NORTH YORKSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY 2005-2010
INDIVIDUAL CLIENT GROUP STRATEGY
PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

NATIONAL POLICY	LOCAL POLICY
National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV, DoH, 2002 Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health draft standards for dedicated services to HIV-positive women and men in the UK, 2002. Making It Count, DoH Housing Act 1996 (Part VII) Homelessness Act 2002	**Countywide** North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Community Strategy North Yorkshire supporting people five-year strategy North Yorkshire domestic abuse strategy **PCT Area** Local Delivery Plans **District/Borough** Community Strategies Housing strategies Homelessness Strategies Crime Reduction Strategy only Domestic Abuse Strategy
LOCAL DELIVERY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS	**USER INVOLVEMENT/ REFERENCE GROUPS**
Countywide Chief Housing Officers County Homelessness Group **PCT Area** **District/Borough** Housing Forums Homelessness Groups Domestic Abuse Forums	

The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV

The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV, published by the Department of Health in July 2001 has as the principal objectives of:

- Better prevention
- better services
- better sexual health
- reduction in inequalities in access to and provision of treatment
- improved availability of testing
- promotion of the use of the hepatitis B vaccine

For HIV/AIDS the strategy emphasises reducing health inequalities, encouraging better information and education and redesigning services around patients and their families. There are specific objectives about reducing the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and ensuring consistent quality of care regardless of point of access. Although director treatment of the condition lies with health professionals housing related support is seen as being able to provide a stable environment for independent living and a supportive basis for health treatment. It is seen as important that housing related support provision through supporting people is linked to and complements health and broader service provision, as it crosses client group, agency and local authority boundaries.

Supporting People with HIV in North Yorkshire: Social Inclusion and Diversity Paper Number 7, 2004, York St. John College report commissioned by the 4 PCTs in North Yorkshire

The criteria used for diagnosing AIDS varies from country to country and this can complicate interpretation of global statistics, however, recent estimates suggest that there are currently over 40 million people worldwide living with HIV. (Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre [CDSC], 2002).

In the United Kingdom detection of HIV antibodies in a person's bloodstream result in an HIV-positive diagnosis. The diagnosis of AIDS specifically refers to the existence of at least three specific opportunistic infections in one individual or a blood test result of the CD 4 cell count of less than 200 (Fieldhouse, 2002). In the United Kingdom there had been 57,763 individuals diagnosed with HIV at the end of June 2003. As HIV is a notifiable disease, medical practitioners are obliged to inform the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre of any patients they are treating with the virus.

These figures are updated annually and the most recent statistics showed cumulative figure of 2014 HIV-positive diagnoses in the Yorkshire and Humber region up to June 2003. Both nationally and regionally the incidence rate of HIV has increased, and locally, due to increased migration from countries with a greater prevalence of HIV infection. In the Yorkshire and Humber region there were 291 new diagnoses in 2002 and a further 149 diagnosed in the first two quarters of 2003. (PHLS, 2003)

What we have

Current Provision

District	Units People with HIV/AIDS	Funding People with HIV/AIDS
Craven	-	-
Hambleton	-	-
Harrogate	-	-
Richmondshire	-	-
Ryedale	-	-
Scarborough	-	-
Selby	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	-

How Current supply meets strategic objectives

There are no Supporting People funded services in the county for people with HIV/AIDS. People with long-term or life limiting illnesses are supported in the community within other client groups, for instance, within older peoples and generic services.

Needs analysis

The Research report " Supporting People with HIV in North Yorkshire: Service Users' Perspectives", York St. John College, Social Inclusion and Diversity Paper Number 7, 2004, assessed the needs of women and men living with HIV in North Yorkshire, and whether their needs could be met through services currently provided by both statutory and voluntary sector agencies in the area. In 2003 there were 92 people living in York and North Yorkshire diagnosed with HIV. The St. John College report acknowledges that whilst there are relatively few individuals in North Yorkshire affected by HIV the provision of effective and integrated support is likely to be hampered by the geography of the county. In particular the provision of support to HIV-positive people living in rural areas creates particular challenges.

Women and men who are diagnosed HIV-positive are not obliged to access NHS services in the area in which they live, for example in 2001 North Yorkshire PCTs were billed for services provided to 23 North Yorkshire residents by 11 PCTs nationwide. Research Questionnaires were distributed to HIV-positive patients and 39 were completed and returned by service users currently resident in North Yorkshire. The main points were:

- 82% men and 18% women returned questionnaires
- ages ranged from mid-20s to over 70 years
- 46% were heterosexual, 44% gay
- 46% live with partner, 10% live with family, 5% live with friends, 36% live alone
- 41% are in full/part-time employment/study
- 33% are unable to work or retired on ill-health grounds
- most respondents had lived in North Yorkshire for several years
- 56% service users were diagnosed as HIV positive over five years ago
- 39% were diagnosed between one and four years ago
- 5% received their diagnosis within the last 6 to 12 months
- 46% were diagnosed as being HIV-positive in hospitals or services within North Yorkshire
- 51% reported that they were given adequate information at the time of diagnosis however 36% indicated the information they received was inadequate

The report stated that support services are delivered in North Yorkshire by a number of statutory and voluntary agencies and specific support for people with HIV/AIDS by North Yorkshire Aids Action and MESMAC. (MESMAC services are aimed primarily at men who have sex with men). There seemed to be widespread lack of information available for service users, probably complicated by the geography and rural nature of the county. Members of staff in various organisations seemed to have little opportunity to meet and discuss practice and support for people with HIV. Whilst the report acknowledges that this was a low number of respondents it did reflect 50% of the people with HIV in North Yorkshire at the time, and made some attempts to discover whether the same services for gay men were also appropriate for heterosexual men or women, given that half of the respondents were heterosexual and there seemed to be some evidence through the questionnaires of less take-up of services for men and women who were heterosexual. The recommendations included:

- Reviewing information provided and its accessibility
- regular updating of NHS staff of current services offered within the health and voluntary sector
- formal relationship should be established between Health, North Yorkshire Aids Action and other voluntary sector service providers
- collaboration and referral needs to be strengthened between health, North Yorkshire aids action and other voluntary sector agencies to ensure that in the absence of dedicated provision within social services, other voluntary sector provides effective social support for those women and men living with HIV in North Yorkshire

Countywide priorities identified from consultation

Red (short term) priorities	
Floating Support Schemes for people with long term limiting health conditions	Assess need and provide flexible support schemes to all needs groups

What we want services to look like in five years

Currently there is no specific supporting people funded provision to people with HIV/AIDS in North Yorkshire and it is felt that given the rural nature of the county and the low numbers of people diagnosed with HIV one specific service would not be appropriate.

However from the information provided in the report from some York St. John College it is apparent that people with HIV/AIDS need support from a number of different agencies/services to enable them to continue to live independently in the community. Their primary contact is with health services and initial information about support should be given at that point. The St. John College report points to inadequacies at this information giving stage and the concern from some respondents who are HIV-positive that attempts to access support (outside of health) will result in lack of confidentiality and understanding of their needs.

Housing related support should be available professionally and confidentially to people with HIV and the Supporting People Team will work with other agencies to ensure that information about how and where to access support is made available. Information needs also to be gathered in consultation with health professionals and people with HIV of the types of support relating to Housing that they need.

Proposed Levels of Provision 2010

Client Group Area	Client Groups Included	Current Distribution of Funding	Projected 2010 Distribution of Funding
Socially Excluded	Travellers People With HIV Refugees and Asylum Seekers	0%	5%

Proposed Three Year Funding Framework

Client Group Area	Client Groups Included	Projected Funding					
		FY0506		FY0607		FY0708	
		%	£	%	£	%	£
Socially Excluded	Travellers People With HIV Refugees and Asylum Seekers	0	0	1.3	192,463	2.5	351,614

Service Objectives for People with HIV/AIDS

	Service Objective
1	Ensure access to appropriate floating support services across the county
2	Ensure information about Housing related support is available to this client group
3	Consult with health professionals and other colleagues about the specific needs for Housing related support for people with HIV/AIDS