

Fast Track Cities – Signing Ceremony

About Fast Track Cities



MAYOR OF LONDON



What is the Fast Track Cities Initiative?

Fast-Track Cities is a global partnership between the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the City of Paris, in collaboration with local, national, regional, and international partners and stakeholders.

The initiative was launched on World AIDS Day 2014 in Paris, where mayors from around the world convened to sign a Declaration on Fast-Track Cities (now known as the “Paris Declaration”) committing to accelerate and scale-up their local HIV responses. Additional cities have subsequently signed the Paris Declaration (e.g., Mumbai, San Francisco), and negotiations are ongoing to include more cities in the initiative.

Focused on translating global goals, objectives, and targets into local implementation plans and actions, the Initiative builds upon, strengthens, and adds leverage to already existing HIV specific and related programmes and resources.

What is London signing up to as a Fast Track City?

All Fast Track Cities sign up to the “Paris Declaration” drafted and agreed at the time the Initiative was launched in Paris on 1st December 2014.

1. The commitments within the Declaration are:
2. To end the AIDS epidemic in cities by 2030
3. To put people at the centre of everything we do



4. To address the causes of risk, vulnerability and transmission
5. To use the HIV response for positive social transformation
6. To build and accelerate an appropriate response to local needs
7. To mobilise resources for integrated public health and development
8. To unite as leaders

A copy of the Declaration can be found here: http://www.iapac.org/cities/assets/Fast-Track-Cities-Paris-Declaration_01DEC14.pdf

Why do we need to continue to take action on HIV in London?

HIV remains an important problem in London with the infection impacting on London and Londoners more than any other part of the UK. However, there are some promising signs that combination prevention activities including effective treatment are reducing rates of new infection amongst some population groups across London.

In 2016, an estimated 1,967 London residents were newly diagnosed with HIV, accounting for 38% of new diagnoses in the UK. In 2016, 64% of all new diagnoses in London residents were in men who have sex with men (MSM). Of the MSM newly diagnosed with HIV, 67% were white and 28% were UK born. A large proportion of people with HIV are diagnosed late in London, although London compares favourably with the rest of England.

In 2016, an estimated 38,700 people were living with HIV in London, which was 43% of all people living with HIV in England. This figure includes both those diagnosed and undiagnosed. The population of people living with HIV in London is growing, falling death rates and ongoing new



infections means that the numbers of people living with HIV in London has never been higher; many are getting older and have specific and complex health and care needs. Improving the health, quality of life and wellbeing of people living with HIV requires significant additional work.

Quality of life for people with HIV is below that of the general population, mental health problems are more frequent and HIV associated stigma continues to blight the lives of many people with HIV. Delivering effective models of care for HIV in the longer term is becoming increasingly important and is so far poorly understood.

The UK Stigma Index 2015 found that despite some shifts in public attitudes, a considerable number of people in the UK still held stigmatising attitudes towards people living with HIV. Internalised stigma was common, with around half of participants reporting negative feelings related to their HIV in the last year. Consequently, stigma remains a significant obstacle for many people living well with diagnosed HIV.

What progress has London made to date in London against the 90-90-90 targets?

A key ambition of Fast Track Cities in working towards ending the HIV epidemic is progress towards the '90-90-90' targets, which are to:

- Ensure that at least 90% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) know their status
- Improve access to antiretroviral treatment for PLHIV to 90%
- Increase to 90% the proportion of PLHIV on ART with undetectable viral load



These targets have for the first time been met and exceeded in London - in 2016, 90% of the estimated people living with HIV in London were diagnosed, 97% of them were receiving anti-retroviral treatment and of these, 97% were virally suppressed (VL<200) and were very unlikely to pass on HIV, even if having sex without condoms (untransmissible virus). This compares to 96% in England receiving ART and 97% of these virally suppressed.

For London residents diagnosed HIV positive, the median time from diagnosis to treatment initiation has reduced and in 2016 was 13 days. Although London has reached the UNAIDS target for diagnosis with 90% of people living with HIV estimated to be diagnosed (90%, Credible Interval (CrI) 84%-93%) an estimated 3,900 (CrI 2,700-6,400) people in London are living with undiagnosed HIV showing that more work needs to be done.

What are the recent ‘large falls’ we have seen in new HIV diagnoses in some London clinics?

The number of MSM resident in London newly diagnosed with HIV declined sharply from 2015 to 2016 (30% fall from 1,804 in 2015 to 1,266 in 2016, adjusted for missing information). Within London, the decline in new HIV diagnoses was most apparent in five large clinics where the number of MSM testing HIV-positive fell by 35% (not all were London residents).

Collectively, these clinics have been referred to as ‘large fall’ clinics and comprise Dean Street, Mortimer Market, Homerton, St Mary’s and St Thomas’. These five clinics reported 28% of all the new HIV diagnoses made in MSM in England in 2016. Elsewhere in London, HIV diagnoses made in MSM fell by 18% in 2016. Within London, the steepest decline was observed among MSM aged 15 to 24 years.



Who is most at risk of HIV in London?

In 2016, 64% of all London residents with a new diagnosis of HIV were men who have sex with other men and people of Black African heritage represented 21% of all newly diagnosed London residents. A small proportion of new diagnoses in 2016 were in black Caribbeans (4%). It is estimated that in London, 2,100 MSM and 600 people of black African heritage living with HIV Infection remain undiagnosed,

Heterosexual contact was the second largest infection route for HIV amongst London residents in 2016 (33%). Londoners born in Africa accounted for 51% of all heterosexually acquired infections in 2016 compared to 70% in 2007. Infections in Londoners born in the UK accounted for 21% of all heterosexually acquired infections in 2016.

Injecting drug use accounted for only a small proportion (<1%) of new diagnoses in London.

The number of people newly diagnosed with HIV was highest in the 25-34 year age groups in men and the 35-44 year age groups in women in 2016.

How will Londoners benefit from the Fast Track Cities Initiative?

The recent progress that has been made in reducing new HIV infections in London shows us what is possible – this is the time to accelerate our response and we must not stop now. Additional progress is needed in getting new infections to zero. At the same time too many people are still being diagnosed too late, and ill health and deaths from HIV continue. Effective



treatment means more and more people are living much longer with HIV. Stamping out stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV, and ensuring that people living with HIV are supported to live well and to thrive are key areas that need much more attention.

The Fast Track Cities Initiative will bring together all the organisations and communities with roles to play around HIV to work together to agree a joint action plan on what more London needs to do to address HIV. The action plan will recognise and complement all the work that is already in progress across London on HIV and where it might be useful to link programmes and projects up to share good practice.

London will also join the global network of cities, all working to a common purpose. This will be a major opportunity to share expertise and learning to further accelerate progress locally and globally.

Having a shared vision and strategy for London may also help to galvanise additional funding to support additional HIV efforts.

What are the strategic aims for the Fast Track Cities Initiative in London?

The strategic aims that all Fast Track Cities sign up to are:

- To achieve the UN AIDS 90-90-90 HIV targets by 2020 (90% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status on treatment, 90% of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads.)
- To end AIDS by 2030
- To end HIV-related stigma and discrimination



However, London wants to be more ambitious and in making this declaration is setting the target of achieving zero HIV related stigma and discrimination, zero new HIV infections, zero preventable deaths from HIV related causes

Who is leading the Fast Track Cities Initiative for London?

On behalf of London the four organisations with statutory accountability for the HIV response across the capital will sign the Declaration. This is an indication that all four organisations are committed to working together towards the objectives of the initiative.

All four organisations have been working closely with the UNAIDS /IAPAC Fast-Track Cities team up to the signing ceremony.

A core principle of the Fast Track Cities Initiative is to act as a catalyst for collaboration and partnership working between organisations, communities and individuals across London who can play a role in meeting London's HIV ambitions.

Attendees at the signing ceremony will be encouraged to show their commitment by pledging to support Fast Track City London.

Who is responsible for the Fast Track Cities Initiative in London?

Accountable bodies will remain responsible for their respective HIV duties. To support a strong partnership approach to Fast Track Cities, a Steering Group will be established to bring together



representation from the statutory, clinical, community and charitable sectors. The Steering Group will be formed post-declaration.

The Steering Group will be subject to pan-London political oversight via the London Health Board. The London Health Board is a non-statutory partnership chaired by the Mayor of London comprising borough Leaders appointed through London Councils and key London professional health leads.

The Steering Group will be responsible for overseeing the development of a roadmap and monitoring progress. Progress will be reported via the London Prevention Partnership Board and London Health Board.

How will the Fast Track Cities Initiative be supported and funded?

Healthy London Partnership will act as host and provide initial support for the Fast-Track Cities initiative. The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) provides technical and logistical support to all cities that join the initiative, and will work closely with London to provide development support.

Funding for specific projects in other Fast Track Cities has been sought through external bodies, including charitable and business organisations who share London's vision to end HIV transmission and support people living with HIV. Importantly, any additional resources that the Fast Track City Initiative secures will be in addition to and not replace or duplicate statutory funding that supports existing HIV services and programmes.



What are the next steps after the signing ceremony?

The signing ceremony is just the beginning of the Fast Track London City process. The next steps are:

1. Establishment of a Fast Track City Steering Group;
2. Gap analysis project to look at the degree to which London is currently meeting the Fast Track City targets, to look at evidence on the current quality of life of people living with HIV in London, and to map current and planned HIV services and projects in London to understand current coverage of HIV interventions;
3. Stakeholder consultation;
4. Drafting of a Fast Track City Action Plan for London;
5. Working together to implement and evaluate the Fast Track City Action Plan

How can I get involved?

For more information contact:

UK IAPAC representative – Jane Anderson janderson@nhs.net

