

BHA LIVERPOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE #1



BHA FOR EQUALITY LIVERPOOL

BHA for Equality is a charity, founded in 1990, that is working in Liverpool to provide free and confidential sexual health services for Black, Asian, and other minoritised communities. BHA offers information and advice, group sessions, community activities, HIV and STI's screening and free condoms. We aim to ensure individuals and communities have the knowledge and resources to achieve and maintain good sexual health. Our dedicated team works passionately to break down barriers and ensure equity in sexual health.



A Mayor's Welcome

BHA for Equality was proud to participate in the Global Liverpool 2024 event, where we had the opportunity to meet with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Richard Kemp, and celebrate the city's cultural diversity. During the event, we shared information about our free sexual health services, engaged with community partners, and strengthened relationships with organisations that work in Liverpool.



The PaSH Partnership

BHA for Equality delivers services within the PASH partnership.

The Passionate about Sexual Health Partnership is a collaboration between BHA for Equality, George House Trust, and LGBT Foundation.

We believe that the work delivered by The Pash Partnership in Liverpool will be key to ending new cases of HIV transmission.

The PaSH Partnership

Passionate about Sexual Health in Liverpool



SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES that we provide



INFORMATION & ADVICE

1-2-1 Support, Counselling,
Group events and activities,
Translated resources etc



STI TESTS (Full Screen)

FREE in-person testing by
bookable appointment



HIV TESTING

FREE in-person testing by
bookable appointment



CONDOM & LUBE DELIVERY

FREE and delivered discreetly
to your door



BOOK NOW



**Order
Condoms**

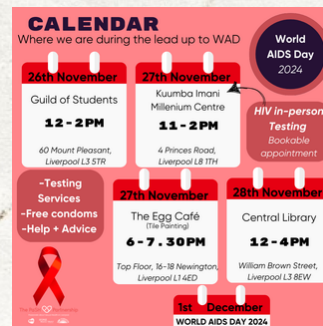
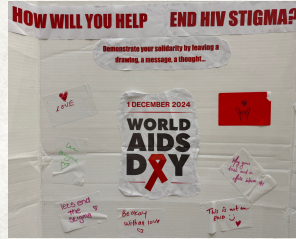
BHA LIVERPOOL SOCIALS



WORLD AIDS DAY 2024

In the lead up to World AIDS Day, BHA Liverpool attended many events and offered more opportunities than ever for people to get tested for HIV.

At these events, members of the community had the opportunity to leave their mark on our WAD board. Creating a beautiful picture together and symbolising the importance of dismantling HIV stigma and discrimination together.



PrEP AWARENESS WEEK 2024

Uptake of PrEP, a pill that prevents HIV transmission, is unequal. Some communities such as women and Black African people find it difficult to access the medication. The PaSH partnership believes that PrEP is crucial in the fight against HIV and thus has committed the week before WAD 2024 to raising awareness around PrEP.

The campaign consisted of daily social media posts that shared reliable information and addressed the myths and stigma surrounding PrEP and eligibility guidelines.

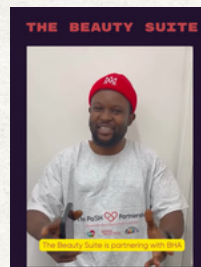
BHA also engaged in direct conversations at WAD events throughout the week with individuals from the community.



BHA PARTNERS

WITH BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

BHA Liverpool has forged partnerships with many black owned businesses in Liverpool, such as barber shops, hair salons and restaurants. We have turned these establishments into condom distribution points, creating new places for people to access protection. It also allows access for people who may otherwise not seek help, advice, resources, or those embarrassed to do so; restaurants place the condoms in restrooms. Our partners also feature in our social media campaigns, for example we partnered with The Beauty Suite barber shop for sexual health week to promote free condoms.



BOTHWELL ON SEXUAL HEALTH

One of my first encounters with Sexual Health Awareness was during the first days of my undergraduate studies. A smartly dressed elderly man in his 60s took to the stage. "I do not have many words to tell you, but it's best if I show you with the aid of diagrams". The hall was filled with cries of disgust and shock. A picture of a vagina riddled with sores and puss, another of a penis that had burst into a cauliflower. The words were clear and loud, "If you sleep with anyone on this campus this is what your privates will look like". With that, the presenter snapped his laptop shut and left us to digest what we had seen.

All this did was instill fear in kids who deserved a more comprehensive sexual health session. I am proud to say that we have moved on from this catastrophe, and sexual health education is now more fun, interactive and informative than ever. At BHA, we believe that sexual health cannot be separated from other key elements of your life such as ethnicity, race and gender. As such, we always aim to incorporate these elements into our program design, creating culturally appropriate content that speaks to people's individual experiences. We work with community groups to design and implement community friendly sexual health services. Ours is not a message of fear, but a message of empowerment.

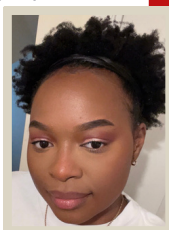
As we steadily move towards eradicating HIV by 2030, we look forward to engaging more with the communities in Liverpool, and to co-create inclusive interventions that place people at the center of programming.

Bothwell Chikomba Sexual Health Lead

MEET THE TEAM

"I'm currently a Public Health masters student and feel this new role is a great way for me to continue growing my passion for health equity in disadvantaged communities. I'm looking forward to all the exciting collaborations and initiatives to come!"

Elsa Maunganidze
Community Engagement
& Development Worker



"Above everything, I enjoy making a positive impact in the lives of people around me. I cherish this journey I'm on with BHA, which has allowed me to be part of a larger collective of key players that are re-shaping the sexual health landscape in Liverpool."

Bothwell Chikomba
Sexual Health Lead



"It's incredibly rewarding working with our dedicated team alongside Black, Asian, and ethnic minoritised communities to promote sexual health, normalise conversations, and increase HIV and STI testing, some of the key steps in reducing health disparities and building a healthier, more inclusive Liverpool."

Elisabete Miranda
Programme Lead

