

# Leeds Fast-Track Cities One Year On



## Background

Leeds became a Fast-Track City in February 2023.

Fast-Track Cities is a global initiative and means that we have signed up to work towards:

**ZERO**

new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths in Leeds by 2030

**ZERO**

new TB infections in Leeds by 2030

**ZERO**

new viral hepatitis infections in Leeds by 2030

**ZERO**

stigma related to all these infections in Leeds by 2030

## Workshop Event

In May 2023 we held a workshop event to bring together partners and stakeholders to share learning and good practice. We mapped current HIV, viral hepatitis and TB activity and data within the city to help inform our Fast-Track City priorities. This strengthened relationships between partners and formed a clearer understanding of the great work that is already happening in the city, whilst also identifying the missed opportunities and gaps to develop our next actions.

The key gaps found were:



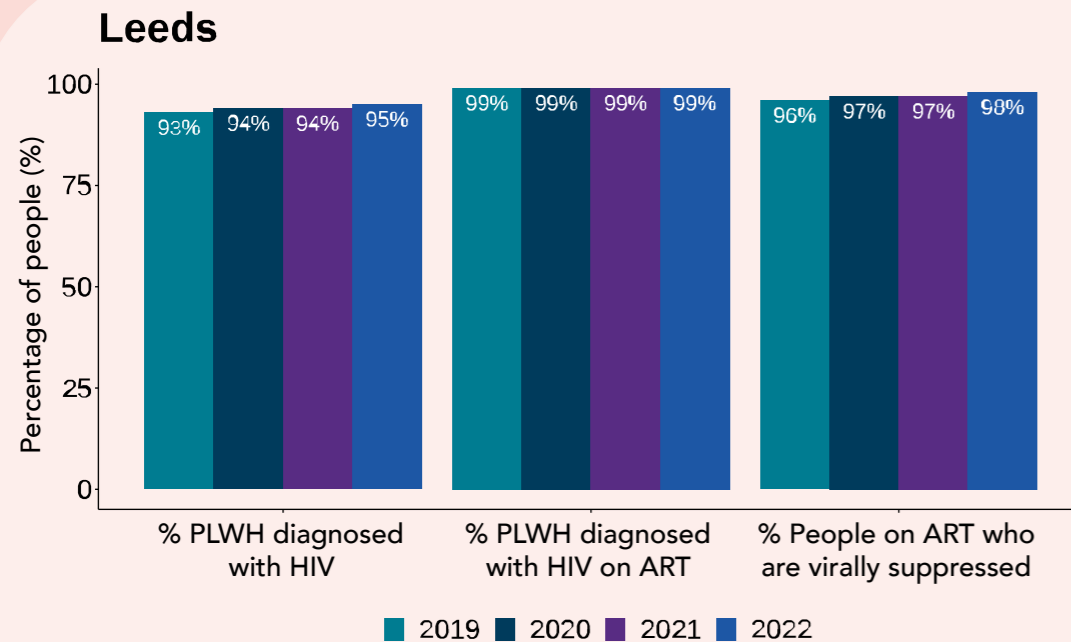
Links with Primary care need to be strengthened



The need for opt-out HIV testing in our emergency departments



Lack of healthcare staff knowledge of HIV, TB & viral hepatitis



\*PLWHIV – people living with HIV

\*\*ART – Antiretroviral Therapy (HIV treatment)

As a city we are proud that we have already achieved the UNAIDS 95:95:95 targets for HIV. Yet to reach our ultimate goal of no new HIV, TB and viral hepatitis infections plus the elimination of stigma in relation to these infections in Leeds by 2030, we still have a lot of work to do.



We are very excited that in becoming a Fast-Track City we are now locally united and internationally connected - both of which will help us achieve these goals.



## Highlights



Since becoming a Fast-Track City just one year ago our main achievements to date have been:

- ✓ Establishment of our Leeds Fast-Track City Leadership Group & Sub-groups.
- ✓ Uniting HIV, TB and viral hepatitis stakeholders across the city.
- ✓ Establishing stronger links and relationships with other UK & international Fast-Track Cities which has enabled shared learning.
- ✓ Successful workshop to map current service provision across the city – identify gaps & opportunities.
- ✓ Several successful project grants awarded & many other projects in the pipeline.

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The government's announcement to commit to expanding opt-out Hepatitis B and C and HIV testing across more emergency departments including Leeds is a huge triumph. (...) This year Leeds joined the global Fast-Track Cities Initiative to commit to ending HIV, viral hepatitis, and TB endemics by 2030. This announcement ultimately enables Leeds to reach this ambition while saving lives in the process.

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*Councillor Salma Arif  
Leeds City Council executive member for  
adult social care, public health and active lifestyles*



Forward Leeds, Viral Hepatitis team at St James's University Hospital, Hepatitis C Trust, Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust & Leeds City Council's Public Health team ran across the city to raise awareness of hepatitis C.



The LCH TB Service marked World TB Day 2023 with a stall at Kirkgate Market to engage the public. Key messages were also shared through bus shelter advertisements and digital screens across Leeds.

**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Are you based in Leeds?

Do you have an idea for a project that reduces the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV, TB, or Hepatitis?

Apply for a grant between £100 and £700!

Applications welcome from 1st December 2023

**For more information and to apply:**  
Contact: [fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk)

Visit our website:  
[thebha.org.uk/current-activities/fast-track-cities-leeds-community-grants](https://thebha.org.uk/current-activities/fast-track-cities-leeds-community-grants)

**BHA** **Yorkshire MESMAC** **Leeds**

**Leeds Fast-Track Cities Community Grants Programme**  
Aiming to reduce stigma associated with HIV, TB & viral hepatitis through local, creative, community projects.

## Data subgroup

The Fast-Track Cities data and intelligence subgroup helps our partnership:

- Know our starting point and baseline.
- Identify gaps in data collection.
- Help drive forward work streams e.g., testing, prevention, reducing stigma.
- Feed in community insight and intelligence from local services.
- Develop a strategic and co-ordinated approach to Hepatitis, TB and HIV data and intelligence across Leeds.
- Monitor our progress against the Fast-Track Cities targets.



## Testing & Prevention

Undertook a citywide workshop to map out testing opportunities and gaps especially to those most at risk and marginalised.

Developed a citywide group to look at sharing learning, staff and resources across the Hepatitis, TB and HIV sectors.

Exploring how we can increase the number of interventions we can offer in community settings especially to most at risk and marginalised.

## Anti-stigma subgroup:

Anti-stigma subgroup looks at see how we can reduce stigma across HIV, viral hepatitis and TB, and develop actions to achieve this.

So far the group has:

- Launched Leeds Fast-Track Cities Community Grants Programme
- Connected with wider training providers across Leeds to explore delivering digital HIV, TB and Hepatitis training for health and social care staff
- Organized a digital take over day of Forum Central's X page to deliver HIV key messages to a wider audience during HIV testing week.



## Hopes for Leeds Fast-Track Cities for the next year:

- To have viral hepatitis data in a usable and informative form
- To consider evaluating the mobilization of a HIV, Viral Hep and TB approach
- More HIV testing including the re-establishment of opt-out HIV and hepatitis B testing in Leeds Emergency departments alongside hepatitis C testing
- More HIV prevention including increased PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) provision to women and young men who have sex with men across the city.
- More community engagement
- TB services to offer Blood Borne Virus screening in in community new entrant clinics
- TB services to start a pilot with Leeds Sexual Health offering TB screening to sex workers through in and outreach.
- TB services to explore collaborative working with the prison service and Forward Leeds
- To display Fast-Track Cities Community grants work at local museums, reducing HIV, TB and viral hepatitis stigma
- To begin HIV, TB and viral hepatitis anti-stigma training to all health and social care workers in accessible, digestible formats
- To work towards ensuring all VCSE and health care providers are HIV, TB and Hepatitis aware and stigma free

