Jigs and reels

Tartan Rainbow Ceilidh proves huge success
Waverley Care is Scotland’s HIV and Hepatitis C Charity

From our five bases across Scotland, our work is making a positive difference to the lives of people affected by HIV or hepatitis C.

Across Scotland we’re:

• reducing new infections
• challenging stigma
• getting people diagnosed
• providing support

Our services

- Advice & Information
- African Health Project
- Befriending
- Children & Families
- Chinese Health Project
- Community Outreach & Support
- Condoms by Post
- Gay & Bisexual Men
- Group Support
- HIV & Hepatitis Testing
- HIV & Hepatitis Training
- LGBT Support
- MY Voice FGM Project
- One-to-One Support
- Peer Support
- People Affected by Drug Misuse
- Poz Youth
- Prevention, Education & Awareness
- Residential
- Self Management
- SX [Gay & Bisexual Men’s Project]
- Wave [Sexual Health Education]
- Women

To find out more about our work, our services and to get involved, contact us at admin@waverleycare.org, or visit www.waverleycare.org.

Front cover image: Matt, Andrew and Martin dressed to impress at our Tartan Rainbow Ceilidh.
30th anniversary of Waverley Care

Back in 1989, the world was a different place. Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister, Berlin was separated by a wall and the Number 1 single was *Something’s Gotten Hold of My Heart* by Marc Almond and Gene Pitney.

I was 17 but still remember the fear around HIV and how people with AIDS were treated and portrayed in the media. Unbeknownst to me, Waverley Care had already opened its doors, beginning to support people dying of AIDS. Two years later Milestone opened, providing end of life care and support to individuals and their loved ones during the most difficult of times.

It is amazing how much has changed since then - we now have excellent treatments for HIV, PrEP available on the NHS and it was announced that Scotland had met the UNAIDS 90:90:90 goals for HIV on World AIDS Day 2018. HIV is for most people a long term condition while hepatitis C is now curable. Waverley Care has evolved, now focusing on prevention and supporting people to live as well as possible.

Looking ahead though, there is still so much for us to do at Waverley Care. Stigma, particularly around HIV, hugely impacts on people’s well-being, fuelling a reluctance to test. Moreover, HIV and hepatitis C continue to impact on vulnerable communities so we continue to do all we can to support the most marginalised people in society.

Waverley Care has played a huge part in Scotland’s response to HIV and hepatitis C and I am so proud of all we’ve done. I’d like to thank all our staff, volunteers, and supporters who have played their part and done so much to shape the charity we are today.

I hope you will help us mark our 30th year by joining us in challenging HIV and hepatitis C stigma across Scotland. You will read articles in this newsletter about our Street Support Team, Peer Support Telephone Service, Volunteer Supportive Driving Service and corporate partnerships. If you are able to donate your time or expertise or help our fundraising efforts then please do get in touch. Together, we can help make a positive difference.

Grant Sugden, Chief Executive

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**News in brief**

A quick round-up of the latest news from across Waverley Care...

We are delighted to announce the launch of our pilot **Peer Support Telephone Service**.

The pilot service covers the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area, providing people who are living with hepatitis C with telephone based peer support. The service aims to complement the support people accessing our services are already receiving.

Peer support has many benefits, helping people overcome social isolation, think positively and plan for the future. Peer support can also enable people living with hepatitis C to feel physically and mentally ready to access treatment for the condition, empowered by hearing the experiences of others.

If you would like to know more about this pilot, contact our Peer Mentor Coordinator, Stephen, at stephen.davidson@waverleycare.org

This year has also seen the launch of our new **Volunteer Supportive Driving Service** in Fife. The service is supporting people who would otherwise struggle to attend their appointments and access the Blood Borne Virus Clinic. It’s hoped this service will reduce missed appointments and improve access to treatments.

If you would like to know more about this project, contact our Community Project Manager, Robert, at robert.pollock@waverleycare.org
Focus on: HIV Street Support Team

Waverley Care’s HIV Street Support Project offers access to harm reduction education, HIV testing and support to people who inject drugs in Glasgow.

The project was created in a response to the recent increase in new HIV cases among people who are injecting drugs in public places. Since the outbreak began in 2015, more than 130 people have been diagnosed – trebling the previous average of 10 per year.

It has been a successful first three months for the HIV Street Support Project with the development of new initiatives and plans for the future starting to take shape. So what have been some of the key developments so far?

Pharmacy Initiative

At the beginning of the year, we piloted a two-week testing initiative, in partnership with the Glasgow Harm Reduction Group, where we located ourselves in communities where there have been recent diagnoses of HIV connected to the wider Glasgow HIV outbreak.

Testing was carried out in the pharmacy and people were extremely responsive – 43 people engaged with the testing initiative. Throughout the pilot, our team at the HIV Street Support Project continued to carry out harm reduction work, raising awareness about the HIV outbreak, hepatitis C and the role of our work in making sure people get the care and support they need.

Partnership Working

Our team has been working hard on developing strong working partnerships across Glasgow, highlights of which include:

- Working in partnership with BBV [Blood Borne Virus] nurses from the Brownlee Centre in Gartnavel General Hospital, to expand the HIV Street Support Service and offer outreach programmes including Point of Care (POC) Testing
- The development of joint working with Terrence Higgins Trust and Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) in offering an on call service for their POC Testing
- Participation in the facilitation of SDF City Centre Engagement Group
- Joint working with hepatitis C Support Services, carrying out testing in the Simon Community Hub and East House Lodging Mission

The project has already received individual referrals but the main challenge has been trying to reach people when they have disengaged from services. This has meant, in literal terms, that our team are walking around Glasgow city centre to find people so that we can offer them support and address the barriers to engaging with services that they are facing.

We would like to thank our partners for being so supportive and welcoming of our project. This has made a huge difference to our work and we look forward to strengthening these relationships as we move forward with this exciting project.

We would also like to give a big thank you to the National Lottery Community Fund for helping to make a real difference in our communities.
Facing the Challenge of Ageing with HIV

Twenty seven of our service users recently participated in four separate focus groups, each reflecting a different service user demographic, as part of a consultation by NHS Lothian into the challenges of ageing with HIV.

With 40% of our service users across Scotland now in the 50+ age bracket, this was a timely piece of research. The findings particularly highlighted the continuing challenge of living with a stigmatised condition, with people facing the anxiety of disclosing their HIV status in multiple settings as they need to access increasing numbers of healthcare appointments. The irrelevant and inappropriate “how did you contract HIV?” question still feeds into stigma which, in turn, leaves people feeling isolated and uncomfortable.

Karen’s farewell

At the end of March we said farewell to Karen Docwra, who retired after over 27 years as a member of our Fundraising Team.

Over the years, Karen has made a huge personal and professional contribution to Waverley Care and will be hugely missed by everyone who worked with her. She has been instrumental in developing many aspects of our fundraising from sustaining relationships with charitable trusts to establishing our Come and Sing events, with perhaps our fundraising profile on the Fringe being a highlight of her long career with us.

Karen wanted to say a few words of thanks, “It has been an amazing experience to be able to play a small part in the sustainability of an organisation which has never shied away from tackling challenging issues and which has such a profound impact on people’s lives. I’m so proud of all my colleagues and so thankful to you, our supporters, for continuing to make it possible. I have lots of very happy memories to take away: the loyal support of so many individuals and organisations across Edinburgh and beyond; the opportunity to work with fabulous conductors, musicians and singers and, of course, the comedy that we’re so privileged to benefit from, courtesy of the Pleasance and Off the Kerb.

Participants highlighted their anxiety around their medical care not being joined up, particularly as they developed other health issues such as cardio-vascular conditions or cancers, with these appearing earlier or being made worse as a result of ageing with HIV. Lack of money was also a concern, compounded by recent and anticipated changes to the benefits system.

Reducing social isolation and supporting people to live well with HIV is already a key focus of our work. The findings of the consultation will help to inform our future plans, ensuring that we remain responsive to changing needs.
Tartan Ribbon Dinner

More than 200 guests joined us and host Susan Calman in the beautiful surroundings of the Hub in Edinburgh on World AIDS Day.

Thanks to our event sponsor Meridian Productivity, the Tartan Ribbon Dinner Committee, the companies and individuals who donated prizes, performers, volunteers, supporters and guests, the event managed to raise an amazing £29,500 to support our work.

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is a great opportunity for us to shout about the work we are doing throughout the year to support people living with or affected by HIV.

We received some incredible support last year and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who got involved.

Our amazing volunteer bucket shakers returned to Edinburgh’s Christmas and Waverley Station alongside the superb Dunfermline Choral Union.

The Noise Committee took their party percussion to the streets and Colinton Parish Church hosted a beautiful evening of musical reflection, including our very own Tartan Ribbon Community Choir. The Roaming Quiz Man returned to CC Blooms for a Quiz and Variety Night and PrideSoc dusted off their waistcoats for their 10th annual Glowball.

Workplaces across Scotland were busy fundraising, including Standard Life Aberdeen, Lloyds Banking Group, Baillie Gifford, Barclays, Royal Bank of Canada, Sky and Wood Mackenzie.

…and finally, Starbucks, Curiouser & Curiouser, M-A-C Cosmetics, Western General Hospital, the Embassy of the Word of God, Beeslack High School, Mearns Castle High School, Culloden Youth Forum, Grantown Grammar School, Dunbar Grammar School and Sunday Assembly all generously collected donations in support of World AIDS Day.

Tartan Rainbow Ceilidh

Back by popular demand, our Tartan Rainbow Ceilidh took place in March this year. We were delighted to welcome 180 guests to the Assembly Roxy to dance the night away and raise funds in aid of Waverley Care.

The Veritable Ceilidh Club kept us on our toes and in time with their modern take on a host of ceilidh classics, needless to say a brilliant time was had by all!

A big thank you to everyone who made the event such a success and helped raise a fantastic £2,859.
Criterion chooses

We are proud to announce that we have become Criterion Tec Limited’s first ever charity partner! The staff at Criterion, an Edinburgh based financial services body, chose Waverley Care as their charity partner and we are delighted to be working together through 2019/20.

Matt Middler, Corporate & Individual Relationships Manager, Waverley Care said, “Due to continuing pressure on statutory funding, we, alongside many others in the charity sector, are increasingly turning to the public to raise the funds needed to provide our vital support to people affected by HIV and hepatitis, whilst also providing education and prevention services and challenging stigma. Our partnership with Criterion will have a significant impact on our work, ensuring people across Scotland can access the testing, treatment and support they need.”

A big thank you to all the staff at Criterion from all of us at Waverley Care, your support will help us continue to make a positive difference across Scotland.

To find out about supporting Waverley Care via your workplace, contact Matt by calling 0131 556 9710, or emailing matt.middler@waverleycare.org

Fundraising on Facebook

If you are wanting to raise funds for Waverley Care, but don’t know where to start, why not consider Facebook fundraising? Easy to set up and share with your friends, setting up a Facebook fundraiser is a great way to get involved! We spoke to Kamil Salawa, a Design Graduate in Edinburgh who raised £120 for Waverley Care via his Facebook birthday fundraiser this March.

“I found out about Waverley Care when I worked in the New Town Bar when I was at college. We used to do a fundraiser each Sunday during the Fringe and the staff even took part in a marathon and half-marathon. I really agree with the charity’s messaging and so wanted to do another fundraiser. I went onto Facebook and just searched for the fundraising section. It’s pretty simple to set up.

“The thing about Facebook is people see what you are doing. So I will ask one of my friends to donate and other people can see and hopefully think ‘she donated so I will donate myself’. I feel it encourages more people to donate when they see their friends doing the same. It also feels like a bit of competition – ‘I’m going to donate more money than he did’ – so donations can quickly start to add up!

“A birthday is a perfect occasion to raise funds for a good cause. There are always people less fortunate than us, who go through many challenges in their life, and I think we should spend that one week of the year really appreciating what we have got.

To launch your own birthday fundraiser on Facebook, simply type FUNDRAISER into the search bar at the top of your Facebook feed, open the fundraisers page, click ‘Select non-profit’ and type in Waverley Care. For support doing this, or to let us know about your fundraiser, contact the Fundraising Team by calling 0131 556 9710, or emailing fundraising@waverleycare.org
Thank you to...

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last 6 months, your donations are making a real difference to lives across Scotland.


Events Diary

Saturday 8 June 2019
Edinburgh Concert Band
Summer Sparkler
Broughton St Mary’s Church, Edinburgh
Save the date for this sparkling summer concert in aid of Waverley Care
Tickets from www.edinburghconcertband.net

Saturday 10 August 2019
Loud & Proud on the Fringe
St Cuthbert’s Church, Edinburgh
Loud & Proud, Scotland’s LGBT choir, returns to the Fringe with another amazing show in support of Waverley Care.
Visit www.waverleycare.org/events for tickets.

Tuesday 13 August 2019
Tartan Ribbon Comedy Benefit
Pleasance, Edinburgh
Amazing night of comedy in support of Waverley Care, featuring another fantastic line-up.
Tickets from www.pleasance.co.uk

Tuesday 20 August 2019
Comedy Gala
EICC, Edinburgh
Edinburgh’s biggest comedy event returns to the Fringe in support of Waverley Care with an all-star line-up and big name hosts.
Tickets from www.edfringe.com

Friday 5 October 2019
Come and Sing John Rutter
St Cuthbert’s Church, Edinburgh
Save the date for a rare opportunity to learn a beautiful selection of music with John Rutter.
Check www.waverleycare.org/events for updates and tickets.

For more details on all our events go to: www.waverleycare.org/events

Loud & Proud on the Fringe
Scotland’s LGBT Choir
Saturday 10th August 2019
Venue: St Cuthbert’s Church
Lothian Road, Edinburgh
Time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £15 (£11 concession)
From: www.waverleycare.org/events