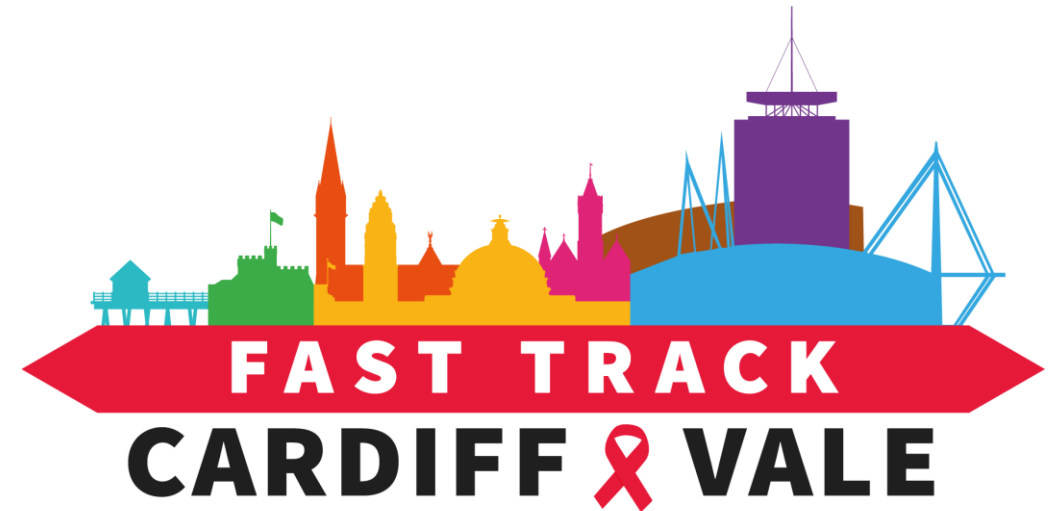


City Update

Getting to a National Action Plan
(and actually making it happen...)

Dr Darren Cousins
Cardiff Royal Infirmary

He/him
@cousins_darren



Bringing the Fast Track initiative to Wales

@CardiffFTC
FastTrackCardiff.wales

Background



Welsh government

 Mark Drakeford First Minister	 Mick Antoniw Minister for the Constitution	 Rebecca Evans Minister for Finance and Local Government	 Vaughan Gething Economy Minister	 Dawn Bowden Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip
 Lesley Griffiths Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales	 Jane Hutt Minister for Social Justice	 Hannah Blythyn Deputy Minister for Social Partnership	 Julie James Minister for Climate Change	 Lee Waters Deputy Minister for Climate Change
 Eluned Morgan Minister for Health and Social Services	 Jeremy Miles Minister for Education and Welsh Language	 Julie Morgan Deputy Minister for Social Services	 Lynne Neagle Deputy Minister for Mental Health	

BBC





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

HIV Action Plan for Wales

Eliminating HIV – improving quality of life
and tackling stigma associated with the
virus – an action plan for 2023-26

gov.wales



The Welsh HIV Action Plan – a journey

- Terrence Higgins Trust/Fast Track Cardiff & Vale manifesto sent to parties pre-election
- Labour agreed to include HIV Action Plan in top 100 must-do priorities
- Plaid Cymru pledged to end HIV transmission by 2026
- Conservatives sent supportive letter but forgot to put in manifesto
- Labour won the election with subsequent co-operation pact with Plaid Cymru

Planning mechanism

National Sexual Health Programme Board
(wide range of interests from across Government & NHS, Fast Track, THT)

HIV Action Plan Subgroup
(key civil servants, Public Health Wales, clinicians, GP, Fast Track, THT, Stonewall)

Working parties on key themes
(Prepster, people living with HIV, Cardiff University research team etc)

Process

- Initial ad hoc meetings
- No clear budget attached
- Key stakeholders and experts added as identified
- Assumption of very quick outcomes
- Working parties emerged alongside key themes
- Some areas of work e.g. data, procurement reserved for WG/PHW/NHS discussion
- Investment made from underspend on pilots and research during development process



Significant barriers

- Virtually no NGO sector left in Wales; no funded, formal HIV support outside clinics
- Low Welsh engagement in/awareness of UK services for e.g. peer support
- No national awareness campaign for almost 15 years and little local prevention work
- Substantial postcode lotteries between Health Boards on e.g. PrEP access
- Poor data; clinical IT systems in Health Boards all differ and couldn't talk to each other
- High levels of late diagnosis vs low prevalence (marginalized groups lose out x 2)

...but also some advantages

- Successful national postal HIV testing system
- Clinic changes during lockdown demonstrated options for better access e.g. instant access PrEP virtual walk in service in Cardiff
- Appetite for reform of data and other systems
- FTC&V and its pilots (GP assisted testing, Testing Week, social media support, advocacy network)
- Single lab network and "language" for viral loads and HIV tests to help with surveillance
- Centralized services such as Welsh Gender Service ("once for Wales" mindset)
- Highly supportive and informed politicians in power

Key recommendations (26 actions)

- Prevention (supporting peer-based PrEP networks, collaborative networks, shared care models for PrEP)
- Testing (national free online HIV testing, late diagnosis, opt out testing in 2 care)
- Clinical Care (staffing reviews, clinical targets)
- Living Well (peer support networks to be created, empowerment)
- Stigma (training for health & social care staff, education system support, national surveys)
- Surveillance & evaluation (national data & case management systems, evaluation of all elements, late diagnosis scrutiny)

Plus support for expansion of Fast Tracks and creation of Fast Track Wales alongside FTC&V's new HIV Advocacy Network

Timetable

- Draft plan launched June 15th by First Minister
- Public consultation for 8 weeks to mid-August
- Finalized plans costed and published in September 2022 (!)

... and then for implementation

Making it work

Early signs

- Health boards having conversations outside of specific sexual health and ID services
- Individualised promotion programmes looking at HIV stigma in geographical areas rather than relying on a national agency (or FTC!)
- Desire to build case management system from ground up to meet user requirements
- Coalescing of advocacy networks
- Uptake of testing rising even outside of pilots
- Recent service redesigns in sexual health



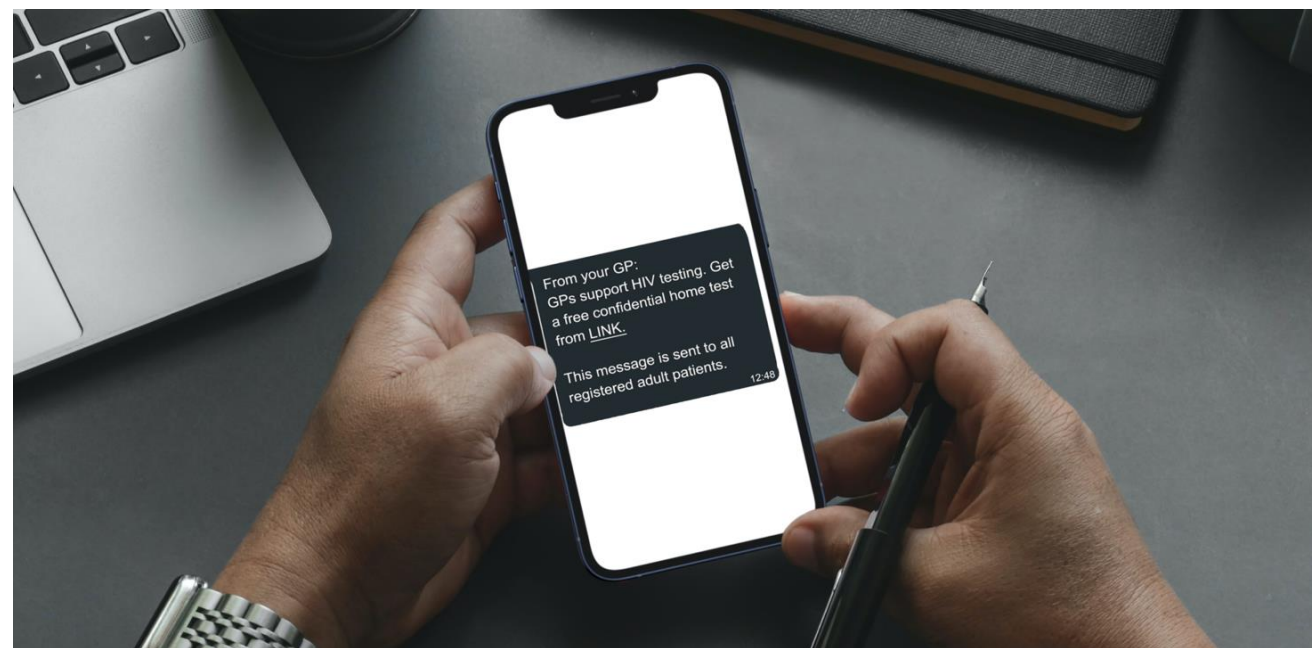
Texting 4 Testing

GP offer of HIV test sent to all residents in Cardiff & Vale

- Opt in within GP clusters – personalised message
- Funded after successful pilot in one cluster
- Collaboration between FTC partners

Reflections

- Some areas keener to engage than others
- Initial feedback
- Other challenges in primary care



Thank you!



WWW.FASTTRACKCARDIFF.WALES

