



July

HIV: Let's sort this together.

The Step Up Scheme has now launched!

HIVE has introduced an exciting membership scheme which is designed to prevent those at the highest ongoing risk of acquiring HIV. The scheme uses the digital platform www.sorthiv.org.uk; and provides benefits which include self-sampling HIV and STI tests, condoms and lube, 121 interventions and group workshops. We have delivered three presentations so far (Wigan Spectrum, Sexual health clinicians at The Northern and the Modern Slavery NGO Forum) to promote the scheme, and with hope of getting referrals from other organisations. The scheme has received two referrals to date, and we look forward to receiving many more.

HIV Testing instagram live with Terrence Higgins Trust



BHA and Terrence Higgins Trust have collaborated for a second time, with BAME Health promotion project lead Aisha-Monic Namurach. The instagram live session, topic was "HIV Testing- why it is important to get tested." the session was viewed by many and was in preparation for the launch of the Step Up Scheme. Information shared was in regards to varied testing options, such as Point of Care Testing (POCT) which is a rapid HIV test with results in 2 minutes in comparison to Dry blood Spot testing (DBS) which is a self sampling kit, which is then sent onto a laboratory with results verified a week or two later. The session also included a demonstration of how to perform a DBS test. The session was viewed live by an audience of 10.

August

Dr Kathryn Gray fighting fact from fiction

We were delighted to be joined by Dr Kathryn on Instagram to provide clarity on the topic of COVID-19 due to the alarming increase of conspiracies theories and Fake News being spread. The aim of the session was to debunk theories so our communities were able to separate Fact from Fiction.



Dr Kathryn Gray is an immunologist currently based in the Centre for Biological Timing at the University of Manchester.

The session was informative and engaging, addressing some of the concerns around COVID-19 within the BAME community and helped provide the opportunity to encourage adherence to government guidelines to prevent co-infection with HIV. The session also provided an insight into some ongoing research. The session was viewed by 25 people.

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

Home self testing HIV kit theBHA.org.uk/home-hiv-test

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.

Were also providing FREE postal condoms and lube for Greater Manchester Residents.

do it for you!



PaSH and THT talk Pleasure

PaSH hosted a collaborative event with Terrance Higgins Trust BAME Health promotion project lead Aisha-Monic Namurach. The event was an Instagram live session on how sexual health and pleasure should be more prioritised for black women. The session aimed to teach viewers about, why black women may not access services, the historical context of black women's ownership of their sexuality and bodies and different ways women can pleasure themselves. The response to this session was very encouraging as viewers enthusiastically responded to the session, with some asking for advice on tips to pleasure themselves and up to this date has had 44 viewers.

A virtual LGBT History tour

George House Trust hosted our fourth LGBT Zoom Event. The theme of the event was 'A Virtual LGBT History Tour'. We were delighted to welcome Paul Fairweather, local historian, activist and founding member of George House Trust for the tour which was a fascinating mix of archive materials, social history and the origins of HIV activism in Greater Manchester. Attendees had several worthwhile discussions including a comparison of HIV medication then and now and how the fight for LGBT equality intersected with the community's support for people living with HIV in the 80s and 90s.

George House Trust does Pride



George House Trust was delighted to be involved in Manchester Pride's virtual celebrations which took place on the United We Stream GM platform over the bank holiday weekend. Throughout the weekend viewers were given an insight in to some of the vital work we do through interviews with GHT volunteers and service users - including peer mentors and positive speakers. Although we would have loved to have been marching in person we were delighted to take part in the virtual parade to raise awareness of the services we are still committed to providing and to publicise the crucial U=U message.

September



Sexual Health Week

Monday 14th - Sunday 20th September 2020 was Sexual health week and this year there was a primary focus on Relationship and Sex education (RSE) and Inclusion.

BHA made sure to offer a diverse panel of Instagram lives and webinars. Monday kicked off with an Instagram live with Shaz, which we discussed 'BAME-Reaching Asian Communities'.

On Tuesday PaSH hosted a focus group titled 'What women Want', Wednesday saw us hosting a webinar called 'Culture, Taboo and Sexual Health' in collaboration with Arbah an up and coming Mancunian Sexpert who wrote a dissertation on 'British Muslims and Sexual Pleasure' which won an equality and diversity award. Arbah was an amazing host who shared a lot of knowledge about Islamic beliefs and values about Sexual Pleasure. 6 women attended the event and all the women stated that the session was really informative and that they wanted to have more sessions like this in which they could talk about their cultural experiences of Sexual health and how we as a society the topic of Sexual Health more inclusive and inviting. On Thursday we ended the SHW2020 By hosting an Instagram live session with Sexpression Manchester about 'Making sexual Pleasure inclusive' - we tend to host annual events with Sexpression every Sexual Health week so this was a great way to round things off.

The HIV testing coverage rate among women attending sexual health services (57%) is lower compared to men (79%) and the number of women diagnosed late with HIV remains around 50%.



To tailor our services to meet women’s needs and increase the number of women testing for HIV, we organise two focus groups; one for professionals who worked with BAME women and a for women in the community.

The first focus group, took place on 1st of September, on zoom, aimed at professionals working with BAME women. The attendance was high and several suggestions emerged, such as: online information to be more centralised and easy to find, support services should be diverse and culturally adapted to tackle HIV and sexual health stigma.

On 15th of September, during Sexual Health Week, BHA hosted a zoom session for Black Asian and other ethnic minority women, to discuss sexual health. The session was titled ‘What women want’, with BAME women about their wants and needs and how we can improve our service to increase the number of women accessing sexual health services.

Although, the attendance was low, as was stated the hour was inconvenient due to school time. We discussed, how sexual health, life and pleasure can be taboo subjects covered with guilt and shame and the importance of empowering women to achieve better health and wellbeing.

HIVE & CAHN



BHA recently partnered with CAHN, (Caribbean, African Healthcare Network) a Registered Non-Profit Organisation whose purpose is to empower, enable and equip faith and community organisations with the Infrastructure to deliver and shape health and wellbeing services. HIVE was invited to attend one of their quarterly leader’s forum meeting. The meeting is usually the space for CAHN to deliver workshops, on empowerment and community needs. The forum is typically attended by 11-15 participants. HIVE delivered a presentation on HIV awareness and talked about the newly launched Step-Up scheme. The presentation lasted an hour, and provided an explanation of HIV treatment and HIV prevention measures. We discussed the new Step-Up scheme, including the value of the project and the project aims, whilst encouraged participants to recommend and refer into the scheme and share the information with community members.

WELCOME



George House Trust welcomes Darren Knight

George House Trust is delighted to announce that its Board Of Trustees has appointed Darren Knight as Chief Executive Officer. Darren starts on 28 September 2020.

Darren said;

“As someone who has seen the amazing work of George House Trust evolve over the years and the organisation’s excellent record in tackling stigma, providing services, support and influencing change, I’m both delighted and excited to be joining the team. I’m totally committed to ensuring the work that George House Trust delivers continues to meet the diverse and changing needs of people living with and affected by HIV in my role as Chief Executive”.

Darren has over 14 years’ experience of working in charities and joins George House Trust from Bolton CVS, where he’s been the Chief Executive for the last 5 years.

Darren also worked for Shelter as a Development Manager on the Inspiring Change Manchester programme and spent almost 9 years working for the Lesbian & Gay Foundation (now LGBT Foundation), where he was the Head of Policy and Engagement.

In his spare time, Darren is a Trustee for Lloyds Bank Foundation and Lancashire LGBT, as well as being a volunteer mentor for young people with Bolton Lads and Girls Club and a volunteer befriender for older people with Senior Solutions. He lives in Westthoughton with his husband, Andy and their dog Fletcher.

