



April

COVID 19 & BAME Communities

BHA attended a webinar on 'assessing the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities in Greater Manchester' which was organised by the Greater Manchester BAME Network. The event hosted a variety of different BAME community organisations who commented on how COVID-19 was affecting the specific BAME communities that they provide services for. These professionals individually noted what long-term changes they believed were necessary for BAME people considering the high risk of contracting COVID-19.



This proved to be a very useful webinar to attend, as one organisation who work with BAME people who are refugees or asylum seekers noted this group is more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19 due to poor, populous environments and when out in the community in future and currently online.

It was expressed that there has, and will be, a detrimental impact on the life chances and outcomes for children and younger people from BAME communities - especially due to the lack of transparency within public reports on the ways BAME people are affected, leaving organisations ill-equipped to respond effectively. Several of these professionals stressed the importance in the long term to ensure BAME people are given fair access to PPE and more specialised focus in public services. Lastly they suggested that charity organisations take note that there may be an increase in demand and interest once lockdown lifts and to cater services that consider the fear some BAME communities may have of reaching out.

The Tip

Our weekly Instagram Live broadcast, *The Tip: Let's Talk about Sex, Pleasure and Social Distancing* has been an overwhelming success.

The platform has given an opportunity for us to engage publicly with community members, specialists, health educators, practitioners, activists, advocates and influencers, maximising impact and broadening our reach. In addition to hosting interviews with high profile guests such as Television Personality, Fashionista, Musician and LGBT Advocate Jsky, local artist and porn performer Jordan Roberts, Public Health authority and Co-founder of Prepster Dr. Will Nutland and international Social Media influencer and LGBT Activist, Bandy Kiki, we also took time to acknowledge representatives of key community organisations including BHA for Equality, Positive East and Trade Sexual Health.

So far, interview themes have included 'PEP, PrEP, Testing and Living with HIV During Lockdown', 'Chemsex and Harm Reduction', 'HIV and Sexual Health in Black African Communities', 'Art Sex and What's Next?', and 'Men's Health Week is for Trans Men too!'.



The Passionate about Sexual Health Partnership (PaSH Partnership) is a collaboration between BHA For Equality, George House Trust and the LGBT Foundation.

The PaSH Partnership delivers a comprehensive programme of interventions to meet the changing needs of people newly diagnosed with HIV, living longer term with HIV or at greatest risk of acquiring HIV.



BHA for equality
in health
and social care

For information, advice surrounding sexual health email pash@thebha.org.uk and a member of team will give you a call back, between 10 and 4pm, Monday-Friday.

Greater Manchester residents, aged 18+ and from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, are able to request FREE Postal condom and lube packs from thebha.org.uk/condom-request

**GEORGE
HOUSE TRUST**
HIV POSITIVE LIVING

if you need support, advice or information and would like to speak to someone please email talk@ght.org.uk. Include your message and we will get back to you.

LGBT
foundation

Contact the Sexual Health team sexualhealth@lgbt.foundation for a non-judgemental sex positive discussion. if you prefer a phone call, send us an email alongside your number and we will arrange a time to call you back.

We're also providing FREE postal condoms and lube for Greater Manchester Residents.

May

Hive maintains community engagement, by using local community radio stations.



HIVE recently had a Radio interview with Legacy FM, the most prominent radio station in the BAME community with a substantial following. The broadcast was later shared on their Facebook page with over Forty Thousand followers and also shared on other digital outlets.

The session covered HIV and transmission route, PrEP, U=U.



Penile Health

As part of our commitment to maintaining community engagement during the lockdown, HIVE delivered a Penile Health Session via Instagram live to promote confidence and change perspective on penile health, help viewers identify signs and symptoms of penis problems and encourage the excellent practice of penile hygiene. The session was a question and answer format which allowed viewers to participate.

June

Beautiful Minds Podcast

We were honoured to have had the opportunity to attend the Beautiful Mind talk show, which provided a great platform for us to discuss Facts about HIV. To date, this episode has received a viewing of 2.5k, you can watch here youtu.be/3B7NaTpQtI0

Beautiful Minds is a charity committed to fighting stigma, discrimination and judgemental attitudes through informing and educating audiences in a non-judgemental attitude. In addition to the reality TV show the charity offers counselling, life coaching, confidence building classes, events and which provide a platform for societies to discuss and offer solutions to issues which may lead to social exclusion.



HIVE Men's Health Week

This quarter, the HIVE campaign 'HIV: Let's Sort This Together' was refreshed with additional imagery and advertising to tie in with Men's Health Week. The campaign featured a wide range of real Greater Manchester residents. Our adverts were particularly impactful across Manchester, Bolton, and Rochdale.





Formula Milk Success

George House Trust is delighted to welcome Wigan into our formula milk provision scheme. Now new mothers who are HIV positive and living in Wigan local authority area will be able to access free formula milk for the first year of their baby's life. This is vitally important as it eliminates the risk of HIV transmission from mother to baby through breast feeding. We are proud to say that we are now working in partnership with the majority of councils in Greater Manchester on this important scheme.

Hosting the TIP with Gloria from Positive East

Collaborative work continues as BHA hosted, The Tip with guest Gloria from Positive East. We spoke about community engagement within the Black community. The event, thus far has been viewed 444 times, and viewers commented how well informed the session was. Gloria and PaSH, discussed techniques, challenges and highlights of delivering services solely targeted towards black people.

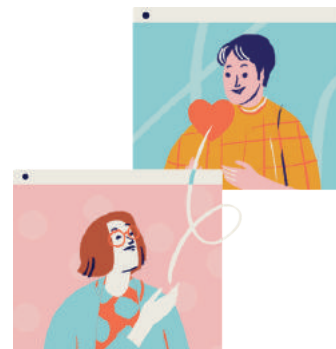
PaSH at the current time were offering a limited service; this would have been the perfect opportunity to offer HIV testing. PaSH feels as other sexual health services, who do similar work, were able to encourage self testing - our service users were missed. However, our condom and lube postal service was regularly promoted.



LGBT Events go Zoom

In response to the ongoing need to social distance George House Trust has moved it's regular LGBT Events to video conferencing platform Zoom.

One encouraging outcome from the move online is that many service users who previously haven't been able to attend 'in person' events (due to problems such as mobility issues or social anxiety) have been happy join the Zoom events. The response from service users has been really positive and after a consultation with attendees we are planning a broad range of social and information events for the rest of 2020.



Webinar: COVID19 & HIV

BHA for Equality (Manchester and Leeds) organised with George House Trust, the Webinar "HIV and COVID-19 - What we need to know", occurred on 25th June.

The Webinar pretended to give professionals and services users a general update on implications of HIV during COVID-19 pandemic with Dr. Khine Phyu, from "Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust", and an update on services available on HIV prevention and support offered by George House Trust and BHA for Equality in Greater Manchester and Leeds.

You can watch on Youtube
www.youtube.com/watch?v=btdTw_ciGUE



Online group spaces

In response to reductions in face-to-face service deliver, we quickly learned to work differently, hosting a range of events from sexual health-themed pub quiz, Body Positive Zumba and Exploring HIV History through Vogue events online, utilising Zoom as a user- friendly platform. We later extended this to creative writing classes which focused on developing individual interpretations of past sexual experiences. We hosted online live drawing classes, focusing on body positivity and human form. We even hosted a sexual on how to create the ultimate sexy lockdown soundtrack to encourage mood setting, self-care and atmosphere setting within positive self-touch. All events, had key, up-to-date sexual messaging incorporated into core event themes.

Although most localities groups were cancelled due to the necessity to social distance Oldham LGBTQ4U, organised in collaboration with Oldham Libraries, decided to continue to meet and hold events on Zoom. The group, although in it's infancy, have organised three fantastic events – Soundtrack to Your Sex Life, an LGBT Themed Literary Pub Quiz, and an event discussing QTIPOC/BAME Health and Culture in Greater Manchester with guest speaker from Black Beetle Health. Numbers participating in Oldham LGBTQ4U are small but growing and participants have a say in how the group is organised and what type of events are hosted.



Support Successes

During this time of heightened need for many of the people we support George House Trust is proud of the many successful outcomes we've achieved for our service users. We have:

- » Intervened to ensure service users have essential HIV medication delivered.
- » Helped many service users to navigate the benefits system for the first time.
- » Provided discretionary payments from our Welfare Fund so that service users have essentials such as food and electricity whilst waiting for their first Universal Credit payment.
- » Ensured that those who are shielding were connected to support from their local council.
- » Moved our counselling service online to ensure clients can continue to access therapeutic support.
- » Connected vulnerable service users to social services for ongoing support.
- » Successfully applied for a charitable grant to secure new accommodation for a service user who had been homeless.
- » Co-ordinated the provision of a large number of food parcel deliveries from Trussell Trust Foodbanks.
- » Continued to provide a range of high quality advice, support and advocacy through 1 to 1 appointments via phone and Zoom.