

Towards Zero Funded HIV Prevention Community Engagement and Development Programme Guidance Notes

About the programme

With significant advances in HIV treatment and the success of prevention initiatives, it is now a realistic and achievable public health goal to end all new HIV transmissions. In December 2021, the Government released Towards Zero: An Action Plan towards ending HIV Transmission, AIDS and HIV deaths in England by 2030.

To support the national targets, West Sussex would need to reduce new diagnosis to 7 in 2025. Although transmission has declined over the last ten years, with 39 new diagnoses in 2022, significant reduction continues to be needed.

West Sussex County Council (The council) is developing a programme of community engagement and development to support its HIV Prevention Action Plan. They are looking for community organisations to be co-production partners and community champions for the development of their plan in 2024-25.

These funded partners will work to increase awareness of HIV, and support people to develop their own risk reduction strategies. They will work with the Council and with each other to better understand the barriers and facilitators to PrEP uptake (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) and regular HIV testing and to develop health promotion initiatives which address these.

Who can apply?

We are seeking applications from fully constituted voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisations who already have strong, trusted relationships with communities in Crawley and/or Worthing (areas with higher incidence of HIV transmission). We particularly welcome applications from grassroots organisations run by and for and/or supporting the following sections of the community:

- Gay and bisexual men who have sex with men (GBMSM), particularly under the age of 30, including those who do and do not access sexual health services
- Sexually active young people (16-30)
- People from racially minoritized communities and migrant communities with a higher incidence of HIV
- Sex workers
- Trans people who have sex with men
- Users of drug and alcohol services
- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities
- Users of homelessness services



How much can you ask for?

There is £35,000 in total available and we aim to fund at least seven organisations to participate in this programme.

Each organisation can apply for up to £5,000 to fully cover the cost of participation (see the list of programme activities below).

Organisations can apply in partnership, but funding is limited to £5,000 per organisation.

How long does the programme run for?

The programme runs from April to December 2024.

We aim that funds will be allocated by the end of April and community engagement and development activities will take place from May to October 2024.

Organisations will be expected to attend programme meetings and events from April to December 2024.

Which activities will be funded?

The Council has set out a suggested programme of activities that selected organisations are invited to co-partner in designing and delivering. The activities – which successful applicants are expected fully cover from the funds allocated to them – are:

- **Community consultation** - carry out consultation with people using services on their attitudes towards HIV prevention, including the barriers and facilitators relating to PrEP and HIV testing. Work with people using services to co-produce a community insight report or resource
- **User testing** - work with the Council and the Integrated Sexual Health Service to test existing health promotion materials and make recommendations for improvements and development
- **Health promotion** - Work with the Integrated Sexual Health Service to hold at least one health promotion event/initiative per organisation. The event will promote testing, PrEP and other HIV prevention strategies
- **Community champions** - Provide community champions to attend the WSCC Sexual Health Partnerships Group (meeting quarterly) and Towards Zero planning groups (at least two meetings during the programme). Community champions can be staff, volunteers or community members. The same person can attend both groups, or you may want to select more than one person. Meetings may take place online or in person within West Sussex
- **Progress and reporting** – Work with Community Works, Crawley Community Action and the Council to monitor the progress of the programme and contribute to the programme evaluation, including co-production of a report by the end of the programme.

The funded organisations will also be expected to participate in (and use their allocated funding for):

- An induction meeting to meet other partners and plan activities, likely to take place in person on Monday 29th April, 12pm – 3.30pm in Chichester (tbc)



- At least two progress meetings during the programme. These may take place online or in-person (May to Sept)
- A dissemination event to share community insight reports and other findings (Oct/Nov)
- A programme evaluation and forward planning meeting (Nov)

How to apply:

- 1) Read these guidance notes thoroughly to make sure you are aware of what's expected
- 2) Attend one of the (optional) information events to hear more about the programme. These will take place on 29th February 12-1pm and 6th March 5-6pm. A further session can be organised later in March if there is enough interest. Contact the programme coordinator Magda Pasiut to sign up: magda@communityworks.org.uk
- 3) Complete the application form. Please note: We require two signatures for us to be able to accept your application - one by the person making this application and one by the Chair (or another trustee) of your organisation
- 4) Email the application with signed declaration by **1st April** We can only accept applications where the date of sending is not later than 1st April. Your application will not be considered if the completed and signed form is not received.

Applications will be assessed by a decision-making panel which includes community partners. The panel will be comprised of individuals from West Sussex County Council, Community Works, Crawley Community Action, Lunch Positive and Brighton & Hove LGBTQ+ Switchboard. The latter three organisations are acting as 'community partners', assisting in the design and delivery of this programme.

Help with your application

Community Works and Crawley Community Action are available to provide advice and guidance to help you complete your application. Please email Magda Pasiut: magda@communityworks.org.uk if you would like assistance.

What's the deadline for applying?

Key programme dates are as follows:

- Deadline for applications – 1st April 2024
- Assessment panel meets – 9th April
- Grant offer letters sent – From 10th April
- Grant offer signed and returned – By 22nd April
- Induction event for selected organisations – 29th April (in Chichester)
- Projects start: 1st May

