# **Supporting people living with HIV**

We pledge to continue supporting people living with HIV, as we have done for the last forty years. With your support during 2024, we've continued to achieve historic wins to support people living with HIV, and focused on the needs of an ageing population living with HIV.

#### THT Direct helpline - a lifeline

Last year, we had over **12,951 enquiries** to our confidential free helpline THT Direct, covering subjects such as information on HIV and symptoms, HIV testing, and PrEP and PEP.

#### **Growing older with HIV**

In 2024, we launched a **new programme** for people over 50 living with HIV, and developed a new Social Care training programme co-produced with people living with HIV. to deliver accessible and bitesized training.

#### **Our impact across the UK**

On World AIDS Day 2024, the Scottish First Minister acknowledged the impact of last year's antistigma campaign and announced funding for additional training to increase HIV awareness and reduce stigma among health and social care staff.

In December 2024, we recruited a peer support coordinator for Wales and began co-production and relationship building with clinics in Wales. We launched a new, fully bilingual **Terrence Higgins Trust Cymru website** and updated our materials in the Welsh language.

### **Specialist support**

We continue to offer in-person and online support groups for people living with HIV, including: **Before96** - for those diagnosed before 1996; **Common Bond**, our inclusive online group for women; and B+. our newest online group, providing space for those newly diagnosed or who are accessing our services for the first time.

#### My Community

In September 2024, we launched our newest version of My Community, a safe space for people living with HIV to connect. The site now has over 500 new members.



"I'm so glad I have found this space I really needed to hear the things you have all said and it has helped massively with my anxiety. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to chat here and the information I have seen already..."

- My Community member

# Fighting stigma



Thanks to you, we can work to end HIV stigma and challenge the inequalities faced every day by people living with HIV.

#### **User-led stories changing hearts** and minds

Our **Positive Voices** programme trains people living with HIV to provide informative talks to education, corporate, public sector and other audiences.

The programme is a great way for people living with HIV to build the confidence to tell their own **stories** and to **educate** others about HIV and stigma in a range of community settings.

Meanwhile, the **Ambassador Programme** educates the health and care sector in London about HIV stigma, with people living with HIV acting as ambassadors.

"Through my story, I can change the culture in organisations in the health and care sector, and beyond. Terrence Higgins Trust is leading the way to enable HIV speakers to use storytelling to change people's perceptions about HIV."

- HIV Ambassador

Across both our user-led story programmes over the last year, we delivered more than 300 talks to over 19,000 people, amplifying the voices of people living with HIV and educating people about HIV in the fight against stigma.

# Thank you to our partners and supporters

Through our work with charitable trusts and corporate foundations we have partnered with inspiring funders to make long-term change happen.

Particular thanks go out to the National Lottery Community Fund England, the National Lottery Community Fund Scotland, the Rhone Trustees (Singapore), The Goldsmiths Company Charity, and the JJ Fenwick Charitable Trust.

#### Thank you! A huge thank you to the following supporters for your inspiring generosity:

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And as ever, to everyone who has volunteered, baked cakes, ran, walked, given online, responded to an appeal, or left a gift in their Will, thank you!

### You are the reason we can do everything we do.

If you want to find out more about different ways that you can get involved with Terrence Higgins Trust, visit tht.org.uk/support-us or scan the QR code here.

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and people living with HIV who helped us to achieve so much in 2024.





helping us to end new cases of HIV

You're

Thanks to you

Terrence

HIGGINS

Trust



we made

incredible

progress

in 2024

You're helping to support people living with HIV

Terrence Higgins Trust 439 Caledonian Road, London N7 9BG Tel: 020 7812 1600 Email: info@tht.org.uk Website: tht.org.uk THT Direct: 0808 802 1221 Terrence Higgins Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (reg. no. 288527). Company reg. no. 1778149 and a registered charity in Scotland (reg no SC039986)

# **Preparing for change and** ending an epidemic

#### Over the last financial year, we have made significant progress in transforming the lives of people living with HIV.

We answered nearly 13,000 enquiries through our THT Direct helpline, successfully campaigned to remove out-dated rules used by the DVLA, launched our new version of My Community, an online space for people living with HIV to connect with each other, and gave a record number of Positive Voices and HIV Ambassador talks to help end HIV stigma.

"Our advocacy work helped secure £27 million in new funding to continue NHS England's opt-out HIV testing in 89 hospitals for another year, and expand it to nine new hospitals, to find people living with undiagnosed HIV and ensure that they are getting he care they need.

With unrestricted funds and partnerships, we have pressed for progress on the Welsh government's HIV Action Plan and expanded our HIV services in Scotland.

The "Stigma is more harmful than HIV" TV campaign was broadcast in Scotland, and was the first campaign about HIV since the 1980s. The adverts, which were viewed by millions, highlighted the stigma faced by those living with HIV and the effectiveness of modern treatment.

Ahead of the UK general election, we campaigned with partners across the HIV sector to put HIV on the new government's agenda. Thanks to our campaigning, the government commissioned a new HIV Action Plan for England within weeks.

In a difficult financial environment for charities, including austerity and inflation, together we focused the organisation on HIV and secured additional funding. We are eternally grateful to you, our supporters, who allow us to continue supporting people living with HIV.

We are committed to prioritising work on HIV, ending new HIV cases in the UK by 2030

Together, we can make this goal a reality.

Thank you,



Jonathan McShane Chair. Board of Trustees



Richard Angell Chief Executive Officer

# Our year in numbers

Across 2024, you have raised an incredible amount of funds which has made such a difference to the lives of people living with HIV. To all our supporters, we can only say a heartfelt thank you.

Here are just some of the ways **you** have made change happen:

We answered **12,951** enquiries to our free THT Direct helpline.

Over **5.700 tests** were distributed to those who needed to access a HIV self test kit.

We've covered the costs of 500 people living with HIV to access My Community our online safe space. for free.

Over **21,100** people were reached through **278 Positive Voices** sessions in a record-breaking year for our Positive Voices speakers programme.



For every **£1** that you give, we spend:

81.3p on our charitable activities

18.7p on helping us to raise the next pound

Five-year average as of 2023/2024.

## Financial Review for 2023/2024

### £3.8m on supporting people living with HIV

people living with HIV a voice through our support services and groups, whilst remembering those lost to HIV.

Donations

Legacies

Trading

Other

Investment Income

Charitable activities



### £4.7m on ending new cases of HIV by 2030

deserves to be

health the national priority it

Campaigning for opt-out testing and the expansion of PrEP, expanding self-testing, and finding those no longer engaging in care.

## £3.8m on making sexual reproductive health the national priority it deserves to be

Reducing health inequalities and increasing HIV and STI testing in the community and promoting good sexual health for young people.

# **Ending new cases of HIV by 2030**



It's possible for us to end new cases of HIV in the UK by 2030. and to become the first country in the world to do so.

If we achieve this, it would be the first time in history the onward transmission of any virus has been stopped without a vaccine or cure.

#### Finding people not engaging in HIV care

We have started a new **Lost to** Care programme in London, to find thousands of people who are living with HIV but are not accessing treatment. People who aren't on effective treatment can pass on HIV.

Now, we are calling for national funding of an **HIV Retention England programme** and its equivalent in Scotland and Wales.

### **Unblocking access to PrEP**

Currently PrEP can only be prescribed by sexual health clinics. which are often overstretched. In some areas, people have to wait up to 12 weeks to access PrEP, creating a **postcode lottery** of this effective HIV prevention medication.

In 2024, we continued our work to call for PrEP to be made available through an **online tool**, in community pharmacies, and for those in prison.

Our team in Brighton are showing the way, working with partners on a community-based PrEP clinic and an app that allows people to manage their prescriptions.

#### Our free HIV self testing kit service

Between April 2023 and December 2024, we distributed over 5,700 HIV **self testing kits** to those in need.