of Life' fundraising and awareness event was held at St Mary's Cathedral on 4th December 1999 involving, amongst others, Sheena McDonald and Hannah Gordon.

Milestone adapted its services to be more rehabilitative in its approach which, in turn, helped people come to terms with living longer.

2000

The 10th Anniversary of Milestone opening was marked with a party on 18th February. 254 candles were lit to celebrate the lives of people known to Milestone who had died of AIDS and over 200 guests formed a human chain 'A Round of Applause' around the building.



2001

'Who'll look after the children' an invaluable guide for parents with a serious illness was launched. A joint publication with Barnardo's Scotland.

A fundraising performance of Pirates of Penzance was staged at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre.

2002

Shirley Manson was appointed as a new patron and facilitated a donation of £10,000 from the MAC AIDS Fund.

We developed a new project called Future Plus aimed at improving people's health and helping them to develop new skills to enter the workplace or consider further education.

2003

In August we published 'Being There' a book of celebrity photos taken by long-term volunteer Stanley Reilly. All profits were donated to Waverley Care. The London launch was hosted by Lynda Clark MP at Dover House.

Our new African Support Service was launched in Lothian. The project was developed to respond to the emergence of African communities in Scotland being affected by HIV.



"I have considered it a privilege to be involved with this remarkable charity. One of the benefits for me of this involvement has been to see just how effective and valuable can be their support for people whose lives are touched by HIV. It is in every sense an inspiring story."

Alexander McCall Smith Patron

2004

Waverley Care provided input to The Sexual Health Strategy for Scotland which was then published in 2005.

Alexander McCall Smith and Kate Copstick became patrons.

Two women from ISIS and Martha Baillie, manager of Solas, were photographed by Mario Testino for the 'Fashion Fights AIDS' publication "Women to Women" which raised awareness of HIV.

The 'Life Tribute' on the Water of Leith Walkway was created.

Waverley Care's 1st ever Ball, Tartan & Tiaras, took place. Hosted by Shirley Manson and held at Prestonfield, Edinburgh it also celebrated 25yrs of Klownz Hair and raised £35,000.



2005

We published 'HIV Becomes your Name'. A research study based on interviews with Africans living with HIV in Scotland. It highlighted the stigma and discrimination experienced by Africans living with HIV and in turn the support needs that Waverley Care was working to meet.

The African Health Project launched in Glasgow.

"Coming to Waverley Care gives us a voice."

African Service User



2006

Record numbers of new HIV diagnoses were witnessed in 3 of the last 4 years.

We were internationally recognised when the short film made by our ISIS Women's Group was selected and shown on the opening night of the HIV/AIDS Film Festival held in Toronto in August as part of the 2006 World AIDS Conference.

2007

BBC Children in Need funded a new post within our Children and Families service working with children who are themselves living with HIV. Isolation was highlighted as a major issue for these young people that would need to be addressed by our services.

www.waverleycare.org

2008

In March 2008 we were awarded the 'Best Practice in Empowering African Communities' award at the bi-annual African HIV Policy Network awards.

With Crusaid, and colleagues from HIV Scotland, we published the report on 'Poverty and HIV'. It was launched by Sarah Boyack MSP in the Scottish Parliament and highlighted the high rates of poverty amongst people living with HIV in Scotland.

Stephen Fry visited Milestone as part of a television documentary on HIV.



2009

In March our Solas Support Centre and Cafe closed. Our community projects moved to Mansfield Place to begin a new era in the life of Waverley Care.

The reach of our African Health Project extended to cover NHS Lanarkshire.

We launched a Children's and Young People's support group in Glasgow.

We jointly hosted a Downing Street Parliamentary reception with long term supporters Pleasance Theatre Trust.

Annie Lennox launched 'I want to be like the others' - A cross-sector needs assessment of children infected and affected by HIV in Scotland.

In November Positive Scotland services launched providing Gay Men's, Employment and Skills, and Ageing services. A joint venture with Terrence Higgins Trust, funded for 4 years by the Big Lottery Fund.

Our Hepatitis C Buddy Service launched. Our first Hep C specific service.

positive
SCOTLAND

A joint project between Terrence Higgins Trust and Waverley Care



2010

We launched Network Alba - The first Scottish network for women living with HIV.

The 'Off the Kerb Comedy Gala' in aid of Waverley Care took place in August and was screened on BBC3. It raised over £50,000.

In November we launched Waverley Care Highland, Argyll and Bute. Our new office opened in Inverness.

We developed our online communications launching on Twitter and Facebook.

Composer and conductor, Bob Chilcott became a new patron.

A service user from Waverley Care Children and Young People's project featured in a film about Waverley Care on BBC Children in Need.





Celebrating 21 years of hard work and looking to the future

Rates of infection

Around 400 people in Scotland are diagnosed with HIV each year and increasing numbers with Hepatitis C – 2,000 last year.

Prevention

Both conditions are easily preventable blood-borne viruses so it is vital we continue building awareness about prevention.

Treatment

With early diagnosis and good treatment, people now live longer and can have a good quality of life. However, there is still no cure for HIV and people are in clinical care for life. Although Hep C can be cured, the success rate is not 100%. Treatment for both conditions can cause unpleasant side effects. Both conditions have an impact on people's quality of life, their family and friends.

Waverley Care's role

Waverley Care will continue to champion the importance of prevention and provide on-the-ground services for those affected by HIV and Hep C for as long as they need it.

But we can't do it alone

To be successful, Waverley Care relies on, and is grateful for, the support of many individuals and organisations. Thanks to everyone for your support over the last 21 years. And here are our thoughts on how we'd like to work with you over the next 21 years.

If you'd like to find out more about how you can support Waverley Care, visit www.waverleycare.org or email fund@waverleycare.org

Charitable Trusts, Corporate and Individual Funders

Thousands of people in Scotland living with HIV or Hep C and their families, carers and friends, are grateful to those who have provided funding. It has made a real difference to their lives, whether through facilities like Milestone House, or through our many community projects.

We're going through tough economic times just now but, as always, we will operate as efficiently as possible to make the best use of all funding – thank you for your continued support.

Service Users

We are delighted to have supported thousands of service users over the 21 years of Waverley Care. It is not only those living with HIV or Hep C we have supported but also their friends, families and communities. We have also offered information and advice to the general public.

We are proud of, and grateful to, the number of service users who have gone on to become volunteers, staff members and trustees of our organisation. This reflects our belief that everyone has something to offer Waverley Care.

We will always offer respect, support and a safe space to anyone affected by HIV or Hep C so, as one service user has said: "I can take off the face I wear for the outside world and just be myself."

HIV/Hep C Clinicians

We've successfully worked with clinicians across Scotland to support those in their care, contributing to Scotland having some of the highest adherence rates to HIV treatment programmes in the UK.

Addressing the emotional, psychological and practical needs of people living with HIV or Hep C, is vital to successful treatment and we invite all clinicians to continue to refer patients to Waverley Care for support or invite us to clinical sessions to speak to patients.

Our peer support programmes for Africans, gay men, women and young people are particularly effective in helping to meet these needs.

City Councillors and Members of Health Boards

We are grateful for the support of city councillors over the last 21 years, especially in the City of Edinburgh. We appreciate their acknowledgement of our work and achievements at the civic reception marking our 21st birthday.

We will continue to adapt and evolve, offering the high level of care and support we have provided to people living with HIV over the last 21 years and, more recently, to those living with Hep C.

We encourage councillors to be aware of the implications of HIV and ageing, and the social care needs of this community. We ask them to take account of the best evidence available when commissioning services to accurately respond to service user needs.

Partners

Over the last 21 years we have been proud to partner with a number of other Scottish based organisations. We have delivered research projects such as 'I want to be like the others' in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, HIV Scotland and Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland and have worked alongside Gay Men's Health in prevention campaigns.

We are also proud of our continuing relationship with UK wide organisations such as the National AIDS Trust and internationally with other HIV organisations, particularly in Malawi.

We believe that collaborative ventures provide a stronger voice for people living with HIV or Hep C, building awareness of the conditions. We will continue to work closely with current and new partners.

Media Contacts

We have contributed to many TV, radio and press articles and thank all journalists who helped us raise the profile of blood borne viruses and the effect of stigma and discrimination on those living with HIV or Hep C.

In our position at the forefront of the HIV and Hep C sectors, we will continue to support journalists with the latest information, statistics and expert comment on breaking stories and contemporary issues. We will also support service users to use their voice in the media.

We ask that all sections of the media continue to publish and portray accurate information about HIV and Hep C in a non-stigmatising manner.

Scottish Government Politicians

Waverley Care is proud to have worked with the Scottish Government to deliver policies putting Scotland at the forefront of HIV and Hep C treatment and care in Europe. We will continue to actively feed into policy to ensure it reflects the changing nature of HIV and Hep C and reflects the experience of those living with these conditions.

We encourage the Scottish Government to continue its forward thinking approach and hope that the cross party consensus around the conditions continues. We hope the Government will fully implement the HIV and Hep C Action Plans for Scotland and the QIS clinical standards for HIV.

We ask all parties to ensure adequate future provision is made for awareness, prevention and support services.

Trustees

Waverley Care has always benefited from having a strong skills-based board made up of many influential people including key individuals from across the HIV sector.

We believe our trustees will give us strong governance and leadership to help us deliver challenging targets over the next few years and will guide us through adapting our services and structures to maintain our position as a well established, effective and highly respected charity. Thank you to our board.

Patrons

We have a small and valued group of patrons who, over the years, have each undertaken numerous activities to raise our profile and also raise income for our work. Examples include the work of Sir Tom Farmer in helping establish the charity, Anthony Alderson and Christopher Richardson in supporting our activities raising almost £200,000 at the Pleasance during Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Christopher Bell for leading many of our Come & Sing events.

We hope to continue to build excellent relationships with these key people and support them in their roles as patrons.

Volunteers

Thanks to the thousands of volunteers who, over the years have helped by doing everything from gardening, to collecting donations, right through to offering first hand care for those living with HIV or Hep C. Without the support of these individuals we would not have been able to offer such a wide range of services.

We hope that in return for their efforts, volunteers feel a real sense of satisfaction and are proud of Waverley Care's achievements and their significant part in them.



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“If I met someone who was newly diagnosed, the first thing I would inform them of would be the services Waverley Care provides.”

Waverley Care Service User

