

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2015 AT 10.00 a.m.**

Commitment to increase HIV testing

Report of the Director Public Health

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1 Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board about a Panel recommendation to Cabinet agreeing actions to increase HIV testing, consistent with the national [‘Halve It’ campaign](#).

2 Summary

2.1 Public Health & Localism Cabinet Panel recommends Cabinet:

(i) Supports and encourages local action to promote early diagnosis for those with HIV and supports participation in the national [‘Halve It’ Campaign](#).

2.2 And that Cabinet request the Director of Public Health:

(i) To provide an update report to the Public Health and Localism Panel on local actions and commissioning of HIV testing to address these targets, giving due consideration to the Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator and available guidance and evidence; and

(ii) To support the Halve It Coalition and notify it of the Council’s support.

(iii) To identify and take steps to:-

- Seek to halve the proportion of people diagnosed late with HIV in Hertfordshire by 2020;

- Seek to halve the estimated number of people living with undiagnosed HIV in Hertfordshire by 2020; and
- Ensure that rates of late diagnosed HIV are included as an indicator in its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board support the approach to increase HIV testing in Hertfordshire.

4 Background

- 4.1 HIV prevalence overall is low in Hertfordshire, but it is higher (and above or close to the >2 per 1000 residents threshold) in Watford, Stevenage, and Welwyn Hatfield. In 2013, 1,036 Hertfordshire residents aged 15-59 were accessing HIV related care ([Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)).
- 4.2 Late HIV diagnosis is a Public Health Outcomes Indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework and that there is guidance designed to support local authority implementation and monitoring of appropriate and effective testing guidelines. This is one of few Public Health Outcome Framework indicators where Hertfordshire shows poorer than average performance.
- 4.3 52% of adults with HIV in Hertfordshire presented at a late stage of infection from 2011 to 2013, a slightly higher proportion than England (45%) for the same period ([Public Health Outcomes Framework](#)). Prevalence of HIV is rising as a result of improved survival and continued transmission of infection.
- 4.4 Health outcomes are better when people are diagnosed earlier. If diagnosed early, put on a clear treatment pathway and guaranteed access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), people living with HIV can expect to have a near-normal life expectancy and live healthy and active lives.
- 4.5 HIV testing in Hertfordshire is already widely available in health settings especially sexual health services, hospitals and general practice they also promote condom use and safe sex.
- 4.6 The Council also commissions additional outreach testing from the voluntary sector but about half of people are still diagnosed late.
- 4.7 Work is already underway to increase HIV testing levels which includes pilot projects to deliver:

- Rapid HIV point of care testing (“PoCT”) in general practice for new patient’s registering at a participating surgery (in Watford, Stevenage and Welwyn & Hatfield)
- Rapid HIV PoCT in pharmacies for opportunistic testing (in Watford, Stevenage and Welwyn& Hatfield)
- The offer of postal free home sampling kits via online web portal, as part of a national project
- The flagging of clinical indicator conditions for HIV on IT systems to prompt testing and
- High performance from the commissioned Hertfordshire sexual health services [the proportion of HIV tests undertaken is a monitored performance indicator]

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| Report signed off by | Public Health Management board, PH Exec Member, Led/Dep, CLG |
| Sponsoring HWB Member/s | Cllr Teresa Heritage, Jim McManus |
| Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report | Healthy Living and Flourishing Communities |
| Needs assessment Outlined in Sexual Health Needs Assessment | |
| Consultation/public involvement Consultation with general practices in Watford, Stevenage and Welywn Hatfield HIV awareness raising for general public and primary care health professionals Public participation in testing Training for primary care health professionals | |
| Equality and diversity implications Outlined in EQIA | |
| Acronyms or terms used. | |
| Initials | In full |
| ART | Antiretroviral therapy |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| PH | Public Health |
| PoCT | Point of care test |