

BARNET BLACK COMMUNITY SEXUAL HEALTH/HIV/AIDS AND PrEP AWARENESS ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025/06

This report provides an overview of the progress made in sexual health and PrEP Awareness activity report in this year. Community Health Action Trust (CHAT) continue to increase awareness, understanding, and uptake of general sexual health, HIV/AIDS and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among priority populations (Black Communities) of London borough of Barnet through targeted outreach, education, and partnerships with community organisations and statutory health services.

Project Objectives

The key objectives of our intervention are to:

- Prevent HIV/AIDS infection.
 - Increase community HIV/AIDS, PrEP awareness and uptake.
 - Reduce HIV associated stigma.
 - Improve access to accurate information about HIV/AIDS and PrEP i.e. eligibility, benefits, availability, access points and usage.
 - Building good network with community members and local statutory sexual health providers.
 - Encourage individuals at high-risk of HIV to seek PrEP consultations and testing.
 - Encourage informed decision-making regarding HIV prevention – e.g. HIV status disclosure.
 - Promote HIV testing
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Progress and Achievements (To date)

Since the start of the project, we have conducted a range of community outreach activities reaching out to communities that may benefit from PrEP and statutory sexual health community services. These activities include:

- Information sessions and small group discussions within the community and local organisations
- Community workshops and information sessions.
- Peer-led discussions and outreach in community spaces.
- Distribution of materials including brochures, posters, and flyers.
- One -to- one community member engagement to address misconceptions and answer questions about PrEP and other sexually transmitted infections.

The outreach approach prioritised culturally appropriate messaging and engagement with trusted community leaders.

Education and Awareness Campaigns

The project has implemented several awareness initiatives designed to improve understanding of PrEP and HIV infection, prevention and treatment. Key activities include:

- Development and dissemination of educational materials explaining how PrEP works.
- Social media awareness information aimed at increasing visibility and reach.
- Collaboration with community leaders and advocates to promote accurate information.

These activities helped expand the reach of the project and increase engagement among younger audiences and individuals who primarily access information online.

Partnerships and Collaboration

A major focus of the project has been strengthening partnerships with organisations that support sexual health, HIV prevention, and community wellbeing.

Collaborations have included:

- Community-based organisations
- Local health clinics and sexual health services
- Advocacy groups working in HIV prevention
- Local Faith groups

These partnerships have helped improve referral pathways and ensure individuals to access reliable information and services.

Capacity Building

Training and information sessions were provided to community volunteers and peer educators to strengthen their ability to communicate key messages about PrEP and sexually transmitted infections.

Topics covered included:

- Basics of PrEP and HIV prevention
- Addressing myths and misconceptions
- Effective community engagement strategies
- Confidentiality and stigma-sensitive communication

Achievements to Date

Key achievements of the project during this reporting period include:

- Successful implementation of community outreach activities reaching diverse populations.
- Expanded awareness of PrEP among community members who previously had limited knowledge of the intervention.

- Increased engagement through awareness campaigns.
- Development of partnerships with community organisations and health providers.
- Training of peer educators to support ongoing community engagement.
- Positive feedback from participants attending workshops and information sessions.

The project has also observed increased interest in PrEP information and uptake.

Challenges Encountered

Stigma and Misinformation

Persistent HIV and sexual health stigma continues to influence community willingness to openly discuss PrEP and HIV infection and prevention.

Awareness Gaps

In some communities, awareness of PrEP remains low, and there is limited understanding of eligibility, access pathways, and effectiveness.

Resource Limitations

- Funding is down to zero
- Limited resources have occasionally constrained the number of outreach activities that can be conducted.
- Volunteers are hard to engage

Engagement Barriers

Some individuals face barriers to engagement, due to:

- Language barriers
- religion
- Cultural sensitivities
- Concerns about confidentiality
- Limited trust in healthcare systems
- Community member influence

Lessons Learned

Several lessons have emerged from the project so far:

- Peer-led engagement is highly effective in increasing trust and participation.
- Community partnerships significantly improve reach and credibility.
- Digital outreach complements in-person engagement and expands access to information.

- Tailored messaging is essential for addressing cultural and community-specific concerns.
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Next Steps

The project will focus on the following priorities for the remainder of the implementation period:

- Expanding community outreach activities.
 - Strengthening partnerships with sexual health services to improve referral systems.
 - Increasing targeted awareness campaigns for under-reached populations.
 - Continuing peer educator training and support.
 - Enhancing monitoring and evaluation to measure awareness and service uptake.
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Conclusion

Since the project launch to the present reporting period, the PrEP Awareness Project has made meaningful progress toward increasing knowledge and community engagement around HIV prevention and PrEP. While challenges such as stigma and awareness gaps remain, the project has established strong foundations through community partnerships, outreach initiatives, and educational campaigns.

Continued efforts will focus on expanding reach, addressing barriers, and ensuring that individuals have access to accurate information and supportive services for HIV prevention.
