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**REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: FAST TRACK CITIES**

**BY: SUSAN THOM, AREA PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR**

## **1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) of the work being undertaken within Grampian in relation to the Paris Declaration (2014) [amended November 2019] which pledges support to the Fast Track Cities initiative as part of the global focus on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1. It is recommended that the MIJB:**

- i) note the Grampian City Fast Track Cities High Level Action Plan (Draft) at APPENDIX 1;**
- ii) endorse and promote the Fast Track Cities initiative, and;**
- iii) approve Moray's involvement in the Grampian Fast Track Cities High Level Action Plan**

## **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Fast Track Cities is a global partnership and initiative, focussing on developing a network of cities pledged to achieve the commitments in the Declaration of Paris on HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment<sup>1</sup> Aberdeen was the second City in Scotland to sign the Paris Declaration. HIV care in Grampian is co-ordinated by NHS Grampian and covers a pan Grampian cohort; it is hoped that all Cities in Scotland will eventually be a part of Fast Track Cities.

3.2 In brief, the Paris Declaration has three 90-90-90 (UNAIDS) targets which are:

- To ensure that 90% of people living with HIV know their status
- To improve access to antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV to 90%
- To increase the proportion of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART) with an undetectable viral load to at least 90% and to reduce stigma and discrimination related to HIV to zero and by 2030 achieving:

- Zero new transmissions
- Zero related HIV-deaths
- Zero HIV-related stigma

3.3 It should be noted that in 2018 overall Scotland had already achieved the 90-90-90 (UNAIDS) targets. However, there is still progress to be made in reducing late diagnosis, stigma and ensuring engagement with treatment and support.

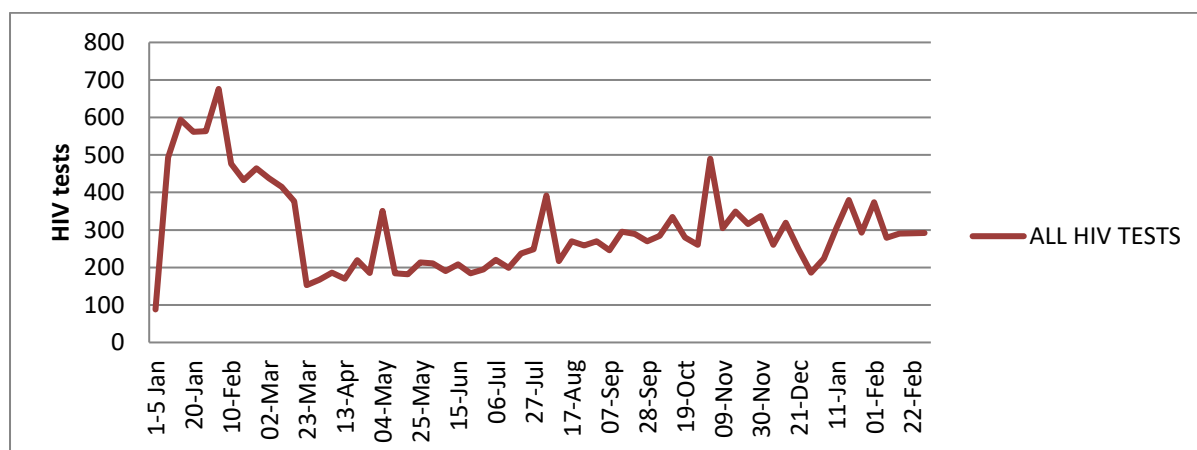
3.4 Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) initially led on the introduction of Fast Track Cities in Grampian. Since Aberdeen City approval in 2019 the Grampian Fast Track Cities strategic group have worked to establish a Grampian High Level Fast Track Cities (FTC) Action Plan (**Draft – Appendix 1**) and wider partnership approach across the whole of Grampian. The initial high level summary was completed in 2019 with asset mapping, consultation and short term outcomes planned for 2020, this plan was endorsed by the Aberdeen City IJB in January 2020.

3.5 The opportunity now exists for MIJB and Aberdeenshire IJB to formally endorse and commit to the Grampian Fast Track Cities High Level Action Plan.

#### 4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

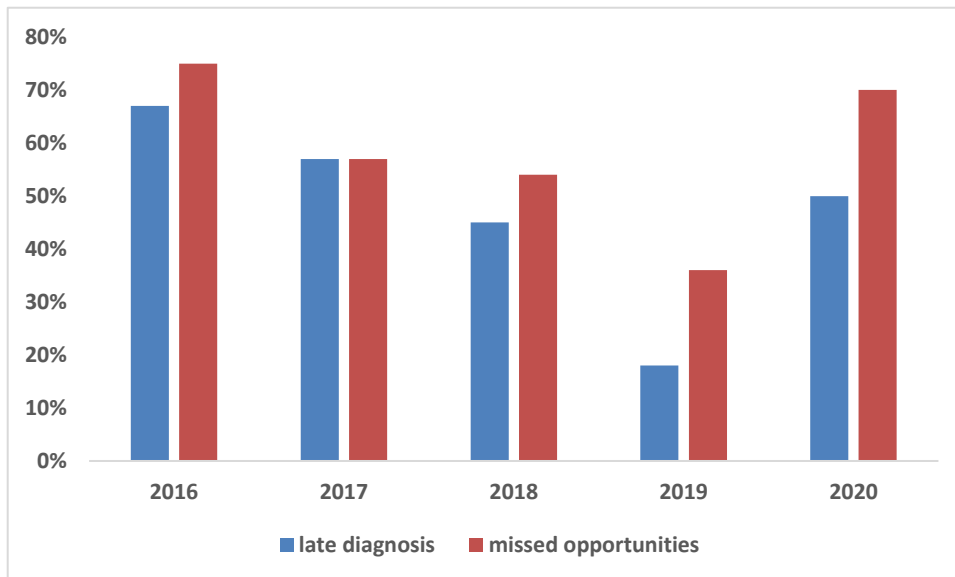
- 4.1 As a result of Covid-19 the main challenges to clinical services have included
- Reduction in workforce capacity due to competing pressure linked to the pandemic especially from public health/data perspective
  - Reduced capacity in partner services and competing priorities
  - HIV prevention strategies such as HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) maintained however demand reduced
  - HIV care delayed in stable patients with the increasing use of telemedicine. The impact of this on cohort viral load is still awaited.

It also brought a decrease in HIV testing due to reduced demand and limited capacity within face to face services due to service restrictions secondary to Covid-19 and redeployment, and also pressure on laboratory services.



- 4.3 It has been challenging to work towards zero new transmissions with the drop in testing, yet services and partner organisations have tried to find alternative solutions. In partnership with NHS Boards, HIV Scotland piloted self-testing during the national lockdown (April-September). Although the uptake of tests in Grampian (N=198) is a fraction of tests that would have normally seen during the same period, the importance of offering self-testing was the opportunity for people to seek a test, remove barriers to testing and was seen to engage some people in testing who would otherwise not have. This type of approach should be recognised by the MIJB as a small step towards increasing testing and a continuation of improving the availability of testing (Short-Term Outcome). A full copy of the evaluation published by HIV Scotland can be accessed here: <https://www.hiv.scot/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=811ba817-0db2-4f1c-9c58-7743a2d10923>
- 4.4 While undoubtedly Covid-19 has impacted people living with HIV in many ways, there has been an enthusiasm locally to maintain every effort possible to progress Fast Track Cities. The Grampian Fast Track Cities Group are the only group in Scotland to have continually met throughout the pandemic; seeing each other via Microsoft Teams and sharing thoughts, comments, plans and action via Basecamp.
- 4.5 Throughout 2020 Grampian maintained the 90-90-90 targets with 91% estimated diagnosed, 99% maintained on treatment and 98% undetectable. This should be noted by the MIJB as a real achievement given all the challenges that 2020 presented.
- 4.6 Grampian Sexual Health Services and NHS Grampian Infection Unit have continued to deliver HIV care along with Our Positive Voice Grampian who have been instrumental in supporting those who are newly diagnosed and/or living with HIV.
- 4.7 The importance of recognising prevention, particularly in the lead up to World AIDS day is an important calendar event. The MIJB should recognise that there was a significant amount of work completed by the Fast Track Cities group to keep a profile and awareness of HIV in the public domain, via respective organisations (ACHSCP and NHS) and other partner organisations (OPVG, Alcohol and Drugs Action, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships etc.). The symbolic lighting of Marischal College on World AIDs day and several social media posts outlined the importance of awareness of:
- the clinical indicators of HIV
  - knowing your HIV status
  - how to access Pre and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
  - the anti-stigma message U=U – Undetectable=Untransmittable.
- 4.8 Going forward it is recommended priorities should include; reducing incidences of late diagnosis, stigma and improving universal access to care, treatment and prevention. When reviewing the patient journey to diagnosis there continues to be missed opportunities for testing, where individuals presented with a clinical

symptom of HIV or a history of potential exposure but were not offered or did not access a test.



4.9 There also remains evidence of HIV stigma within local communities from feedback from people living with HIV and services, as well as the wider community. Stigma is cited as a reason why some clinicians/workers may not offer testing and is a documented factor in reasons for declining a HIV test, as well as disengaging from care. It is essential we tackle stigma within services and beyond for the dignity and human rights of people living with HIV and if we are to achieve the aims of zero transmissions and HIV related deaths.

## 5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan “Moray Partners in Care 2019 – 2029”**

The policy and approach set out in this report is consistent with the ambitions of the MIJB Strategic Plan in providing care at home or close to home with a particular emphasis on the needs of older people. This locality approach is also consistent with the ambition of the LOIP in Moray.

### **(b) Policy and Legal**

This approach supports national policy and the integration principles set out in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

### **(c) Financial implications**

There is no specific financial implications as a result of this report. Actions within the plan will be delivered within existing budgets held jointly across

Grampian Sexual Health Services and NHS Grampian (Managed Care Network for Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses)<sup>3</sup>.

**(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation**

Risks will be mitigated through a robust public consultation process and the completion of Equality Impact Assessment prior to the submission of a further report to the MIJB.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There is no specific staffing implications; support to deliver the plan will be from existing resources.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications in relation to this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

It is anticipated that the continued implementation of this action plan 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.

**(h) Consultations**

Iain Macdonald, Locality Manager, Health and Social Care Moray  
Lisa Allerton, Manager of NHS Grampian Managed Care Network for Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses  
Elaine McConnachie, Area Public Health Coordinator Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership  
George Rutton, Public health Coordinator Aberdeenshire North  
Grampian Fast Track Cities Strategic Group  
Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, Moray Council

Who are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

**6. CONCLUSION:**

**6.1 That the MIJB note the content of the report.**

**6.2 That the MIJB approve Moray's involvement in the Grampian Fast Tracked Cities High Level Action Plan**

Author of Report: Susan Thom, Area Public Health Coordinator

## Background Papers:

1. [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/20141201\\_Paris\\_Declaration\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20141201_Paris_Declaration_en.pdf)
2. Grampian High Level Fast Track Cities (FTC) Action Plan (Draft) attached
3. <https://www.hi-netgrampian.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/MCNSTRATEGICPLAN.pdf>