



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	25 May 2021
Report Title	Fast Track Cities
Report Number	HSCP.21.047
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Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Fast Track High Level Plan

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report presents an annual update on the action plan submitted to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 21 January 2020. This report was delayed from presentation to the Board as previously requested due to the response to the covid-19 pandemic.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board;
- Consider the Fast Track High Level Plan at Appendix A and note the progress on the action plan, and;
 - Endorse the proposed actions for 2021/22, noting that the action plan is a live document, and instruct the Chief Officer to provide an update on progress to the IJB on 29 March 2022.

3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. In February 2020, on behalf of Aberdeen City, The Lord Provost, Councillor Barney Crockett signed the Paris Declaration (2014) [amended November



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2019] which pledges support to the Fast Track Cities initiative as part of the global focus on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The signing of this declaration indicates the commitment of Aberdeen City in zero stigma, zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

3.2. Background Fast Track Cities

Fast Track Cities is a global partnership and initiative, focussing on developing a network of cities pledged to achieve the commitments in the Declaration of Paris on HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment.¹ Aberdeen was the second city in Scotland to sign the Paris Declaration; it is hoped that all cities in Scotland will eventually be a part of Fast Track Cities.

In brief, the Paris Declaration has three 90-90-90 (UNAIDS) targets which are:

- To ensure that 90% of people living with HIV know their status
- To improve access to antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV to 90%
- To increase the proportion of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART) with an undetectable viral load to at least 90% and to
- Reduce stigma and discrimination related to HIV to zero and by 2030 achieving:
 - Zero new transmissions
 - Zero related HIV-deaths
 - Zero HIV-related stigma.

It should be noted that in 2018 overall Scotland had already achieved the 90-90-90 (UNAIDS) targets. However, there is still progress to be made in reducing late diagnosis, stigma and ensuring engagement with treatment and support.

3.3. Progress

Since local approval in September 2019 the Fast Track Cities strategic group have worked to establish a strategic plan and wider partnership. The initial high-level summary was completed in 2019 with asset mapping, consultation and short term outcomes planned for 2020, this plan was endorsed by the

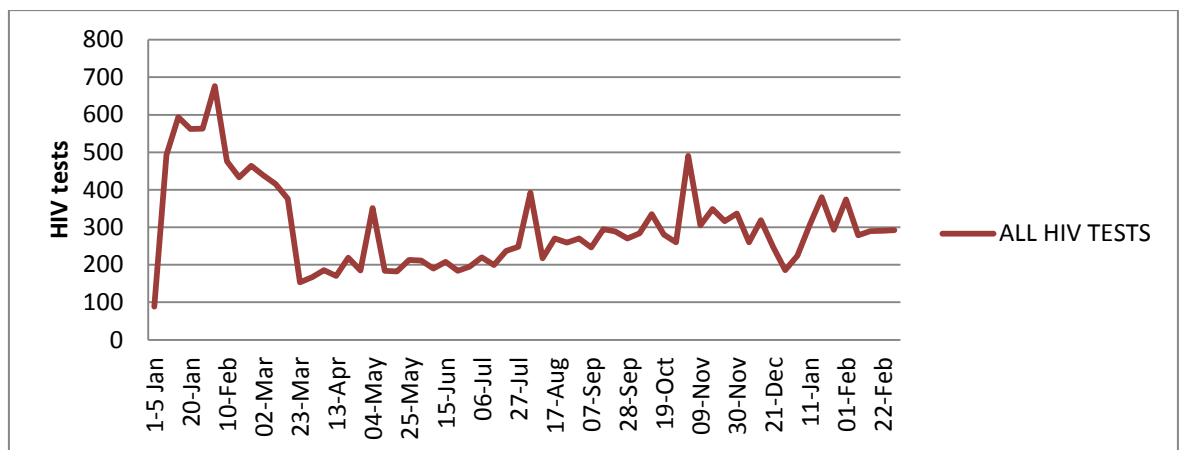


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IJB in January 2020. As a result of COVID19 the main challenges to clinical services have included;

- Reduction in workforce capacity due to competing pressure linked to the pandemic especially from public health/data perspective.
- Reduced capacity in partner services and competing priorities.
- HIV prevention strategies such as HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) maintained however demand reduced.
- HIV care delayed in stable patients with the increasing use of telemedicine. The impact of this on cohort viral load is still awaited.

- 3.4.** It also brought a decrease in HIV testing due to reduced demand and limited capacity within face to face services due to service restrictions secondary to Covid19 and redeployment, and pressure on laboratory services.



- 3.5.** It has been challenging to work towards zero new transmissions with the drop in testing, yet services and partner organisations have tried to find alternative solutions. In partnership with NHS Boards, HIV Scotland piloted self-testing during the national lockdown (April-September). Although the uptake of tests in Grampian (N=198) is a fraction of tests that would have normally seen during the same period, the importance of offering self-testing was the opportunity for people to seek a test, remove barriers to testing and was seen to engage some people in testing who would otherwise not have. This type of approach should be recognised by the IJB as a small step towards increasing testing and a continuation of improving the availability of testing (Short-Term Outcome). A full copy of the evaluation published by HIV Scotland can be accessed here:



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<https://www.hiv.scot/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=811ba817-0db2-4f1c-9c58-7743a2d10923>

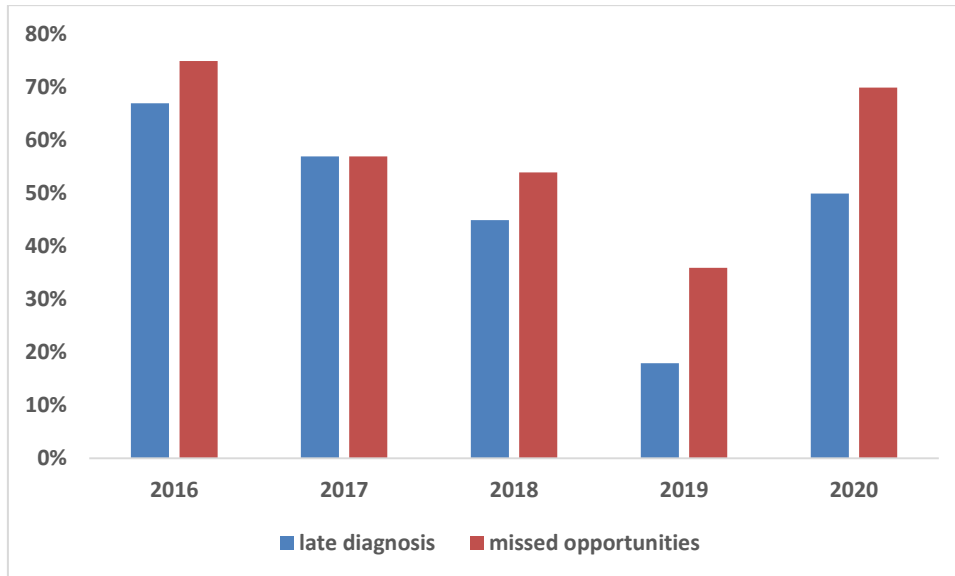
- 3.6.** While undoubtedly COVID has impacted people living with HIV in many ways, there has been an enthusiasm locally to maintain every effort possible to progress Fast Track Cities. The Fast Track Cities Group in Aberdeen are the only group in Scotland to have continually met throughout the pandemic; seeing each other via Microsoft Teams and sharing thoughts, comments, plans and action via Basecamp.
- 3.7.** Throughout 2020 Grampian (Aberdeen) maintained the 90-90-90 targets with 91% estimated diagnosed, 99% maintained on treatment and 98% undetectable. This should be noted by the IJB as a real achievement given all the challenges that 2020 presented.
- 3.8.** Grampian Sexual Health Services (hosted by the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership(ACHSCP)) and NHS Grampian(NHSG) Infection Unit have continued to deliver HIV care along with Our Positive Voice Grampian who have been instrumental in supporting those who are newly diagnosed and/or living with HIV.
- 3.9.** The importance of recognising prevention, particularly in the lead up to World AIDS day is an important calendar event. The IJB should recognise that there was a significant amount of work completed by the Fast Track Cities group to keep a profile and awareness of HIV in the public domain, via respective organisations (ACHSCP and NHSG) and other partner organisations (OPVG, Alcohol and Drugs Action, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships etc). The symbolic lighting of Marischal College on World AIDs day and several social media posts outlined the importance of awareness of:
- the clinical indicators of HIV
 - knowing your HIV status
 - how to access Pre and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
 - the anti-stigma message U=U – Undetectable=Untransmittable.

Plans to consult on the high-level action plan were paused however the Fast Track Cities group are now in a position to undertake that consultation and identify key priorities for taking forward in 2021/22.



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3.10. Going forward it is recommended priorities should include; reducing incidences of late diagnosis, stigma and improving universal access to care, treatment and prevention. When reviewing the patient journey to diagnosis there continues to be missed opportunities for testing, where individuals presented with a clinical symptom of HIV or a history of potential exposure but were not offered or did not access a test.



3.11. There also remains evidence of HIV stigma within local communities from feedback from people living with HIV and services, as well as the wider community. Stigma is cited as a reason why some clinicians/workers may not offer testing and is a documented factor in reasons for declining a HIV test, as well as disengaging from care. It is essential we tackle stigma within services and beyond for the dignity and human rights of people living with HIV and if we are to achieve the aims of zero transmissions and HIV related deaths.

4. Implications for IJB

4.1. Equalities - It is anticipated that the continued implementation of this action plan will have a neutral to positive impact on the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act (2010). Increased knowledge and awareness of HIV in the general population and within public and private organisations is hoped to create a more positive environment for those living with HIV.



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- 4.2. Fairer Scotland Duty** - It is anticipated that the continued implementation of this action plan will have a neutral to positive impact on people affected by socio-economic disadvantage. Increased knowledge and awareness of HIV in the general population and within public and private organisations is hoped to create a more positive environment for those living with HIV.
- 4.3. Financial** - There is no specific financial implications as a result of this report. Actions within the plan will be delivered within existing budgets held jointly across Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (Grampian Sexual Health Services) and NHS Grampian (Managed Care Network for Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses).
- 4.4. Workforce** - There is no specific workforce implications; support to deliver the plan will be met from existing resources.
- 4.5. Legal** - no anticipated legal implications in relation to this report.
- 5. Links to the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership strategic plan.**

The aspirations of Fast Track Cities meet the aims of the Partnership's Strategic Plan² in addition to the outcomes in the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Managed Care Network Strategic Plan (for NHS Grampian, The Grampian Sexual Health Services Plan³ and the National Framework for Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework for Scotland.⁴

This report is also closely aligned to Resilient, Included and Supported aims under Community Planning Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plans.



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6. Management of risk

6.1. Identified risk(s)



Risk relating to the delivery of this programme will be managed within existing processes. The executive programme board and portfolios programme boards have a key role to ensure that risks are identified and appropriately managed.

6.2. Link to risks on strategic and operational risk register:

The main risk relates to not achieving the transformation that is aspired to.

6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:

This report seeks to provide assurance of working towards the short-term actions outlined in the action plan.

Approvals	
	Sandra Macleod (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)