Waverley care

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

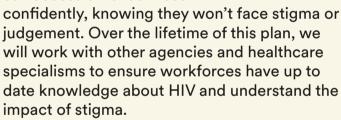
In 2022 for the first time since 2007, heterosexually acquired first-ever diagnoses exceeded diagnoses amongst gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men

### **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



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

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**Grant Sugden, Chief Executive** 

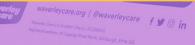


# **VISION**

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

### **OUR AMBITIONS**

- Through our work, we will play a pivotal role in Scotland realising its ambition to reach zero new HIV transmissions by 2030.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



work together to overcome these issues to reach the 95-95-95 targets and zero new HIV transmissions by 2030.

ive cities in Scotland signed up to Fast-Track Cities



Waverley care

### **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.

- Universal access to prevention tools such as PrEP should be a right for all, not a privilege for the few.
- 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.
- 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 committment to Equality and Diversity