

The logo for Waverley care is located in the top left corner. It consists of the words "Waverley" and "care" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a rounded rectangular background with a gradient from orange at the top to purple at the bottom.

**Waverley
care**

A photograph of two men standing outdoors on a set of stairs. Both men are smiling and wearing purple t-shirts with the "Waverley care" logo on the chest. The man on the left is white with short brown hair and a beard. The man on the right is Black with short black hair. The background is slightly blurred, showing the wooden steps and some foliage.

Strategic Plan

2022-2027

Revised December 2023

HIV IN SCOTLAND

HIV remains a life-altering condition. While medical advancements mean people living with HIV today can live long and healthy lives, it's often the stigma that remains around HIV that makes it such a life-altering condition.

There are a number of communities disproportionately affected by HIV in Scotland, namely:

- gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men;
 - people from African communities living in Scotland;
 - people who inject drugs.
- These communities face a heightened risk of contracting HIV due to issues such as:
 - sharing injecting equipment with someone with undiagnosed/untreated HIV;
 - difficulty accessing services such as sexual health services, harm reduction and PrEP due to factors including geographical location (services are often located inner city) and stigma;
 - late diagnosis leading to poorer health outcomes;
 - other inequalities such as insecure housing and discrimination.

The data in 2023

Approx. 6415 people living with HIV in Scotland

317 new cases recorded in 2022

Est. 500 people living with undiagnosed HIV

In 2022 for the first time since 2007, heterosexually acquired first-ever diagnoses exceeded diagnoses amongst gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men


FOREWORD

We find ourselves at an exciting point in our history – Scotland has committed to getting to zero new HIV transmission by 2030. While this is a development that should be celebrated, we cannot take it for granted that we will reach this goal. Waverley Care needs to be a driving force in holding the government to account to ensure the interventions that have been proven to work are enacted and sufficiently funded in Scotland.

Progress won't be achieved unless we end the stigma of HIV. Stigma is the biggest barrier of all. It is a barrier to education, to accessing testing, to taking up treatment, to talking openly about HIV, and from moving on with life following diagnosis. It saddens me that over 30 years on from the height of the HIV/AIDS outbreak in the UK we are still hearing reports of the same prejudice and ignorance.

While we will continue to provide non-judgmental advice and support, expanding our reach through our digital offering, we also want to live in a society where the people we support can access other services confidently, knowing they won't face stigma or judgement. Over the lifetime of this plan, we will work with other agencies and healthcare specialisms to ensure workforces have up to date knowledge about HIV and understand the impact of stigma.

Together we can make Scotland a fairer and kinder place for people living with or at risk of HIV to live their best life.

A circular portrait of Grant A. Sugden, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue shirt and a dark suit jacket. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage.

Grant A. Sugden

Grant Sugden, Chief Executive



MISSION

**To bring an
end to HIV
inequality and
stigma.**

VISION

**A Scotland where
anyone living
with or at risk of
HIV can expect
to be treated
with acceptance,
support and
respect.**



OUR AMBITIONS

- 1** Through our work, we will play a pivotal role in Scotland realising its ambition to reach zero new HIV transmissions by 2030.
- 2** By being the leading HIV charity in Scotland, we will use our position and influence to shape local and national policy to fight health inequalities and ensure equal and fair access for all to prevention, treatment and support services.
- 3** We will continue to provide high quality, non-judgmental and impartial advice and support, ensuring anyone living with or at risk of a BBV can live their best life.
- 4** We will involve people with lived experience in all areas of our work to ensure that our services, and policy and engagement work is informed by those we aim to support and represent.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

People living with or at risk of HIV in Scotland should expect to be able to live a healthy life, with access to support and treatment, free of stigma or shame.

1 Universal access to prevention tools such as PrEP should be a right for all, not a privilege for the few.

2 We have a central role to play in championing the rights of the communities we work with and to challenge stigma and inequalities related to sexual health and blood borne viruses.

3 Everything we do is guided by people with lived experience.

FOUNDATIONS

- * Digital Transformation
- * Inspiration Communications
- * Sustainable Finances
- * Investment in our People
- * Inclusive and Accessible Services
- * A commitment to Equality and Diversity