



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	3 February 2026
Report Title	Fast Track Cities
Report Number	HSCP.26.004
Lead Officer	Sandy Reid, Lead – People and Organisation/Service Manager for Sexual Health.
Report Author Details	<p>Daniela Brawley Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV for NHS Grampian Sexual Health. daniela.brawley@nhs.scot</p> <p>Lisa Allerton Public Health Manager, NHS Grampian lisa.allerton@nhs.scot</p> <p>Penny Gillies, Public Health Practitioner (Advanced) penny.gillies@nhs.scot</p> <p>Chris Littlejohn, Consultant in Public Health, NHS Grampian chris.littlejohn@nhs.scot</p>
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	N/A
Terms of Reference	1c - Any other matter that the Chief Officer determines appropriate to report to the IJB

1. Purpose of the Report



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

1.1 This annual report brings forward an update on activity contributing to the Fast Track Cities (FTCs) Initiative.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):

- a. notes the delivery of the Fast Track Cities initiative in Aberdeen City and endorses the continuation of this work.

3. Strategic Plan Context

3.1 Nationally, there are two strategic documents which are relevant to HIV diagnosis, treatment and care – the [Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Action Plan for Scotland \(2023-2026\)](#) and [HIV Transmission Elimination Plan \(2023-2026\)](#).

NHS Grampian Sexual Health is hosted by Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) on behalf of Aberdeenshire and Moray Integration Joint Boards.

4. Summary of Key Information

4.1 In February 2020, and again on 23 November 2022, the Paris Declaration (2014) [amended November 2019] was signed on behalf of the City of Aberdeen. The declaration pledges support to the FTCs 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 to zero stigma, zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030 as a partner in FTCs alongside other worldwide cities.

4.1.2 United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets are:

1. To ensure that 95% of people living with HIV know their status,
2. To improve access to antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV to 95%,
3. To increase the proportion of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART) with an undetectable viral load to at least 95% and to reduce stigma and discrimination related to HIV to zero and by 2030 achieving:
 - Zero new transmissions



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

- Zero related HIV-deaths
- Zero HIV-related stigma

4.2 Progress against FTCs initiative in Aberdeen.

4.2.1 The [latest data](#) (published in September 2025) from Public Health Scotland reveals there were 375 people who had a positive HIV result after being tested in Scotland for the first time in 2024.

The majority of these reports 250/375 (67%) were previously known infections, diagnosed outwith Scotland. This is a trend driven by a continued higher number and proportion of diagnoses attributed to heterosexual sexual intercourse previously recorded out with Scotland. The number of people who were newly diagnosed with HIV and thought to have been acquired it within Scotland was just 25 in 2024. This is a reduction from 37 in 2023.

In 2024, heterosexually acquired first ever diagnoses exceeded in number and proportion, those among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) in Scotland (47%, 59/125 versus 38%, 47/125). This has been a trend for the last 3 years.

Note: Data is presented pan Grampian due to collection processes and to maintain confidentiality.

In 2024, NHS Grampian saw a return to the Board's 10-year average, with 14 first ever diagnoses (compared to the annual average of 15 over the last 10 years) after an increase in first ever diagnoses reported in 2023 (N=20).

4.2.4 In 2025 (to end of November) Grampian reports 17 first ever diagnoses; a further 23 people living with HIV are new and being cared for in Grampian (transferred into area/temporary) this year. In Grampian, >95% of those diagnosed are on treatment of which, >97% have an undetectable (untransmittable) viral load; this is monitored thorough local database information collated by the Clinical Lead for HIV. Approximately 520 people are living with HIV in Grampian.

4.2.5 NHS Grampian Sexual Health (hosted by ACHSCP) and NHS Grampian Infection Unit continue to deliver blended care (virtual and face to face) with a team of clinicians and support staff, specialist pharmacist and clinical psychologist; Our Positive Voice Grampian (OPVG) continue been instrumental in supporting those who are newly diagnosed and/or living with or affected by HIV. Our Fast Track Cities Group continues to meet to set actions for improvement across HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care, as well as specific workstreams to tackle stigma. Some of the actions this year have been:



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

- Increased 'No Talk Testing' clinics and postal self-sampling/dry blood spot testing creating greater opportunities for people to enter into testing pathways in line with personal preference.
- Postal Blood Borne Virus (BBV) testing pathway is now being used partners and supporting people with mental health needs, people experiencing homelessness, LGBT community, community justice and people who use substances to ensure vulnerable clients have the opportunity to get tested.
- Educational sessions for primary and secondary care colleagues covering indicator conditions to prevent late diagnosis and highlighted updated guidance for BBV testing.
- BBV testing and training and updates for non-clinical partners to deliver dry blood spot testing.
- Following the successful pilot of 'opt out' testing of HIV (and other BBVs) in partnership with colleagues in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Emergency Department, NHS Grampian is a site for continuation of the Scottish Government funded initiative, re-commencing the pilot in October 2025, the first in Scotland. The NHS Grampian co-ordinating group has been active in contributing to national resources and pathways to aid roll out to other health board areas.
- In partnership with Cornerstone Homeless Charity Street Nurses and the Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub in the Bon Accord Centre – a BBV testing event offering homeless and people using substances in Aberdeen City a chance to get tested.
- Continued Health Café events with Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) and Waverly Care.
- NHS Grampian is a site for the UK wide research study "Positive Voices" collating data around the experiences of people living with HIV and sigma.
- Increased public communications:
 - Awareness raising campaign on the dating app 'Grindr' which targeted on the local Gay, Bi-Sexual, Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM)



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

community to raise awareness of transmission and the availability of pre-and-post exposure prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP) for HIV and Safe Sex practices (primary prevention) and highlighted opportunities for early testing to reduce late diagnosis (secondary prevention).

- Developing and continuing to champion anti-stigma e-learning module which was used as a template for national resources.
- Large screen advertising campaign in high footfall areas around Aberdeen (Union Street, Berryden, Garthdee and Union Square) highlighting risk factors for BBVs and sign-posting to testing.
- New posters and resources developed signposting people to Sexual Health promoting PrEP and PEP. These were widely distributed to non-health settings including clubs, bars, gym and educational settings.

4.2.6 The importance of recognising and embedding prevention activity, particularly in the lead up to World AIDS Day (WAD) is an important calendar event. The IJB are asked to note the activity of the FTCs group to keep a profile and awareness of HIV in the public domain, via respective organisations (AHSCP and NHS) and other partner organisations including OPVG, Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) and the Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs).

Several social media posts outlined the importance of awareness of:

- the clinical indicators of HIV;
- knowing your HIV status;
- how to access PrEP and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PeP),
- the anti-stigma message U=U – Undetectable=Untransmittable.

For World Aids Day (1st December), a week long campaign with a slide show and window display signposting to testing, prevention and anti-stigma messages was run in the Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub in the Bon Accord Centre. The Bon Accord Wellbeing Hub has become a major distributor of free condoms and self-test Dry Blood Spot kits in Aberdeen.

The FTC group was also part of the organising committee of Scotland first BHIVA World AIDS day event hosted in Glasgow on 30/11/25.

4.3 National FTC progress

4.3.1 In brief the IJB are asked to note that FTCs across Scotland is being co-ordinated by [Waverly Care](#) who hold National Consortium Meetings with representatives from Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

HIV informed is new national online learning hub designed to help Scotland's health and social care workforce build knowledge, confidence and understanding around HIV which helps to address issues of stigma, outdated knowledge and misconceptions. The IJB are asked to help support the awareness of this hub as part of their commitment to HIV elimination and Fast Track Cities: hiv-informed.scot.

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

It is anticipated that the continued implementation 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.

5.2. Financial

There are no specific financial implications as a result of this report. Actions will be delivered within existing budgets which are held jointly across ACHSCP (Sexual Health) and NHS Grampian Public Health.

5.3 Workforce

A workforce review of HIV clinical services is being performed nationally which NHS Grampian will participate in. There are also a number of planned retrials from NHS Grampian Sexual Health in the next 12-18 months, Sexual Health are forward planning for this, taking a phased approach in replacement of posts, this will ensure that there is continuity of, and opportunity to develop staff experience.

5.3. Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5.4. Unpaid Carers

N/A

5.5. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the content of this report.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

5.6. Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the content of this report.

5.7. Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues arising from the content of this report.

5.8. Other

There are no other direct implications arising from the content of this report.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

6. Management of Risk

Risk Appetite Statement

6.1 This report provides information on actions that if delivered, will lead to improvements in testing, diagnoses, treatment and care for those who would benefit from prevention and testing, or who are living with HIV.

6.1.2 NHS Grampian Sexual Health has been under sustained pressure since the pandemic. This comes with an increasing HIV cohort due to increasing first ever diagnoses as well as transfers, and was confounded ongoing service demands, including but not limited to Mpox outbreak and vaccine programme, Gonorrhoea vaccine programme and DoxyPEP STI prevention programme. Abortion care demands and the need to deliver contraception especially LARC also significantly impacts service delivery with a small staff pool, and has been escalated via the ACHSCP governance structures. However, NHS Grampian Sexual Health, in collaboration with partners, remains flexible to continue to meet the needs of the population. The IJB are asked to note the ongoing workforce planning work and planned retirements as mentioned under 'Workforce.'

6.2.1 Identified risks(s)

There is no specific risk in relation to FTCs. The NHS Sexual Health risk register can be viewed on request.
