

## Council motion on HIV testing

The Halve It campaign on HIV testing is a coalition of national experts determined to tackle the continued public health challenges posed by HIV. Our aims are to halve the proportion of people diagnosed late and living with undiagnosed HIV, through the scaling up of HIV testing services in line with national guidance and through the implementation of the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Halve It comprises 21 HIV charities, patient groups, clinician groups and industry, and our observer members include the Local Government Association, Department of Health, Public Health England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. The campaign has the support of the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister, in addition to many Councillors, MPs and Peers across the country.

The recent health reforms have led to a change in the commissioning and delivery of HIV services. Having worked over the last five years to secure the production of national guidance on HIV testing (see appendices), the Halve It coalition is keen to ensure that the recommendations within these guidelines are robustly implemented at a local level, with the strong support of local government. To this end, we have worked with councillor colleagues to draft a council motion on HIV testing, which we hope to pass in all 64 local authorities with high HIV prevalence (>2 per 1000 residents) in the run up to World AIDS Day this year – **Monday 1 December 2014**.

**We would be delighted if you would join us in achieving this goal:**

1. Please share the attached draft council motion with your councillor colleagues and help us to implement it in your local authority and in others across the country
2. Please contact the Halve It campaign secretariat on [info@halveit.org.uk](mailto:info@halveit.org.uk) to inform us of your progress with passing the motion in your local authority
3. Please share your support for the motion on social media using the hashtags **#HalveIt** and **#EarlyTestingSavesLives** and a link to this document: <http://bit.ly/1yCho0D>

In closing we would like to emphasise the importance that we place on the role of local action in improving access to HIV services, and hope that you are able to find a way to join us on this important journey. Ultimately we know we can save lives and money too if we can work together to **Halve It**.

### The Halve It Coalition



## Draft motion on HIV testing

That [name] council,

- i. Recognises the importance of local action in coordinating and commissioning accessible and effective HIV testing to reach the undiagnosed and reduce late HIV diagnosis
- ii. Recognises that [local authority area] has a high prevalence of HIV (over 2 diagnosed per 1,000 residents) and commits to strengthening its own provision of HIV testing services through working with local NHS partners, HIV charities and patient groups
- iii. Recognises that late HIV diagnosis is a Public Health Outcomes Indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework
- iv. Recognises the volume and quality of public health and local government guidelines and performance indicators designed to support local authority implementation and monitoring of appropriate and effective testing guidelines.

The council further notes,

- i. That an estimated 100,000 people were living in England with HIV in 2012; 22% were unaware of their status
- ii. That there is an impact of late diagnosis on individual health, public health and health budgets. Late diagnosis increases the likelihood of the need for complex and expensive treatment and the risk of onward transmission to others. 47% of people diagnosed with HIV in 2012 were diagnosed late (with a CD4 count  $<350\text{mm}^3$ )
- iii. That if diagnosed early, put on a clear treatment pathway and guaranteed access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), people living with HIV can expect to have a near-normal life expectancy and live healthy and active lives.

Recognising the weight of evidence in favour of expanding local HIV testing services, [name] council:

- i. Resolves to:
  - Act to halve the proportion of people diagnosed late with HIV (CD4 count  $<350\text{mm}^3$ ) in [local authority area] by 2020
  - Act to halve the proportion of people living with undiagnosed HIV in [local authority area] by 2020.
- ii. Further resolves to:
  - Ensure that rates of late diagnosed HIV are included as an indicator in its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
  - Ask the Director of Public Health to provide a report outlining what needs to be done locally in commissioning and provision of services in order to halve late diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV by 2020
  - Become a supporter of the Halve It Coalition by contacting the Halve It secretariat ([info@halveit.org.uk](mailto:info@halveit.org.uk)) informing them of this resolution and by agreeing to be listed as a Halve It coalition supporter.

## Appendices

[National AIDS Trust – Commissioning HIV testing services in England \(Second edition\); October 2014](#)

[Public Health England – Making it work: a guide to whole system commissioning for sexual and reproductive health and HIV; September 2014](#)

[NICE local government briefing – HIV testing; June 2014](#)

[MEDFASH/Halve It – Halving late diagnosis: a toolit for local action; June 2014](#)

[Department of Health – Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013–2016; January 2012](#)

[NICE public health guidance 33 – Increasing the uptake of HIV testing among black Africans; March 2011](#)

[NICE public health guidance 34 – Increasing the uptake of HIV testing among men who have sex with men; March 2011](#)

## The Halve It Coalition

- African Health Policy Network
- All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS
- British Association for Sexual Health and HIV
- British HIV Association
- Department of Health\*
- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- Gilead Sciences
- HIV Clinical Reference Group
- HIV Pharmacy Association
- Local Government Association\*
- MEDFASH
- National AIDS Trust
- National HIV Nurses Association
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence\*
- Naz Project London
- Positively UK
- Public Health England\*
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of Physicians
- Scottish HIV and AIDS Group\*
- Terrence Higgins Trust
- Tri-Borough Public Health Service

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