

Report

2002 – 2005

Gary Jefferson

Neill Tkaczuk



 **Gay Men's Health**
WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON

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LGBT people in Wiltshire and Swindon

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Wiltshire Constabulary
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Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon

Report

2002 – 2005

Managed by Gary Jefferson

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Foreword

It has been my privilege to manage the work of Gay Men's Health for the past nine years. During that time I have seen something of this very specialised work unfold and reach out not just to gay and bisexual men, but into mainstream public agencies across Wiltshire and Swindon, including the police, schools, colleges, local authorities, pubs and clubs, and major commercial enterprises such as Honda Motors.

I commend the work that has been undertaken by Gary Jefferson, Neill Tkaczuk and those who have worked with them. This report gives some indication of what has been achieved these past three years on slender resources but with an immense amount of commitment and dedication. You will see from the report that both financial and human resources are lean but the activity is considerable – ***if Gay Men's Health can prevent three people being infected with HIV the savings to the NHS outstrip the cost of the service!***

The field of sexual health is a matter for us all and, to a greater or lesser degree, affects us all. Whilst some of the panic has gone out of HIV there is an alarming increase in sexually transmitted infections among gay and heterosexual members of society of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. The staff and volunteers of Gay Men's Health have the skills and experience and look forward to extending their work to a wider section of the community, and to supporting those men and women facing a major crisis in their lives.

Gay Men's Health Wiltshire and Swindon has been at the forefront of challenging homophobia and prejudice. Over these past nine years there has been some change in attitudes, but crime against gay men still continues and the support and engagement of Wiltshire Constabulary in this work has been highly significant and deserves recognition. We are financially supported by the Primary Care Trusts in Wiltshire and Swindon and we thank them for their continued support.

I hope that as you read through this report you will appreciate the importance of this work to the people of Wiltshire and Swindon and those who visit here.

Trevor Hazelgrove MCMi

Chief Executive

Salisbury & District CVS

Summary

Introduction

This report covers the work of Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon (herein referred to as the 'Service') during the three year period from April 2002 to March 2005. A previous report covers the period from 1998 to 2001. It is anticipated that annual reports will be produced as from 2005-06.

The Service estimates that a gay and bisexual male population of approximately 12,490 is served from our two offices in Salisbury and Swindon, and our drop-ins in Chippenham and Trowbridge. We work directly with our client group via face-to-face meetings, telephone, email and our website, and indirectly through collaborations with local agencies.

The Service's key work lies in:

- ◆ Preventing the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) amongst our client group.
- ◆ Raising awareness of sexual health services and encouraging our client group to attend for HIV testing, sexual health screening and vaccinations.
- ◆ Informing our client group about general health and wellbeing issues and encouraging them to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- ◆ Promoting awareness of the issues facing our client group within statutory and voluntary services, especially schools, primary care services and the police.
- ◆ Challenging homophobia, hate crime and discrimination, and reducing the stigmatisation of homosexuality, HIV and STIs.

Abbreviations that may appear in this report

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CHAPS	Community HIV and AIDS Prevention Strategy
CVS	Council for Voluntary Service
GMH	Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon
GUM	Genitourinary medicine
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
MSM	Men who have sex with men
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PSE	Public sex environment
STI	Sexually transmitted infection

The period of this report

The period of this report has seen major legislative changes affecting our client group, such as the repeal of Section 28, the introduction of new laws in respect of discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation, and the passing of laws regarding civil partnerships. Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon has gone through many changes during the same time, including the undertaking of two major projects, changes in staff, and an office move in Swindon. Despite the extra work these changes have caused, Gay Men's Health has continued to provide a wide-ranging service to our client group across the county.

The following table summarises some of the statistics available for the period from 2002 to 2005.

Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon estimated outputs April 2002 – March 2005		
Sexual health supplies	Condoms distributed by post	3,159
	Lubricant sachets distributed by post	3,180
	Femidoms distributed by post	325
	Condom packs distributed through gay venues, drop-ins and public events	17,000
	Total condoms distributed	37,159
	Total lubricant sachets distributed	37,180
Drop-ins	Sessions run in Trowbridge	72
	Attendances in Trowbridge	655
	Sessions run in Chippenham	10
	Attendances in Chippenham	72
Public events	At colleges	15
	Other	20
Training	Sessions with schools	71
	Sessions with the police	50
	Other sessions	30
Website	Total hits	170,000
Counselling	Structured sessions	200
Telephone support	Calls	3,120

The following sections describe the work of Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon in greater detail. Please note that a glossary of terms is provided in section 7.

I. Overview

This section serves as an introduction to Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon – our clients, the environment we operate in, and the strategies governing our work. The Service's overall aims and objectives can be found in section I.5.4.

I.1 Background

Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon has its roots in the first wave of needs assessment work carried out by the former Wessex Regional Health Authority in the early 1990s.

In July 1998 Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon replaced three services: Swindon Gay Men's Health, Gay Men's Health Bath & Western Wiltshire, and Salisbury Gay Men's Health. This resulted in the need to relaunch the Service in the borough and provide a fresh approach to working with our target client group.

The Service is funded by four Primary Care Trusts and employs two full-time members of staff, as well as regular volunteers, across two bases. The Swindon office is in the Voluntary Action Swindon building and provides an admin base, meeting room, and storage for resources and publicity materials. The Salisbury base is at Greencroft House, the headquarters of Salisbury & District Council for Voluntary Service. This space is used for one-to-one support work and storage of resources.

Since its inception the Service has utilised a clear and recognisable logo ('two men holding hands') and design pattern (border chevrons) in our website, materials, displays and resources.

The Service is managed by Salisbury & District Council for Voluntary Service.

I.2 Area of work

The Service covers the administrative areas of Wiltshire and Swindon. The Office for National Statistics estimates the following population levels:

Population estimates for primary care organisations (2003)		
PCT area	Males & females (all ages)	Males (15 years and over)
Kennet & North Wiltshire	201,700	80,100
South Wiltshire	117,300	46,700
Swindon	186,800	75,200
West Wiltshire	121,900	47,800
Total	627,700	249,800

Source: Office for National Statistics (2005)

Wiltshire is predominantly a rural county, with the largest population concentrations found in the cathedral city of Salisbury, the county town of Trowbridge, and many market towns including Chippenham, Devizes and Marlborough. Swindon is the largest and only really 'urbanised' town in Wiltshire and forms its own unitary authority.



Wiltshire's major towns and county boundaries

1.3 Client group

Our primary client group consists of gay and bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM), and within this group those living with HIV. When it comes to the size of this client group within Wiltshire, it is very difficult to be precise. Many gay and bisexual men remain 'in the closet' about their sexuality and, as homosexuality is stigmatised, it is more likely to be under- than over-reported.

- ◆ The National Centre for Social Research's *National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles* (2001) found that 6.3% of men had had sex with a male partner.
- ◆ Stormbreak's *Gay Life and Style New Millennium Survey* (2001) states that gay people are likely to make up 7% of the population.
- ◆ The National Audit Office's *Delivering Public Services to a Diverse Society* (2004) estimates that 1 in 15 people, or 6.6% of the population, is homosexual or bisexual.

The Government uses a figure of 5-7% of the population. If we take the lower of these figures, we estimate a gay and bisexual male population in Wiltshire (15 years of age and older) of approximately 12,490.

Our client group tend to have different social patterns to the general population. This is mainly due to the limited number of commercial gay venues available to them in Wiltshire (3 in Swindon and 1 in Salisbury), meaning that gay and bisexual men in Wiltshire are more likely to be highly mobile in comparison to their heterosexual counterparts.

Sigma Research's *Vital Statistics: The Gay Men's Sex Survey 2004, Area Sub-samples Data Report, Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority* (2005) reveals the following:

HIV testing history					
	Never tested	-ve test last year	-ve test last 5 years	-ve test >5 years ago	Tested HIV+
Swindon (n=39)	46.2%	25.6%	20.5%		7.7%
Wiltshire (n=74)	44.4%	15.3%	22.2%	15.3%	2.8%
Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire strategic health authority areas (n=455)	46.7%	26.5%	16.4%	5.9%	4.5%

Source: Sigma Research (2005)

The rate for Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire (4.5%) would mean that there are more than 550 gay and bisexual men diagnosed HIV+ living in Wiltshire.

The Health Protection Agency's *Diagnoses and Rates of Selected STIs seen at GUM clinics: 1999-2003, Strategic Health Authority level summary tables* (2004) provides the following information:

New episodes of selected STIs in Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire in 2003		
STI	Total male episodes	% attributed to MSM
Chlamydia	1,238	2%
Gonorrhoea	617	14%
Syphilis	20	30%
Herpes	250	4%
Warts	1,520	3%

Source: Health Protection Agency (2004)

Sigma Research's *Vital Statistics: The Gay Men's Sex Survey, Area Sub-samples Data Report, Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority* (2004) reveals the following about sexual assault on gay and bisexual men:

Forced to have sex in the past 12 months		
	No	Yes
Swindon (n=35)	97.1%	2.9%
Wiltshire (n=62)	83.9%	16.1%
Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire strategic health authority areas (n=519)	93.7%	6.3%

Source: Sigma Research (2004)

Although our target client group is gay and bisexual men, many lesbians, transgender people, friends and relatives of LGBT people, and interested organisations approach the Service for information or support. This greatly expands our client base.

1.3.1 Context of healthcare for our client group

Recent research has highlighted worrying trends in relation to gay and bisexual people, heterosexism and healthcare. The UK Gay Men's Health Network's report *Sexual Exclusion – homophobia and health inequalities: a review* (2004) raises the following key points:

- ◆ Sex between men remains by far the major route of transmission of HIV in the UK, yet gay men's health continues to be deprioritised in terms of policy and funding.
- ◆ Gay and bisexual men are disproportionately affected by sexually transmitted infections, and there is a systematic neglect of the sexual health of lesbians.
- ◆ Homophobia in health services can make them inappropriate or inaccessible for LGB people.
- ◆ Mental health problems in LGB people are higher than in the general population and this may be related to experiences of social exclusion and discrimination.
- ◆ Between 20 and 42% of gay and bisexual men have attempted suicide. Despite suicide, particularly in young men, being identified as a public health priority, this factor is rarely considered.

Mind's report *Mental Health and Social Wellbeing of Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals in England and Wales* (2003) compared samples of gay men and lesbians, bisexuals, and heterosexuals. The study found that gay men, lesbians and bisexuals reported higher levels of psychological distress and self-harm than their heterosexual counterparts.

Sigma Research's *It Makes Me Sick: heterosexism, homophobia and the health of gay men and bisexual men* (2005) states that:

'Studies have repeatedly concluded that homophobic attitudes are present among a significant proportion of healthcare professionals. Most recently, it has been estimated that homophobic attitudes are prevalent among 20% of UK medical providers... In settings where professionals have little understanding of gay men's specific health needs, or little desire to better comprehend their social and sexual lives, the standard of care will be low. The benefits of improving gay and bisexual men's ability to talk about sexuality with their healthcare providers are clear. Improved openness and honesty, where men are assured of a non-prejudicial response in advance of disclosure, will increase professional capacity to understand and support the whole patient and make a correct diagnosis when one is required.'

Sigma Research's *Vital Statistics: The Gay Men's Sex Survey 2003, Area Sub-samples Data Report*, Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (2004) provides the following data:

GP staff aware of sexuality (those who are registered with a GP)			
	No	Yes	Don't know
Swindon (n=35)	59.4%	15.6%	25.0%
Wiltshire (n= 62)	58.2%	23.6%	18.2%
Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire strategic health authority areas (n=519)	51.4%	29.4%	19.2%

Source: Sigma Research (2004)

1.4 Context of HIV transmission

In the UK, men who have sex with men (MSM) remain the group at greatest risk of acquiring HIV infection, accounting for an estimated 84% of new infections diagnosed in 2003 (Health Protection Agency, *Focus On Prevention: HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in the United Kingdom in 2003, an update: November 2004*). HIV disproportionately affects gay men when compared to any other group in the population. In 2003

there were an estimated 24,500 homosexually active men with HIV infection in the UK, 26% of which (6,400) had not had their infection diagnosed.

The Health Protection Agency reported the highest ever annual increase in new HIV diagnoses between 2002 and 2003, prompting them to recommend the following:

- ◆ Escalating safer sex messages for the general population and those at high risk, including gay men, young people and HIV+ individuals.
- ◆ Reducing waiting times at sexual health services so that people can be diagnosed and treated more quickly.
- ◆ Further encouraging gay men to test for HIV.

Advances in anti-HIV therapy continue to offer improvements to health and wellbeing, substantially improving the average prognosis for those living with the virus. This in turn creates challenges in maintaining the momentum of promoting safer sex messages. Despite this, prevention of primary infection amongst MSM remains a central pillar of the Government's response to HIV.

1.5 Strategy

The National Health Service has released a range of policy documents relating to HIV and sexual health. Consensus emerged that targeted HIV prevention is necessary, that gay men and African people are the two primary targets, and that within those groups HIV+ people are a priority.

1.5.1 National strategy for sexual health and HIV

The Service ties in with the following aims set out in the Department of Health's *Better Prevention, Better Services, Better Sexual Health: The national strategy for sexual health and HIV* (2001):

- ◆ Reduce the transmission of HIV and STIs (25% reduction in newly acquired HIV infections and gonorrhoea infections by the end of 2007).
- ◆ Reduce the prevalence of undiagnosed HIV and STIs.
- ◆ Improve health and social care for people living with HIV.
- ◆ Reduce the stigma associated with HIV and STIs.

The national strategy states that 'To achieve these objectives the Department will continue to give a high priority to HIV prevention for gay men that the Community HIV and AIDS Prevention Strategy (CHAPS) currently delivers. *Making It Count* is the CHAPS collaborative framework for reducing HIV infection and should become the model for locally commissioned HIV prevention for gay men.' (See next section.)

1.5.2 CHAPS and *Making It Count*

The Service, in common with most other gay men's health projects in the UK, takes its lead in HIV prevention and safer sex health promotion from the work of CHAPS, a collaboration of national HIV agencies co-ordinated by the Terrence Higgins Trust and funded by the Department of Health. This collaboration produced the third edition of their planning framework document *Making It Count: a collaborative planning framework to reduce the incidence of HIV infection during sex between men* in 2003 (and its accompanying *Field Guide*), in which they describe the key strategic targets and aims for reducing HIV prevalence among homosexually active men in the UK.

The following tables summarise the strategic aims set out by CHAPS in *Making It Count*. The overarching strategic goal of *Making It Count* is 'To contribute to the national goal of reducing by 25% the annual incidence of HIV infection during sex between men, from approximately 1,300 infections per year to approximately 975 infections per year, by 2007'.

The coloured sections represent aims targeted by the work of Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon.

Strategic aims for homosexually active men (HAM)	
HAM aim 1	Reduce the average time between HIV infection and HIV diagnosis in men who become infected.
HAM aim 2	Reduce HIV sero-discordant unprotected anal intercourse, condom failure and HIV positive to HIV negative semen transfer.
HAM aim 3	Reduce the average length of time men have undiagnosed STIs (specifically gonorrhoea, NSU, syphilis and herpes).
HAM aim 4	Increase the proportion of HIV uninfected men who are sexually exposed to HIV who take post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours of exposure.

Strategic aims for communities, the media and businesses	
Community aim 1	Members of the general public reduce the frequency with which they verbally abuse and physically assault gay and bisexual men.
Community aim 2	Gay and bisexual men increase activity with their peers and sexual partners that reduces HIV prevention need, including talking and passing on written resources, condoms and lubricant.
Community aim 3	Parents, families and friends of young gay and bisexual men decrease the frequency with which they reject them and increase activities which reduce their HIV prevention needs, including talking and passing on written resources, condoms and lubricant.
Community aim 4	Gay and bisexual community organisations (helplines, support groups, community centres, etc.) exist and increase activities which reduce HIV prevention need in homosexually active men.
Community aim 5	Editors and journalists of gay press titles increase editorial and copy that reduce the HIV prevention needs of their readers.
Community aim 6	Gay website managers increase features of their sites that reduce the HIV prevention needs of their users.
Community aim 7	Managers of gay bars, pubs and clubs increase the features of venues that reduce the HIV prevention needs of their users (e.g. availability of education leaflets, awareness posters, condoms and lubricant).
Community aim 8	Managers of saunas and other commercial premises that facilitate sex on the premises increase the features of venues that reduce the HIV prevention needs of their users (e.g. availability of condoms and lubricant).
Community aim 9	Mainstream media reflects the variety of contemporary gay and bisexual life in all aspects of the public sphere: media, community settings, education, etc.
Community aim 10	Providers and owners of mainstream businesses and services decrease discrimination against gay men or bisexual men.
Community aim 11	Gay and bisexual men increase their non-sexual social interaction.

Community aim 12	Religious leaders reduce their verbal abuse of gay and bisexual men, including members of their own organisations who come out, and increase their active contribution to reducing men's HIV prevention needs.
Community aim 13	Gay and bisexual men increase reporting of unacceptable services received in the public sector.
Community aim 14	Gay and bisexual men increase their lay involvement in Primary Care Trusts and other planning and consultation structures.

Strategic aims for education, health and social services

Service aim 1	All service providers include homosexually active men in their service planning.
Service aim 2	All service providers increase their delivery of culturally appropriate HIV prevention interventions to homosexually active men.
Service aim 3	All NHS providers increase the equity of their generic services to homosexually active men.
Service aim 4	All GP and primary care staff increase actions that reduce HIV prevention need among homosexually active men and stop actions which make them worse.
Service aim 5	Clinical sexual health services prioritise homosexually active men as a client group.
Service aim 6	All GUM staff increase offers of HIV tests to homosexually active men attending for STI screening and seek informed consent for testing.
Service aim 7	An increase at NHS services in the availability of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to men sexually exposed to HIV.
Service aim 8	An increase in sexual health promotion interventions by HIV care and treatment providers.
Service aim 9	All school boards develop and review policies to address homophobic bullying by pupils and teachers and that promotes gay and bisexual social inclusion.
Service aim 10	Secondary schools increase the frequency with which they employ people able to teach pupils about sexual diversity, including homosexuality, in line with statutory sex and relationship guidance.
Service aim 11	Police officers increase the equity of their generic services to homosexually active men.
Service aim 12	Prison officers increase the frequency with which they make condoms and lubricant freely and confidentially available to inmates.
Service aim 13	An increase by local health promoters in community development for HIV prevention.
Service aim 14	Service providers increase leadership of collaborative planning fora and Local Strategic Partnerships for education, health and social services.
Service aim 15	All teachers and trainers of education, health and social services staff increase coverage (and quality) of sexuality and HIV awareness.

Service aim 16	Education, health and social services staff increase their input to the design and implementation of research investigations about HIV prevention.
Service aim 17	Education, health and social services staff increase their input to local commissioning plans for sexual health and HIV.
Service aim 18	Lobbying and policy charities increase their advocacy and lobbying to policy makers for gay and bisexual men's HIV prevention work.

Strategic aims for policy makers, researchers and commissioners

Policy aim 1	The Government finds a way to increase the priority given to HIV prevention activity within the NHS.
Policy aim 2	All policy makers and commissioners increase their contribution to the national sexual health and HIV evidence base by collecting and making available transparent data for evaluating policy change, including the surveillance and publication of resource allocations.
Policy aim 3	The Government increase its actions to ensure faster global progress towards the development of a safe and effective preventative vaccine against HIV.
Policy aim 4	The Home Office increases its actions to enable Prisons Services to meet the (sexual) HIV prevention needs of inmates of prisons and young offenders institutes.
Policy aim 5	An increase in the proportion of Strategic Health Authorities that include HIV and sexual health promotion with homosexually active men in local delivery plans and performance monitoring mechanisms.
Policy aim 6	PCTs increase HIV prevention programmes for homosexually active men and ensure they are adequately resourced.
Policy aim 7	PCT commissioners increase consortia commissioning arrangements for programmes of HIV prevention for homosexually active men across PCT and local authority boundaries.
Policy aim 8	PCTs (which have prisons within their area) engage with local prisons to jointly develop Health Improvement Plans for prisoners that include policies for access to condoms, sexual assaults and care of prisoners with HIV.
Policy aim 9	Local authorities increase commissioning of services which reduce the HIV prevention needs of homosexually active men.
Policy aim 10	An increase in the proportion of local authorities which explicitly recognise gay and bisexual men as a community group with extensive unmet social need, including young men leaving care.
Policy aim 11	Researchers increase the applicability of the national evidence base to services, the community and policy makers.
Policy aim 12	Police authorities develop and make known clear policies on the way in which they support gay and bisexual victims of crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, homophobic hate crime and street sensitivity issues.

Policy aim 13	Police authorities develop and make known clear policies on the ways in which they respond to public complaints about gay and bisexual men, 'gross indecency' and 'outrage to public morals'.
Policy aim 14	An increase in leadership from MPs of the response to the gay and bisexual HIV epidemic that rejects homophobia and places civil action, human rights and respect at its centre.
Policy aim 15	The Government introduce an amendment to the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 that makes religious organisations subject to its provision.
Policy aim 16	The Government instigates legislation which provides the condition of legal equality of same-sex partnerships with mixed-sex partnerships.
Policy aim 17	The Government repeals the gross indecency laws.
Policy aim 18	The Government follows through on its stated intention to act on the recommendations of the Disability Rights Task Force and extends the cover of the 1995 Disability Rights Act (DDA) to people with HIV from the point of diagnosis.

1.5.3 Local strategies

The reorganisation of the National Health Service has led to the commissioning of NHS services at Primary Care Trust (PCT) level. The Service is funded by four PCTs across Wiltshire: West Wiltshire PCT, Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT, South Wiltshire PCT, and Swindon PCT. These bodies are responsible for formulating local sexual health and HIV prevention strategies in co-ordination with those set out at a national level. The Service contributes by helping to devise local strategies, and in its provision of services.

1.5.4 Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon strategy

Mission statement

Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon exists to promote better sexual health amongst gay and bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM), within Wiltshire & Swindon (our area of work).

Aims

The Service aims to:

- ◆ **Reduce the transmission of HIV** and other sexually transmitted infections amongst gay and bisexual men, and MSM, within our area of work.
- ◆ **Increase awareness of HIV**, other sexually transmitted infections, and the work of the Service amongst our client group.
- ◆ **Encourage attendance at sexual health services** for HIV testing, sexual health screening and vaccinations.
- ◆ **Provide information about general health and wellbeing issues** and encourage healthy lifestyle choices by our clients.
- ◆ **Promote awareness and understanding** of the issues facing our client group within statutory and voluntary services.
- ◆ **Represent our client group** at a strategic level within statutory bodies, in order to influence service delivery and encourage equity of service across the county.
- ◆ **Challenge homophobia**, hate crime and discrimination, and to reduce the stigmatisation of homosexuality, HIV and STIs.
- ◆ **Reach isolated and hard-to-reach males** from our client group, as well as those who are unsure of their sexuality.

Objectives

We achieve our aims by:

- ◆ **Distributing condoms, lubricant and sexual health information** (free of charge) to our client group throughout our area of work.
- ◆ **Advertising the Service and its work** using posters, resources, public events, newsletters, press releases, and any other means of promotion.
- ◆ **Offering information, support and counselling** to our client group around sexuality and sexual health, and any issue impacting on health (e.g. drugs and alcohol, hate crime, mental health, etc).
- ◆ **Providing drop-in spaces** for our client group that allow access to information and support, and increase opportunities for non-sexual social interaction.
- ◆ **Working with statutory strategic groups**, partnerships and forums to ensure the needs of our client group are considered.
- ◆ **Providing training** around sexuality, sexual health, homophobia, diversity, stigma, and other issues affecting our client group to statutory and voluntary services (especially schools, primary care services, and the police).
- ◆ **Maintaining an up-to-date website** allowing clients to access information and services from wherever they choose, 24 hours a day.
- ◆ **Monitoring our client group's needs** and evaluating the suitability of our services.

2. Services

This section describes the services that form the core of our work. We include the methods used, the settings in which we operate, and we provide key outputs for the period of this report where appropriate.

2.1 Staff and volunteers

The Service currently employs two full-time members of staff: a Manager, and an Administrator/Support Worker. We work with volunteers, particularly when it comes to carrying out specific projects, and running public events and drop-ins. Management and admin support is provided by Salisbury & District CVS.

2.2 Settings

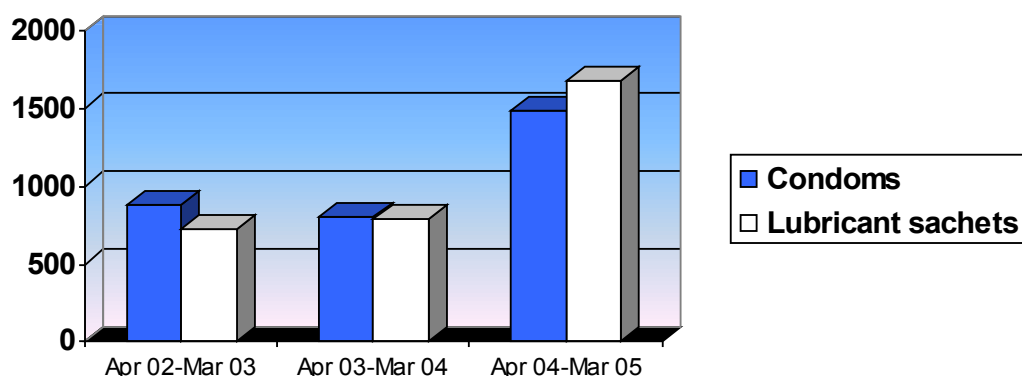
Gay Men's Health operates from two offices, one in Salisbury and one in Swindon (in August 2004 the Service moved from its old office on Victoria Road to a more central office with disabled access in the Voluntary Action Swindon building). These two bases enable us to meet our client group in a gay-friendly, safe environment. As well the offices, our drop-in facilities in Chippenham and Trowbridge provide regular opportunities for our clients to meet and collect information and sexual health supplies.

The commercial gay venues in the county provide the Service with an established means of accessing our 'scene' client group. The Service maintains condom pack boxes, donation jars, and resources at these venues, as well as providing a regular presence for public events (such as promoting the Vital Statistics Gay Men's Sex Survey and World AIDS Day).

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 Distribution of condoms, lubricant and safer sex information

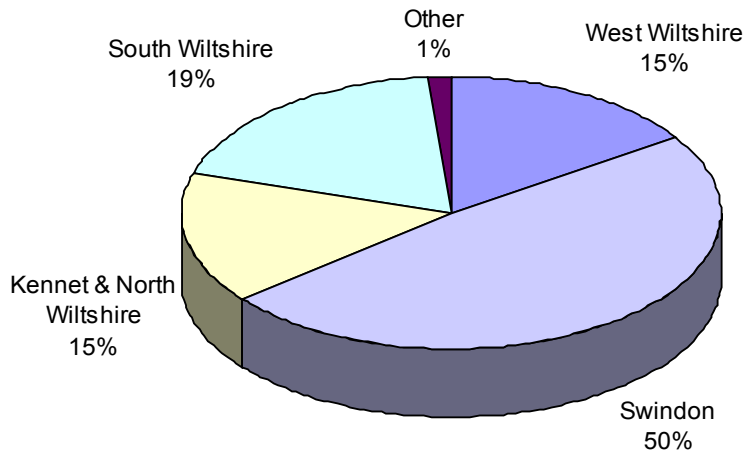
Supplies distributed by post 2002 - 2005



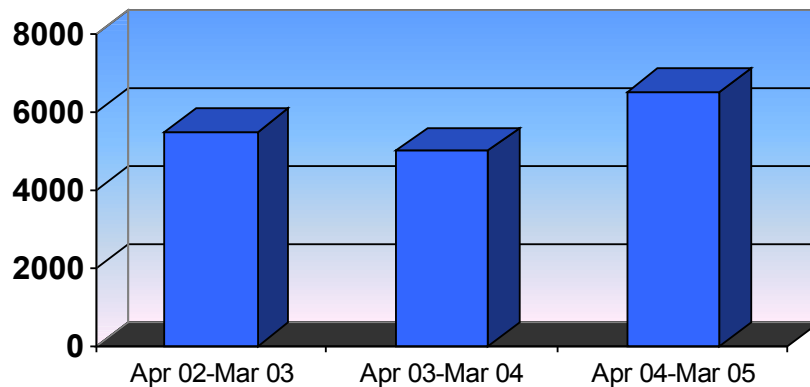
The provision of free, easily-accessible sexual health supplies and information has remained a core strand of the Service's strategy for preventing the transmission of STIs. Between April 2002 and March 2005, we distributed over 3,100 condoms to gay and bisexual men by post. This was along with 3,180 lubricant sachets, 325 Femidoms, and over 150 lubricant dispensers.

The figures reveal an almost 50% increase in the numbers of condoms being ordered between 2004 and 2005.

Postal orders by area of residence 2002 - 2005



Condom packs distributed through gay venues, drop-ins and public events 2002 - 2005



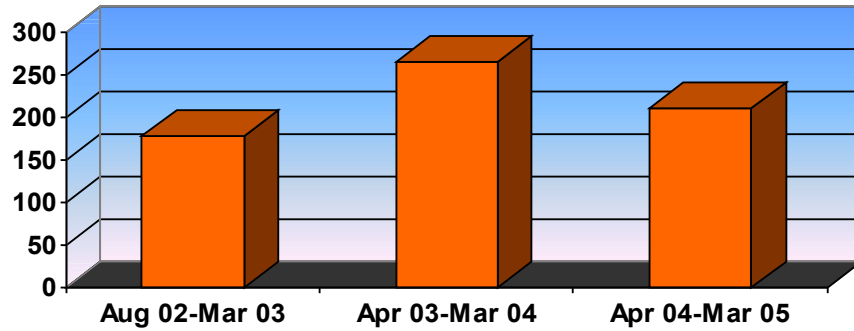
More than 17,000 condom packs (each containing two condoms and two lubricant sachets) were distributed through gay venues, drop-ins and public events. Our condom packs now have a range of inserts, enabling us to promote awareness of different issues, such as syphilis, and the impact of recreational drugs on sexual behaviour.

In total, the Service estimates it distributed approximately 37,000 condoms between April 2002 and March 2005.

2.3.2 Drop-ins

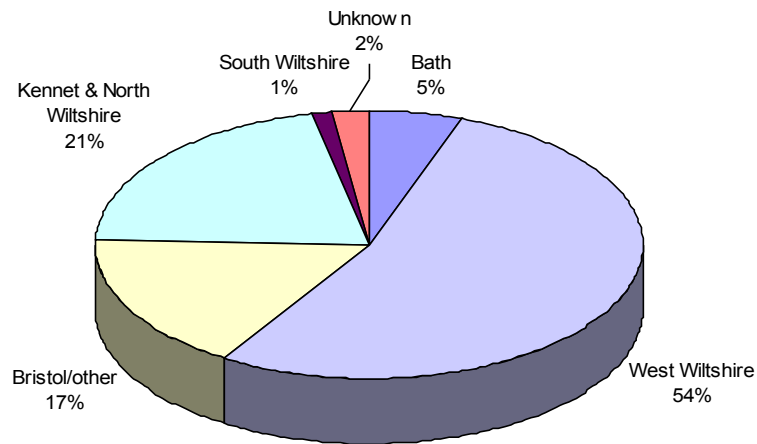
Drop-ins give us regular opportunities to discuss the issues affecting hard-to-reach gay populations in rural Wiltshire. The Service currently runs drop-in facilities in Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury.

Trowbridge drop-in attendance numbers 2002 - 2005

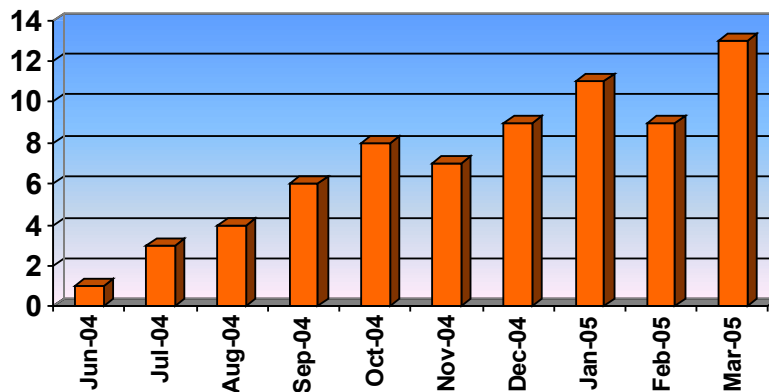


The Trowbridge drop-in is long established and meets twice a month in a building in the town centre, receiving more than 650 visits since August 2002 (when monitoring of attendance started).

Trowbridge drop-in attendees by area of residence 2002 - 2005

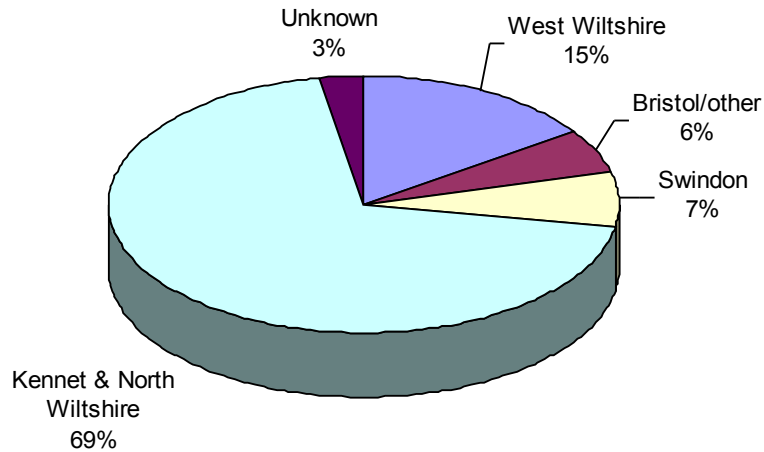


Chippenham drop-in attendance numbers 2004 - 2005



The Chippenham drop-in receives funding from North Wiltshire Crime and Disorder Partnership and takes place in a central location in the town. More than 70 visits were made to the drop-in between its inception in June 2004 and March 2005. After a predictably slow start, it has gradually grown in popularity during 2005 and additional funding has been received to expand the facility.

Chippenham drop-in attendees by area of residence 2004 - 2005



The drop-in in Salisbury takes place at a gay venue in the town (therefore accurate attendance numbers cannot be compiled) in co-ordination with Wiltshire Constabulary.

2.3.3 Website (www.gmhp.demon.co.uk)



Our website has received more than 170,000 hits since it was launched in 1998. This means that, if only gay and bisexual men in Wiltshire accounted for these hits, every single person in our target client group would have visited our website 13 times.

The Service constantly develops the site, allowing gay and bisexual men to access information, order safer sex supplies, and learn about other services from the privacy of their own home 24 hours a day. Our internet services are particularly useful for isolated gay and bisexual men who may not have access to transport (including younger gay and bisexual men), and for men who are not comfortable about accessing local services in person or by telephone. The site allows clients to sign up to postal or electronic mailing lists, enabling us to send newsletters about our work.

Due to the significant number of gay men who access this website from outside the county, the site includes information and links which have a wider relevance than just within the county. In 2005 the site underwent major renovations, when updated sections were added on HIV, equality, homophobia and hate crime, and drugs and alcohol.

The Good Web Guide gives the site a 5 star rating and describes it as follows:

'This site may be the work of a gay men's health project in Wiltshire, but its usefulness extends much further. The fact this site is a comprehensive resource of significant relevance to gay men and health workers is evident the moment you arrive on its homepage... This impressive site is comprehensive and well produced. Gay men and the health practitioners who work with them will find much to offer.'

Case study I: Feedback from website guestbook

"I love your site. It helps gay men like myself keep ourselves healthy in a society that looks down on gay men."

"As a gay man, I wanted to tell you that your website has helped me in more ways than one. Thank you!"

"I am only just beginning accepting of the fact I'm gay, though I've been having sex with men for years. Sites like this are very helpful and comprehensive and are helping me to be all that I can be so thank you."

"This is a wonderful site. I am a gay final-year medical student, and have referred a number of my colleagues to the site because it is so informative and helpful. And, although I am gay myself, I have learned a lot about how I might approach gay patients in my own practice."

"Great site. I'm living in a village near Salisbury...your site has allowed me to learn about gay life, all the leaflets are really informative and a great help, especially the ordering on the net as I can't get to the free clinic but do have access to the net. Thank you GMH, you have made my life so much better and easier to live."

2.3.4 Training and presentations

The Service undertakes a number of training sessions and presentations across the county, as well as attending third party conferences to help keep abreast of changes affecting our client group. We participate in sexuality awareness and sexual health education within schools and colleges, provide training for Gay Liaison Officers within Wiltshire Constabulary, and participate in presentations arranged by Age Concern. In addition, the Service has offered training to GPs and other primary care staff, Swindon's gay youth group, and drug support services.

Gay and bisexual men have the right to the same range of health and other services available across the county as other people. However, the quality and equity of service they receive can vary greatly depending on the attitudes of individual practitioners and, sometimes, on the culture of the service. As part of its work to challenge homophobia, inequality and discrimination, the Service works with local agencies across the county to train staff in equality and diversity issues.

2.3.5 Public events

Gay Men's Health promotes its services and provides resources at health fairs, gay venues, and libraries across the county. Often these are held at regularly organised events, such as college fresher fairs or diversity weeks. Sometimes events promote particular campaigns, such as World AIDS Day and the Vital Statistics Gay Men's Sex Survey.

Case study 2:

The Service runs a stall at the annual South Wiltshire Health Fair organised by South Wiltshire PCT. The stall provides information and resources, advertises the work of the Service, and allows health workers and others attending the event to ask questions.

2.3.6 Counselling, advice and advocacy

We provide structured counselling, and use third-party individuals and agencies when required. A waiting list operates and we take on clients for a series of 50-minute sessions (usually six). Clients are advised on a more informal basis by telephone, email or face-to-face, and we carry out home visits where appropriate. The Service estimates that it receives between 15 and 20 calls per week from its client group.

The Service is regularly approached by people who have specific questions they need answered, but who are reluctant to approach 'mainstream' services. These questions are often around such topics as anal sex and other sexual practices relevant to our client group, PSE activities, HIV testing, coming out, or drugs.

Case study 3:

The Service was contacted by a client who had engaged in oral sex with another man for the first time and was extremely worried about infections. The Service was able to inform the client about the relative risks involved in oral sex and advise on issues such as STI testing and harm reduction.

2.3.7 Outreach

The county has approximately 30 public sex environments (PSEs) visited by men from within and outside the county on a regular basis. The locations of these sites are often communicated within the networks of the men who frequent these places, or over the internet. The Service believes that closing these sites or obstructing access to them is less useful than working with the responsible authorities to ensure that safer sex information and resources are available to the people who visit them, without impacting on the safety of those who use the sites.

We have continued to work closely with the police to maintain a sensitive approach to policing these sites, advising on the review of Wiltshire Constabulary's Public Sex Environment (Sexual Behaviour in Public Places) Policy.

Case study 4:

The Service was approached by a gay man who had been the victim of an attempted robbery in a public sex environment. The victim had been wary of going to the police because of his sexual contact with the assailant prior to the attack. The Service was able to facilitate an interview between the victim and a Gay Liaison Officer, and devise a response which would warn PSE users of the danger.

2.3.8 Media consultation

The Service recognises the negative impact of irresponsible media reporting on the lives of gay and bisexual people and has provided responses to items and articles which were evidently biased or one-sided. The

Service is often consulted by national and local newspapers and radio stations for its opinions, and in particular has played an active part in attempting to make the local press more gay-friendly. The Service uses press releases to help gain publicity for specific events, such as World AIDS Day and the launch of our *Outing Drugs* report.

Case study 5:
Extract from article first published in the Wiltshire Times on 1st August 2003

'Posters targeting the problems of homophobia and gay hate crimes will go up across west Wiltshire this week. The three posters, designed by Trowbridge residents, aim to break down social barriers by challenging stereotypes surrounding gay and lesbian communities. One poster focuses on gays and lesbians in the workplace, another looks at personal and family relationships, while the third tackles hobbies and interests. Up to 2,000 posters have been produced by Gay Men's Health and will go up in public buildings, police stations and youth centres across Wiltshire.'

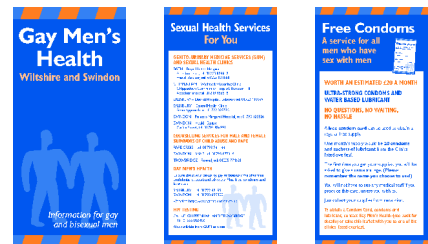
2.4 Resources and materials

The Service produces high quality, nationally-recognised resources addressing the health issues facing gay and bisexual men. During the period of this report, we have continued to expand the range of materials we have to offer, and ensured that all resources from the Service are branded with our easily recognisable identifiers.

As well as one-off posters and displays for the scene, the Service produces the following resources:

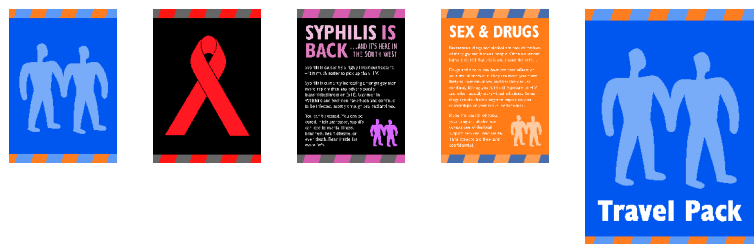
Local information leaflets

- ◆ Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon – information for gay and bisexual men
- ◆ Sexual Health Services For You – details of local clinics
- ◆ Free Condoms and accompanying pocket card



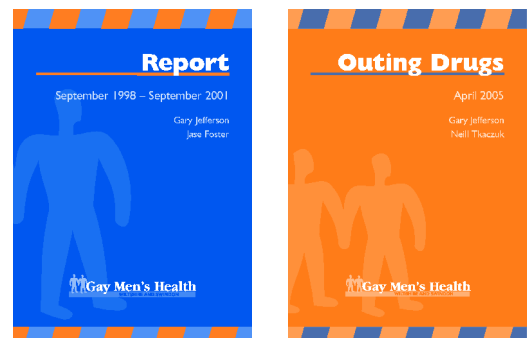
Condom pack inserts

- ◆ Gay Men's Health information
- ◆ Travel Pack
- ◆ World AIDS Day
- ◆ Syphilis is Back
- ◆ Sex and Drugs



Reports

- ◆ Gay Men's Health Report September 1998 – September 2001
- ◆ Gay Men's Health Report 2002 – 2005
- ◆ Outing Drugs – research report looking at drug and alcohol use in Wiltshire's gay and bisexual male population



Guides

- ◆ Coming Out and Staying Out
- ◆ Small Effort, Big Change – a general practice guide to working with gay and bisexual men – and accompanying summary leaflet One Small Step
- ◆ Gay Men and the Femidom
- ◆ STIs – a guide for gay and bisexual men (in collaboration with Wessex Gay Men's Health Forum (WGMHF))
- ◆ Hepatitis – a guide for gay and bisexual men (in collaboration with WGMHF)
- ◆ Viagra: Dying for a Hard-on? (in collaboration with WGMHF)
- ◆ Condoms do Make a Difference (in collaboration with WGMHF)



Posters

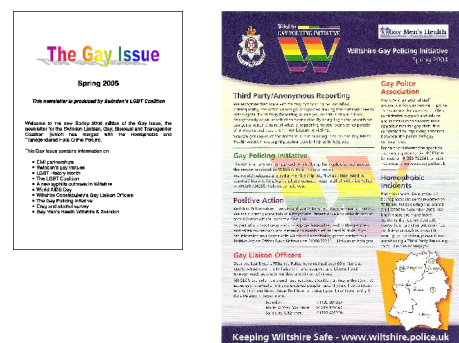
- ◆ Sexual Health Matters in Wiltshire and Swindon poster
- ◆ Equality rainbow poster
- ◆ Employment rights rainbow poster
- ◆ Social inclusion rainbow poster

(Produced in collaboration with Community Safety Partnerships, Wiltshire Constabulary, Wiltshire Health Promotion Service and other agencies.)



Newsletters

- ◆ GMH e-news (email newsletter)
- ◆ Wiltshire Gay Policing Initiative newsletter (in collaboration with Wiltshire Constabulary)
- ◆ The Gay Issue (in collaboration with Swindon LGBT Coalition and Swindon Homophobic and Transgender Hate Crime Forum)



2.5 Working policies

The Service has developed working policies governing:

- ◆ Good practice
- ◆ Boundaries
- ◆ Personal safety
- ◆ Confidentiality
- ◆ Equal opportunities
- ◆ Outreach
- ◆ Volunteer workers
- ◆ Internet services

Gay Men's Health also aims to abide by the codes of practice devised by the Compacts for Swindon and Wiltshire.

3. Partnerships

As well as working directly with our client group, the Service works with other organisations to encourage referrals, raise awareness of LGBT issues, and develop strategies and policies which take gay communities into account. The Service is reaping benefits from involvement in numerous partnerships developed within the county which, in turn, result in real and sustained gains for gay and bisexual men living and working in the county.

3.1 Voluntary and community sector

Gay Men's Health is a member of four Councils for Voluntary Service (CVSs) across the county: Voluntary Action Swindon, CVS North Wilts, Voluntary Action Kennet, and Salisbury & District CVS. Our manager has represented managers on the Salisbury & District CVS Executive Committee.

The Service has put forward a joint proposal for a county-wide Diversity Task Group for Wiltshire, in collaboration with the Wiltshire Race Equality Council. We hope this Task Group will encourage equity of service, and consolidate the time spent on the current four Diversity Task Groups.

Gay Men's Health regularly attends Swindon's LGBT Coalition, and was involved with the management of Swindon's gay and lesbian youth group, Pride Youth, until 2004. The Service also works with Age Concern to promote awareness of the issues facing older LGBT people.

3.2 Strategic health bodies

The Service is an active member of the following sexual health services in the county:

- ◆ Wiltshire Alliance for Sexual Health (WASH) – on the following subgroups: the Campaign Group, the Hard-to-Reach Group and the Equity of Support Group.
- ◆ Swindon Sexual Health Development Group (SHDG) – acts as a multi-agency group to develop and implement the Sexual Health Action Plan for Swindon.
- ◆ Sexual Health Education & Training Group for Swindon & Wiltshire Primary Care Trusts – works with Family Planning Services, Health Promotion Specialists and Wiltshire PCTs to introduce condoms into various settings such as primary care and homeless projects across the county, and provide appropriate training for healthcare professionals.
- ◆ Healthy Schools Alliance Swindon – works to develop and deliver the Healthy Schools Programme.
- ◆ Salisbury Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Partnership – develops and implements the teenage pregnancy strategy, and discusses sexual health issues, for South Wiltshire PCT.

3.3 Primary care services

Following on from the distribution of the resource *Small Effort, Big Change*, we aim to develop our work with GPs by starting a gay-friendly GP register. GP staff have again been offered training on understanding their gay and bisexual clients.

Gay Men's Health works closely with sexual health departments and clinics across the county to disseminate information. We also seek to inform our client group about HIV testing and sexual health screening, and to encourage attendance at sexual health services. When requested, the Service has accompanied members of its client group to sexual health services for moral support.

Appropriate referrals are made when a client has been the victim of a sexual assault, homophobic crime, or same-sex domestic violence. The Service is one of the referral pathways into the Sanctuary Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Swindon.

3.4 Schools and colleges

Between April 2002 and March 2005, the Service provided over 70 sexuality training sessions to schools and attended college fairs (health fairs and fresher fairs) each year, providing sexual health information and advertising the existence of the Service to students.

As part of the Healthy Schools Programme for Swindon, the Service has regularly participated in cluster training for teachers, and advised on peer education.

Another aspect of the Service's work lies in tackling homophobic bullying. We offer support to individual students who are experiencing homophobia within their school or college environment.

Case study 6:

The Service was approached by a third party regarding a young person who had been 'outed' at school and was suffering homophobic bullying, witnessed by teachers. When the client expressed suicidal feelings, the Service contacted OFSTED, with his permission, for advice and then approached the school concerned to discuss the issues and agree a plan of action.

3.5 Drug and alcohol services

The Service's drug and alcohol needs assessment in 2004/05 (see section 4.1.2) has led to much closer working relationships with local Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAATs) and drug support services. The Service has been funded to provide training to drug workers on the issues that affect LGBT communities as a direct result of our report *Outing Drugs*.

3.6 The police

The Service continues to make significant gains from a high level networking approach to its involvement with Wiltshire Constabulary, which is now known for the quality of training its officers undergo in relation to LGBT issues.

The Service:

- ◆ Chairs the Gay Policing Initiative for Wiltshire.
- ◆ Is involved in probationary training, which provides half-day diversity training to probation officers.
- ◆ Provides training to specialist Gay Liaison Officers (GLOs) introducing local policies and codes. By 2005, 150 officers had attended this training in the county.
- ◆ Represents Wiltshire at the National Advisory Group for Lesbian and Gay Policing.
- ◆ Makes station visits within the county to support the work of local GLOs and to explain the role of the Service.
- ◆ Is a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers subgroup addressing gay issues.
- ◆ Advises community safety officers at a divisional level on individual cases.
- ◆ Is involved in the design and marketing of protocols and information.
- ◆ Sits on the interim independent advisory group for Centrex (the national police training organisation).

Case study 7:

Wiltshire Constabulary contacted Gay Men's Health regarding a gay man who had been the victim of an assault which had sexual and homophobic elements. The Service was able to provide advice and support to the victim, and helped to devise a public response in partnership with the police.

3.7 Community Safety Partnerships

The Service is involved in the five Community Safety Partnerships across the county: North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire, Kennet, Salisbury and Swindon. We sit on various crime and disorder subgroups, including ones in relation to Fear of Crime, Youth Issues, Diversity and Hate Crime.

3.8 Outside Wiltshire and Swindon

The Service sometimes has to refer clients to services outside the county. Within Wiltshire there are some gaps in service provision, particularly when it comes to HIV support services. Whilst the county has a number of HIV testing facilities, there is only one service which supports HIV+ people directly (Terrence Higgins Trust in Swindon and parts of Western Wiltshire). There are also limited health and social services specifically targeted at lesbians and transgender people.

The Service has continued to be involved in chairing and administering the Wessex Forum, which consists of gay health projects across the South West region aiming to produce resources and exchange information.

The Service has benefited from links with the Centre for HIV & Sexual Health in Sheffield, and is a satellite member of the CHAPS partnership.

4. Projects

In addition to our ongoing core services, Gay Men's Health undertakes projects with specific goals, which often means securing separate funding streams. This section details projects completed during the period of this report and our plans for the future.

4.1 Completed projects

4.1.1 EMBRASE

The EMBRASE (Encouraging the Management of Boundaries, Rights And Social Exclusion) project ran from October 2001 to October 2003 and was part-funded by the European Social Fund. The primary concern of the project lay with the implementation of European Council Directive 2000/78/EC, which outlaws discrimination in the workplace on the basis of religion or belief, sexual orientation, age and disability. The legislation covering religion or belief and sexual orientation came into effect in December 2003, meaning that for the first time gay and lesbian people have legal protection against discrimination in employment.

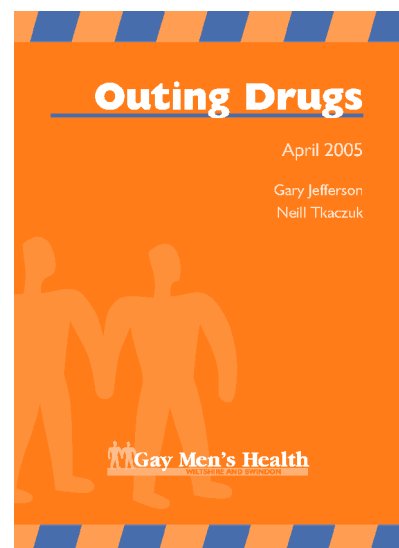
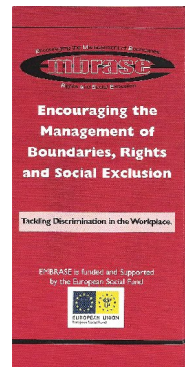
EMBRASE provided resources and offered training sessions to statutory, private and voluntary organisations on the legal changes and their effects, as well as helping individuals with questions they had on their rights in the workplace. A Social Inclusion Trainer was employed to facilitate the training sessions, which were attended by over 150 people, and included employers such as Honda UK, Safeway and Living Options.

The project offered a range of information on discrimination issues and the European Directives via its website, which is still on-line (www.embrase.org.uk). Since the end of the project, many new initiatives promoting knowledge of the changes in employment law have emerged, suggesting that EMBRASE was ahead of its time.

4.1.2 Drug and alcohol needs assessment

Funded by the Department of Health through the Community Engagement Programme, the Service carried out a needs assessment amongst Wiltshire and Swindon's gay and bisexual men. The assessment's aims were to explore the nature of the community's drug and alcohol use, its impact on sexual health, and the local support services available. The period of the project ran from May 2004 until February 2005.

Three volunteers were recruited and trained (along with members of staff) to carry out the project. Two self-completion questionnaires were used – one for gay and bisexual men and one for service providers. The sample size was 95 gay and bisexual men, and 12 drug services were surveyed. As the first research of its kind in a largely rural area, the assessment came up with many interesting findings.



The project's final report, *Outing Drugs*, makes several recommendations in terms of policy change and future action. The report can be downloaded from www.gmhp.demon.co.uk, or is available in printed form from Gay Men's Health.

4.2 Future projects

4.2.1 Follow-up to *Outing Drugs*

As a direct result of our report *Outing Drugs*, the Service has received funding from Swindon Drug and Alcohol Action Team to put the report's recommendations into action. We will be working on:

- ◆ Providing training to drug services, GPs and other primary care staff on diversity issues, in particular the factors affecting gay and bisexual men.
- ◆ Developing local leaflets with information on drug and health services, drug interactions and health advice.
- ◆ Developing a 'kitemark' scheme for drug support services, so that gay and bisexual men will feel more confident about accessing them. The Service hopes to liaise with a similar scheme already in existence in Lancashire, to help determine how best to operate such an initiative.

4.2.2 Client consultation

As part of our commitment to monitor the needs of our client group, the Service will be consulting clients about our web-based services. Clients will be invited to complete a questionnaire (printed or on-line) asking them to rate the information on our website and its usefulness to them, the site's design and ease of use, and, in particular, our supplies by post service and how it can be improved. At the completion of the exercise, we aim to produce a report detailing all of the feedback received about our services.

4.2.3 Gay and bisexual men's sexual health clinic

The Service has had initial discussions about starting a sexual health clinic for gay and bisexual men in Swindon, in co-operation with the Sexual Health Department of Great Western Hospital. Such a clinic would help to target one of our main aims - to encourage our client group to attend for HIV testing, sexual health screening and vaccinations. Discussions are also taking place in respect of the Service carrying out saliva swab tests (for syphilis) in gay venues.

4.2.4 Gay-friendly GP register

Research has shown that health gains are likely to be made if our client group feel able to disclose their sexual orientation to their primary care providers (see section 1.3.1). The Service has experienced an increasing number of queries from our client group about gay-friendly GPs, and we hope to set up a register of all Wiltshire GPs who feel they are open, receptive and sensitive to the needs of gay patients. GPs will again be offered free resources and training on how to make their service and environment gay-friendly. We are also looking into the possibility of an HIV-friendly dentist register. Of course, the success of these registers will be dependent on the co-operation of GPs and dentists, and their willingness to engage in LGBT issues.

5. Financial

This section provides details of the Service's income and expenditure by financial year. More detailed figures are available from Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon upon application. Please note that the following charts show income and expenditure only – they are not balance sheets or profit and loss accounts.

5.1 2002–03

Income and expenditure year ended 31 st March 2003		£	£
INCOME	Primary Care Trusts	86,520	
	European Social Fund	33,437	
	Donations	348	
	*Sundry income	4,335	
EXPENSES	Staff costs (salaries, training & travel)		96,255
	Office costs (rent, telephones, insurance, etc.)		14,693
	Other expenses (supplies, resources, advertising, etc.)		15,173
Total		124,640	126,121

* Mainly income from training sessions/consultations with Wiltshire Constabulary and Centrex, and funding from Community Safety Partnerships

5.2 2003–04

Income and expenditure year ended 31 st March 2004		£	£
INCOME	Primary Care Trusts	86,520	
	European Social Fund	24,798	
	†University of Central Lancs	3,117	
	Donations	672	
	*Sundry income	4,390	
EXPENSES	Staff costs (salaries, training & travel)		89,500
	Office costs (rent, telephones, insurance, etc.)		15,216
	Other expenses (supplies, resources, advertising, etc.)		18,638
Total		119,497	123,354

† Funding from the Department of Health through the Community Engagement Programme (managed by the University of Central Lancashire)

* Mainly income from training sessions/consultations with Wiltshire Constabulary and Centrex

5.3 2004–05

Income and expenditure year ended 31 st March 2005		£	£
INCOME	Primary Care Trusts	88,250	
	†University of Central Lancs	6,230	
	North Wiltshire CSP	1,644	
	Donations	279	
	*Sundry income	4,259	
EXPENSES	Staff costs (salaries, training & travel)		67,851
	Office costs (rent, telephones, insurance, etc.)		11,511
	Other expenses (supplies, resources, advertising, etc.)		15,626
	Total	100,662	94,988

† Funding from the Department of Health through the Community Engagement Programme (managed by the University of Central Lancashire)

* Mainly income from training sessions/consultations with Wiltshire Constabulary and Centrex

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Websites

Gay Men's Health Wiltshire & Swindon www.gmhp.demon.co.uk

EMBRASE
www.embrase.org.uk

Salisbury & District CVS
www.ruralnet.org.uk/~salisbury.cvs

West Wiltshire PCT
www.westwiltshirepct.nhs.uk

Kennet & North Wiltshire PCT
www.kennetandnwiltspct.nhs.uk

Swindon PCT
www.swindonpct.nhs.uk

South Wiltshire PCT
www.southwiltshirepct.nhs.uk

Wiltshire County Council
www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council
www.swindon.gov.uk

Wiltshire Constabulary
www.wiltshire.police.uk

True Vision
www.report-it.org.uk

Swindon LGBT Coalition
www.lgbtswindon.org.uk

National AIDS Trust
www.nat.org.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust
www.tht.org.uk

Sigma Research
www.sigmaresearch.org.uk

CHAPS
www.chapsonline.org.uk

NAM AIDSmap
www.aidsmap.com

Stonewall
www.stonewall.org.uk

7. Glossary

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

AIDS is the result of damage to the immune system caused by the virus HIV.

Bisexual

Being physically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to both sexes.

Coming out

The process of disclosing one's sexual orientation to friends, family, colleagues, etc.

Gay (homosexual)

Being physically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to members of the same sex.

Genitourinary medicine (GUM)

The diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

Heterosexism

A bias where individuals or organisations expect others to live and behave as if everyone were heterosexual.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

HIV infects key cells (called CD4 cells) which coordinate the immune system's fight against infection, preventing the system from working properly. Infection with HIV is necessary for a person to develop AIDS.

HIV+

A person infected with HIV is said to be HIV+ (or HIV-positive).

Homophobia

Prejudice against, irrational fear or dislike of, lesbian and gay people.

In the closet

The state a person is described as being in when they have not disclosed their lesbian, gay or bisexual orientation.

Lesbian

A woman who is physically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to other women.

Men who have sex with men (MSM)

Men who sometimes engage in sexual activity with other men, but who do not define themselves as being gay or bisexual.

Outed

The outcome of revealing a person's lesbian, gay or bisexual orientation without their consent.

Primary care

The service received on first contact with the health system.

Public sex environment (PSE)

Any place where people meet for sex (whether at that location or somewhere else). The activity that takes place in PSEs is often known as 'cruising' or 'cottaging'.

Scene

The collection of gay pubs, bars and clubs in a given area.

Sexual orientation

The description of a person's physical or emotional attraction to other people.

Sexually transmitted infection (STI)

Any infection which is most likely to be transmitted through sexual contact.

Stigma

The shame or loss of dignity forced on a particular group of people by attitudes in society.

Straight (heterosexual)

Being physically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to members of the opposite sex.

Transgender/transsexual

The full or partial change of a person's sex from male to female, or from female to male.

8. Appendices

8.1 Update in Salisbury & District CVS Annual Report and Financial Statements 2002-03

The fallout from the change in funding from the Wiltshire Health Authority to Primary Care Trusts has continued. The impact on Gay Men's Health has been one of unsettled concern, while at the same time offering and making available our knowledge and skills in the field of sexual health. During this time of change, we have been successful in maintaining the standards of our service to individuals across the county.

We continue to provide training to different organisations such as Wiltshire Constabulary – with whom we have developed, in partnership with the Race Equality Councils – a Community and Race Relations package that will be delivered to over 250 supervisory staff. The services we offer through the internet have continued to be particularly successful, along with the fortnightly Trowbridge drop-ins that help to break down the sense of social isolation.

A particularly successful project has been developing a range of posters through using Trowbridge as a focus group to develop these local resources, which are now available free of charge to individuals or organisations across Wiltshire. These were funded through our successful partnership working with the five Crime and Disorder Partnerships in our area. Jase, Rachel and Neill have continued to work hard.

EMBRASE successfully provides diversity training to some of Swindon's largest employers and it's with regret that this project will have completed its work by October, when funding ceases.

As a recent House of Commons Health Committee has confirmed, HIV and sexually transmitted infections are increasing at alarming rates in the United Kingdom. GMH has been in the forefront of giving private and confidential support to people of all ages and both sexes faced with sexual health issues.

Gary Jefferson

8.2 Update in Salisbury & District CVS Annual Report and Financial Statements 2003-04

A major change to Gay Men's Health during the past year has been the completion of the EMBRASE project, which ended in October 2003 and was a success in introducing the changes in discrimination legislation within the workplace. Rachel Carey has now moved on having completed the challenge.

We continue to look for additional funding and have received a grant from North Wiltshire Crime and Disorder Partnership to establish a drop-in in Chippenham that will run along similar lines to our successful drop-in in Trowbridge, where we have now had over 700 enquiries about the services that we provide at this location. This is helping to break down some of the issues around social exclusion and a lack of self-confidence amongst some of our client group, which evidence shows can have an impact not only on their mental wellbeing but also on the risk that individuals can take in relation to HIV and sexual health.

Funding has now come from a successful tender to the University of Central Lancashire and the Department of Health to carry out a needs assessment into drug and alcohol use amongst our client group, and the factors that may have an impact on risk-taking behaviour in relation to HIV. We are very excited with this achievement as we are the first gay project to have received this stream of funding. Although this project has been funded to run from 1st April 2004, Jase, Neill and myself have been involved in preparation and have now recruited three volunteer researchers to work with us on this important piece of work.

Gay Men's Health continues to work in partnership with Wiltshire Constabulary and the Crime and Disorder Partnerships to tackle hate crime, and we are very pleased to see the True Vision project brought to Wiltshire having assisted in the design process.

Gary Jefferson

8.3 Update in Salisbury & District CVS Annual Report and Financial Statements 2004-05

Gay Men's Health has seen many organisational changes over the past year, including an office relocation in Swindon and the loss of Jase Foster as Community Development Worker. Despite the extra work these changes caused, we have continued to provide a wide-ranging service across the county.

A major piece of work completed was a drug and alcohol needs assessment, carried out amongst Wiltshire's gay and bisexual men, which examined drug use, its impact on sexual health, and the drug services available. This research was funded by the Department of Health and has resulted in our final report *Outing Drugs* (available on-line at www.gmhp.demon.co.uk). The report has enabled us to receive additional funding from Swindon Drug and Alcohol Action Team to put the report's recommendations into action. As part of the project, staff underwent training provided by the University of Central Lancashire, and Neill Tkaczuk went on to achieve a University Certificate in Community Research and Drugs with Distinction.

During 2004, a new drop-in was set up in Chippenham and has proved so popular that funding to expand it was secured from North Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership. Volunteers were recruited to help run the drop-ins in Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury, and to help with other events such as health fairs.

In co-ordination with Primary Care Trusts, the service was involved in publicising a new syphilis outbreak within the gay community, and designed and distributed a new condom pack insert. We also worked alongside Swindon's LGBT Coalition to promote awareness of World AIDS Day.

Gay Men's Health continued to work in partnership with Wiltshire Constabulary and the Crime and Disorder Partnerships to tackle homophobia and hate crime.

Gary Jefferson, Manager

Neill Tkaczuk, Administrator & Support Co-ordinator

Free Order Form

To ensure that gay and bisexual men have easy access to free condoms, lube, and information, we offer them to local gay and bisexual men by mail order. Complete this form to receive free your resources, or collect them from gay venues or our offices in Salisbury and Swindon.

Please note that this service is only available to gay and bisexual men in Wiltshire. Please do not complete this form if you do not live in this area, as orders from outside Wiltshire cannot be fulfilled.

Please send me:

- Strong condoms How many _____ (max. 20 per order)
- Liquid Silk lubricant sachets How many _____ (max. 20 per order) **OR**
- Maximus lubricant sachets How many _____ (max. 20 per order)
- Gay Men's Health information
- Sexual Health Services For You – details of local clinics
- Outing Drugs – Gay Men's Health's report looking at drugs and alcohol in Wiltshire's gay population
- Hepatitis – a guide for gay and bisexual men
- STIs (sexually transmitted infections) – a guide for gay and bisexual men
- Coming Out and Staying Out leaflet
- HIV and Me – a guide to taking the test and living with the virus
- Condoms – everything a gay man needs to know
- Up Up and Away – holiday hints booklet for gay men travelling to European destinations
- Come Fly With Me – holiday hints booklet for gay men travelling to long-haul destinations
- Highs and Lows – drug and alcohol advice for gay men
- Giving up smoking leaflet
- Taking Back Control – help for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted
- True Vision pack – hate crime, bullying and domestic violence info/reporting form

- Other info: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Return to: **Gay Men's Health, 1 John Street, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 1RT**
tel: 01793 695300 or 01722 421951
web: www.gmhp.demon.co.uk
email: info@gmhp.demon.co.uk





FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



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Salisbury
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SPI IEG

SWINDON

Telephone/fax: 01793 695300

Write to: Gay Men's Health
First Floor
1 John Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SNI IRT

INTERNET

Email: info@gmhp.demon.co.uk

Web: www.gmhp.demon.co.uk

DROP-INS

Drop-ins in Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury – contact Gay Men's Health for more information.

ABOUT GAY MEN'S HEALTH WILTSHIRE & SWINDON

Gay Men's Health serves the gay and bisexual population of Wiltshire and Swindon from offices in Salisbury and Swindon, and from drop-ins in Chippenham and Trowbridge.

The Service's key work involves implementing HIV prevention strategies, promoting healthy lifestyle choices amongst our client group, and challenging homophobia and stigma. This report covers the work of the Service from April 2002 to March 2005.

For further copies of this report, telephone **01793 695300**, email **info@gmhp.demon.co.uk**, or download it from Gay Men's Health's website **www.gmhp.demon.co.uk**.

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