



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](mailto: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](http://thebha.org.uk/condom-request)

Home self testing HIV kit [theBHA.org.uk/home-hiv-test](http://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](mailto:talk@ght.org.uk). Include your message and we will get back to you.

## **LGBT** foundation

Contact the Sexual Health team [sexualhealth@lgbt.foundation](mailto: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.

Our free condom and lube postal scheme and Play Packs can be accessed from: [lgbt.foundation/condoms](http://lgbt.foundation/condoms) and [lgbt.foundation/playpacks](http://lgbt.foundation/playpacks)

# April



## Workshops

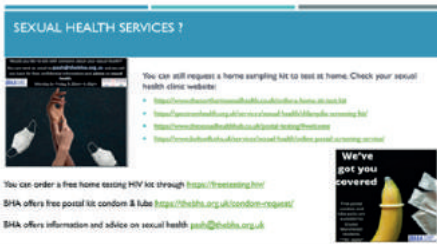
The Sexual Health team has been providing a new selection of workshops for the LGBT+ community. While STI awareness and sexual health education is important, we've been creating spaces for individuals to reflect on their 'sexual biography' and what they want (or don't want!) from sex in their lives. "[The workshop] helped me to think about my childhood experiences from a new approach and understand how they shape my current feelings about sex today."

All of our workshops are available [available to book](#) for community groups and organisations.



## The criminalisation of HIV transmission - time for change?

What effect does language and law have on how people living with HIV are perceived? In April we were delighted to host a talk by Dr Max Morris, who has recently published an article in the Journal of Criminal Law calling for the decriminalisation of HIV transmission. Prosecutions for the 'reckless' or 'intentional' transmission of HIV still occur in the UK and ideas of 'innocence' and 'guilt' are often used in the media when HIV is talked about. Dr Morris is a Lecturer in Criminology at Kingston University whose research and teaching focus on gender and sexuality, including the criminalisation of sex work, homosexuality, and HIV. He lives with HIV and was a participant in the PARTNER study. The talk was followed by a robust discussion where service users shared differing perspectives with passion and respect.



## “Coming Out Lockdown – Sexual Health” session to British Red Cross service users

PASH delivered a group session titled “Coming Out Lockdown – Sexual Health” to British Red Cross services users. The group was very diverse with people from Sudan, Eritrea, Syria, Iran. During the session we discussed several subjects regarding sexual health, such as HIV combination prevention, STI’s, COVID and sexual health. We also mapped and explored current sexual health services and the proximity to service users. The service users really appreciated the session, one commented “Great session, you’re very clear (in conversation). Another commented “Thank you for all the great information.”

It was explained during the session that PaSH offers advice and information in a more private way if the attendees felt it was needed. Ways to access to free condoms and lube and Home HIV tests via PaSH website were also explored. Just an hour after the session a participant requested a coaching session, on how to use a condom and another requested condoms.

## May



## COVID Vaccines: Your questions answered

Many people living with HIV have questions about getting a COVID vaccine: Is it safe? Was it developed too quickly? Will it affect my HIV medication?

We were honoured to be joined by Dr Liz Okecha, a

Sexual Health & HIV Consultant, for a Zoom seminar. Together we explored our service user’s questions and concerns about COVID vaccines, giving people all the information they needed to make an informed decision. Topics covered included how the vaccine works, how they were developed at speed, whether vaccines interfere with HIV medication, side effects and accessing COVID vaccination as an asylum seeker or overstayer. Following the session, attendees reported improved knowledge and confidence in COVID vaccines.



## Facts and Myths about Sexual Health

PASH has a new series of short videos to debunk the most common misconceptions about sexual health.

The short videos will be available once a month on BHA’s YouTube channel. The first addressed the myth “STI’s only affect young people who have sex with multiple partners” and was released on 13th of May on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/WC-CAUItzB0>

The second video discussed if it’s a fact or a myth that “Straight people don’t have to worry about HIV” and was live on BHA’s YouTube channel on 27th of May.

The next video will be live on BHA’s YouTube channel on 30th of June and the discussion will focus on whether it’s a fact or a myth that an STI will eventually disappear without treatment.



# June

## SEX WORK POST COVID

### International Sex Worker Day

2nd June marked International Sex Worker Day. Disproportionately affected by the pandemic, sex workers can experience stigma for just going to work and earning money. This can cause a lot of physical and mental health challenges. LGBT Foundation teamed up with The Men's Room to create the online resource Sex Work Post Covid, providing valuable signposting and support for sex workers across Greater Manchester and beyond.



### Webinars on LGBT+ Health

Public Health England have been hosting a series of webinars about LGBT+ health needs. LGBT Foundation's Sexual Health Coordinator, Aben Ripley, spoke about the wellbeing and health issues that can arise from viewing sexuality as a set of sexual behaviours. Follow the link to catch the recorded sessions, or to attend one of the upcoming webinars.



### Phone Buddies and Loneliness Awareness Week

To mark this year's Loneliness Awareness Week we explored the impact of our Telephone Buddies service on our service user's wellbeing. Vengai and Melissa blogged about their experiences as 'tele-buddies' and how they helped each other cope with the difficulties of the past year.



**HIV: Let's sort this together.**



**SortHIV.org.uk**

### PaSH Updates HIV: Lets Sorts this together. Best Health Campaign finalist

<https://canal-st.co.uk/news/manchesters-hiv-campaign-shortlisted-for-national-award>

The PaSH Partnership's campaign, **HIV: Let's sort this together** has been selected as a finalist in the 2021 Purpose Awards in the 'Collaboration - Best Health Campaign' category. The other finalists are big campaigns from the likes of ITV and Channel 4, so it feels great to be shortlisted alongside them!

You can see the full shortlist here, and the campaign website here.