



January

BHA for Equality began a partnership with **Caring and Sharing in Rochdale to deliver sexual health awareness sessions.** The first session delivered focussed on the different types of contraception.

Cervical Cancer Group Session

In collaboration with Diversity Matters North West, PaSH delivered a session to Asian women about cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine. The aim of the session was to provide the women with enough knowledge about cervical cancer so that they are able to peer teach others. Conversations were held around the types of cervical cancer, the progression of the cancer, and the HPV vaccination. Many women reported they had never heard of the HPV vaccination.



My Night with Reg: George House Trust and Green Carnation

January saw the culmination of a collaboration between George House Trust and Green Carnation Theatre Company in the staging of the play *My Night With Reg*. The play deals with the fallout of the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1980s by following the lives of a group of gay men. Green Carnation held a workshop with George House Trust's Gay & Bi Men's group including a discussion 'HIV: Then and Now'. The directors used service user's memories and feedback to shape aspects of the show. George House Trust had a fundraising and awareness raising presence throughout the show's run at the Lowry Theatre and the Gay & Bi Men's group were delighted to be able to attend a sold out show.

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.

COVID-19 Updates



In response to recent government advice regarding Corona virus (COVID-19) our offices in Leeds and Manchester will be closed until further notice.

However we will be working remotely and offering limited services. For telephone support via our switchboard please contact 03301 281 186, if you wish to contact the sexual health team please email pash@thebha.org.uk.



Due to the ongoing situation with regards to the coronavirus outbreak the George House Trust building is currently closed until further notice. This means that we have made changes to working arrangements and the services we can provide.

Staff are working from home and are providing one to one support by phone. Similarly, our volunteer peer mentors are providing telephone support and the programme remains open for referrals.

If you are in need of support, advice or information and would like to speak to someone please email talk@ght.org.uk and include your telephone number in your message and we will call you back.

We are keeping up to date with any new information about coronavirus and HIV which we will publish on the George House Trust website www.ghst.org.uk and our social media platforms. We are keeping the situation under constant review and we will update our website when there are any planned changes to these arrangements. We look forward to being able to resume normal service again soon.



In line with recommendations from Public Health England, we have temporarily closed Our Community resource centre and moved to remote services: <http://lgbt.foundation/coronavirus/remote-services>

PaSH Sexual Health staff at LGBT Foundation are working tirelessly to continue to provide services for our communities through online platforms. If you have any issues relating to sexual health you can contact us on our helpline at 0345 3 30 30 30 or email us on sexualhealth@lgbt.foundation



February



LGBT History Month

LGBT Foundation's Sexual Health team were busy supporting our communities through info stalls at Bury College, Manchester Metropolitan University, NHS Pennines Rainbow Badge Launch in Oldham, and as part of a Hate Crime Awareness event in Radcliffe.

We organised outreach clinics in Bolton and with a QTPOC (Queer Trans and Intersex People of Colour) group; Rainbow Noir. We hosted short LGBT film screening events in Bolton & Rochdale, and in collaboration with Oldham Library, we set up a new community group LGBTQ4U.



Over 60's Group session on HIV

In collaboration with the carers group and the Men's group within the African and Caribbean Mental Health service, BHA's HIVE team delivered a group session to service users aged 60-70. Many of the service users held misconceptions about HIV believing it was a 'gay mans disease'. A majority of the group had outdated knowledge on HIV and were unaware of the significant advances made in HIV treatment and care. A key message taken by the group was U=U.



Love is...

On Valentines Day BHA For Equality, organised the activity 'LOVE IS...' at Rainbow Haven Salford. Service users wrote love notes in different languages, opening discussions about sexual health and intimacy.



Life Drawing Classes

PaSH sexual health staff at LGBT Foundation have been running a series of Life Drawing classes facilitated by artist Daniel Mark Walsh in partnership with University of Salford Arts & Media department and the Sexpression team at University of Manchester.

These creative skills development sessions have not only been very well attended, but are also a means by which the team can create vital spaces to discuss body positivity, and provide students with free condoms, lube, sexual health resources and advice around sexual health provision such as testing for HIV and STIs, and how to access PEP and PrEP.





HIV: Let's sort this together.



SortHIV.org.uk

HIV COMMISSION

HIV Commission & Launch of HIVE campaign

On Thursday 13th February, the HIV Commission held an evidence hearing, as part of their engagement and consultation strategy. The commission aims to find new and achievable ways to end new HIV transmissions in England by 2030.

The evidence hearing was hosted by the PaSH Partnership. The day was split into two sessions, the morning session gathered service providers and service users at LGBT foundation. The group discussed 3 key themes: BME People, LGBT+ people and people living with HIV. All conversations were in a confidential space. The afternoon had a series of presentations then shortly drew to a close with the launch of the HIVE Campaign ' HIV: Let's sort this together.'

<https://sorthiv.org.uk/who-are-we>



Here's what PaSH had to say about the day

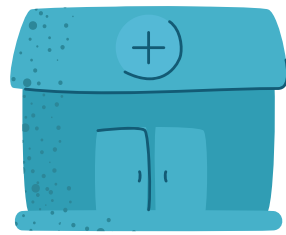
We invited a service user, volunteer and one of our community partners to meet with the commission and share their insight around the work that we do with BME communities.

One of our long standing volunteers, highlighted the need for our services in the community. Our service user spoke highly of our services and his experience of sexual health services. Other issues discussed included lack of awareness of PrEP, PEP and perceptions of risk among BAME communities, and the importance of partnership work in the fight against HIV.



March

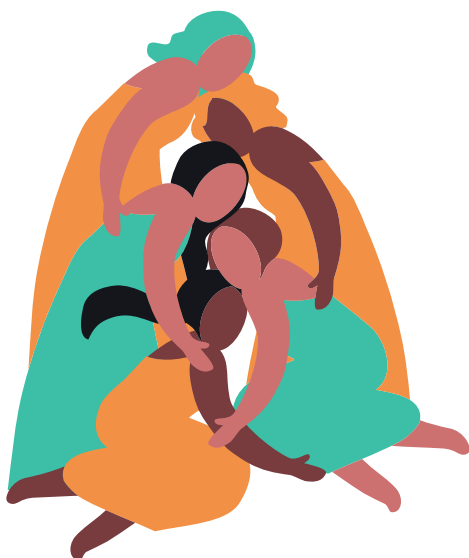
Victoria Chemist



BHA opened a new HIV testing clinic at Victoria Chemist in Salford. Pharmacies are convenient places to disseminate sexual health information to a wider group of people seeking advice, information and 'HIV testing in Salford. The clinic will open once a month and we will be assessing the need to open more regularly. The 1st day was a success, as clients fed-back that HIV testing in their pharmacy was more convenient for them.

International Womens' Day

A lively and well attended International Women's Day event took place at George House Trust on 7th of March. Attendees were treated to make-overs from our friends at MAC cosmetics and the afternoon brought an informative and hilarious panel discussion: 'GHT Does Loose Women'. The panel discussed sex, sexuality and pleasure. A representative from Ann Summers was on hand to demonstrate some of the items the company had kindly donated. The event highlighted the importance of women living with HIV acknowledging and exploring their own sexuality and sexual desires.



Collaborative approaches to improving the maternity experiences of black women

BHA attended an event hosted by the Caribbean African health Network (CAHN) titled '*Collaborative Approaches to improving maternity experiences of black women*'.

The event featured a diverse panel of healthcare professionals who explained their approaches to tackling this health inequality and their research findings. The event challenged professionals to explain why Black women were 50% more likely than Europeans to die pre or postnatally.

The overall finding was that there is simply no answer, but a lot speculation is around myths of black women being 'stronger' than their white peers. However, it was nice to see that a hands on approach was being taken. For example, Manchester University have introduced a culture day in which they invite the local community to come in and educate their student midwives about their culture. This includes languages, food and traditions which may take place during or after birth.

