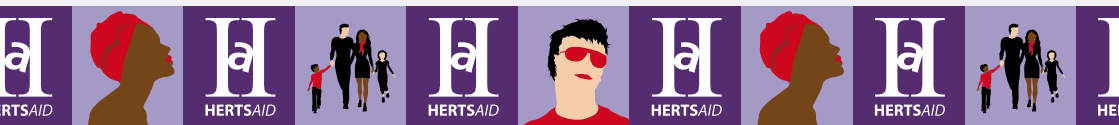




HIV and Sexual Health Services for Hertfordshire



**Promoting an inclusive society where
HIV and Sexual Health is understood and accepted**





About Herts Aid

Herts Aid is an HIV and sexual health charity providing support, clinical and educational services across Hertfordshire. Herts Aid is a registered charity, launched on World AIDS Day 1992. Herts Aid has a culture of inclusion and is committed to involving users of the service in future plans for service delivery.

We work in partnership with statutory and non-statutory providers with the aim of improving the sexual health of the population. Our service is free of charge and open to everyone.

Our services include Information and support; Outreach Services; Education and Prevention; Itext; CAB Advice Services; Befriending; Support Groups and Social Activities; Clinical Services (including Rapid HIV testing); Hardship Fund & Children's Fund and Counselling, Monthly job Club, Access to Food Hub and TV and Radio scheme. Services are delivered from our offices and service delivery sites across the county. Our outreach service means we can also support people in their own homes or within the community, if they prefer.

Mission Statement:

Herts Aid is an HIV and Sexual Health Charity providing support and clinical and educational services, in and around Hertfordshire. We achieve this by offering emotional and practical support, educational projects and community based clinics.

We are a service user led organisation, which is committed to ensuring a culture that is warm, inclusive and caring.

Vision Statement:

Herts Aid strives for and is committed to promoting an inclusive society where HIV and sexual health is understood and accepted without prejudice or stigma





HIV Support Services

Support Groups and Social Activities

We hold monthly support groups in both Watford and Ware, aimed at meeting the needs of anyone living with HIV and AIDS.

These include a mixed support group plus separate men's & women's groups. Lunch is provided and guest speakers are specially chosen to address a range of issues relevant to people living with HIV. Service users can access up to date information and peer support in a comfortable, safe environment.

We also arrange regular social activities which allow service users to socialise in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Transport can be provided, subject to availability.

Emotional Support

Herts Aid offers emotional support to individuals living with HIV and affected partners or family members, whether they are newly diagnosed, starting treatment or have been living with HIV for some time.

Counselling

Our counselling service provides an opportunity to explore coming to terms with a HIV diagnosis and living with HIV in a more positive way. Herts Aid refers to qualified counsellors, bound by the BACP code of ethics.

Health Support

Herts Aid provides support for health issues regarding HIV, sexual, mental and general health, and we refer to GUM clinics and other health care professionals. One to one support is provided by our Outreach team and transport can be provided where poor health would prevent attendance at an appointment. (Subject to availability)

Advice Service

In conjunction with the Citizens advice service, Herts Aid can offer appointments with a trained advisor in both Ware and Watford regarding issues such as: debt, financial advice, benefits, housing, relationship breakdown and other issues which require professional advice. The Advisor is available either in person by appointment, or by telephone or email.





HIV Support Services

Befriending

Our trained volunteers will work with people on a one to one basis, and the service can be varied according to the individual needs of each person.

Immigration Advisory Service

Working with Blavo & Co Solicitors, St Albans, Herts Aid can offer an appointment to see an Immigration solicitor for advice, at our premises in Ware or at Blavo & Co in St Albans or London. This service is by appointment only.

Hardship Fund & Children's Fund

Herts Aid can offer small grants for those who are experiencing financial crisis as a result of HIV infection and can make referrals to other agencies for hardship grants.

We also have a separate fund specifically for children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

All grant applications are subject to meeting both fund and financial criteria.



Clinical Services

Herts Aid offers **Chlamydia screening** at all sexual health workshops and awareness events. Testing is also available at all offices and service delivery sites across Hertfordshire.

We offer a confidential **Rapid HIV testing** service using a finger prick test, which gives results in minutes. Any positive result is fast tracked

to GUM clinics in Hertfordshire for clinical support and further testing.

Condoms and lubricant are available at all Herts Aid offices, service delivery sites and at all educational and training events.





Education & Health Promotion

Herts Aid offers a range of age and audience appropriate training programmes.

This includes: Sexual Health education and training for schools and other young people's organisations, as well as professionals, people living with HIV and the general public.

In conjunction with Hyperfusion, we can offer two **Theatre in Education Productions** :- *"It Won't Happen To Me"* and *"Love, Lies & Lullabies"*, which are aimed at ages 13 and above and focus on issues such as safer sex, STI prevention, teenage pregnancy, homophobia, peer pressure and risk taking behaviour. Both incorporate forum theatre which allows young people to participate in a "rehearsal for life". The young people direct the behaviour of the characters, allowing them to act out scenarios and which they may find themselves in at some point in the future.

Herts Aid provides online support to men who have sex with men, on Gaydar.

SCREAM

Funded by Stevenage Practice Based Commissioning, **SCREAM (Sex, Contraception, Relationships, Education And Mentoring)** is an innovative project consisting of cohesive and interlinking services which aim to reduce under 18 conception rates and promote good sexual health for life. Aimed at young people in Stevenage, the project includes Theatre in Education, (TIE) Itext, Chlamydia Screening and Peer Education.

Itext

Our text messaging service enables young people and others to seek confidential information and advice by texting their questions to **07813 684 294**. They will receive information back by text. Texts are charged at their standard network rate.





Volunteering

Do you have a few hours to spare each month?

Herts Aid is currently recruiting volunteers and Community Champions to support the charity in a range of different roles and activities. Volunteer roles include: providing transport, befriending, catering at peer support groups, fundraising, health promotion and service user support, to name a few. Community Champions work in a voluntary capacity to promote the work and services of Herts Aid and generally raise our profile within their local community, signposting people to our support services

and Rapid HIV testing Service. Expenses are paid, including mileage, and comprehensive training is provided which includes HIV 1 & 2, Confidentiality & Boundaries, Equality & Diversity, Safeguarding and Managing Challenging behaviour. Be part of a team where your contribution is valued and appreciated and learn transferable skills. Contact our volunteer coordinator on **volunteer@hertsaid.co.uk**, for an informal discussion.





Herts Aid Offices

Ware Office

York House
45 Baldock Street
Ware
Herts SG12 9DH
Telephone: 01920 484784
Fax: 01920 484772
Email: admin@hertsaid.co.uk
www.hertsaid.co.uk

Open 37.5 hours per week

Please telephone to make an appointment.

Watford Office:

Watford Wellbeing Centre
501 St Albans Road
Watford
Herts
WD24 7RZ

Appointments are available 37.5 hours per week,

or you can access our drop in service (No appointment necessary) at the following times:

Wednesday 12 Noon – 3pm

Thursday 11 am – 1 pm

Friday 12 noon – 3pm.

Stevenage Office (SCREAM Project)

Business & technology Centre
Bessemer Drive
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 2DX

Telephone 01438 310165

In addition to appointment and drop in services, we can also offer appointments at pre-arranged venues within the community for anyone who is unable to travel to our offices. We work in partnership with Watford, Hertford, Harlow and Stevenage Sexual Health clinics to support people living with or affected by HIV in Hertfordshire.

Please telephone Herts Aid on 01920 484784 or email admin@hertsaid.co.uk to make appointments at any of our offices.

Evening and weekend appointments are also available on request

Director (Suzanne Bannister)

07890 552459

Operations Manager

07790 907294

HIV Support lead

07435 751056

BME Communities Worker

07817 903480

Young Person's Sexual Health Worker

07435 751063

Volunteer Coordinator

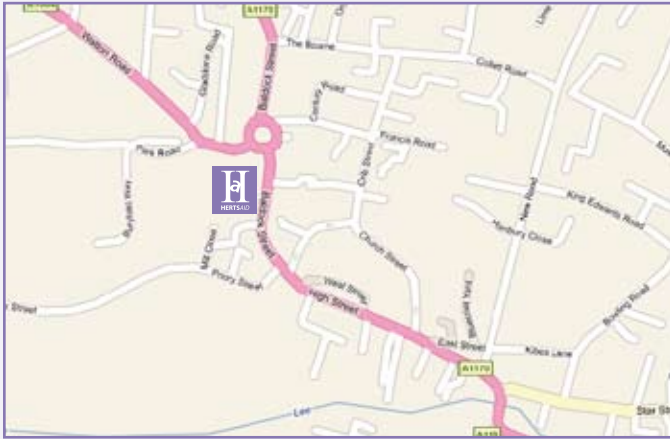
07435 751061

Stevenage Project Lead

07760 761902

If you are in crisis and cannot wait until the office reopens, please call: 07527 372045.





Herts Aid

Registered office:

York House, 45 Baldock Street

Ware, Herts SG12 9DH

Telephone: 01920 484784

Fax: 01920 484772

Email: admin@hertsaid.co.uk

Herts Aid is a voluntary Organisation

Herts Registered Charity No: 1130366 Company registration No: 6910096

