

Leeds Fast-Track Cities

Two years on



Background

Leeds became a Fast Track City in February 2023.

Fast-Track Cities is a global initiative and means that we have signed up to work towards:

ZERO

new HIV infections and zero AIDs related deaths in Leeds by 2030

ZERO

new TB infections in Leeds by 2030

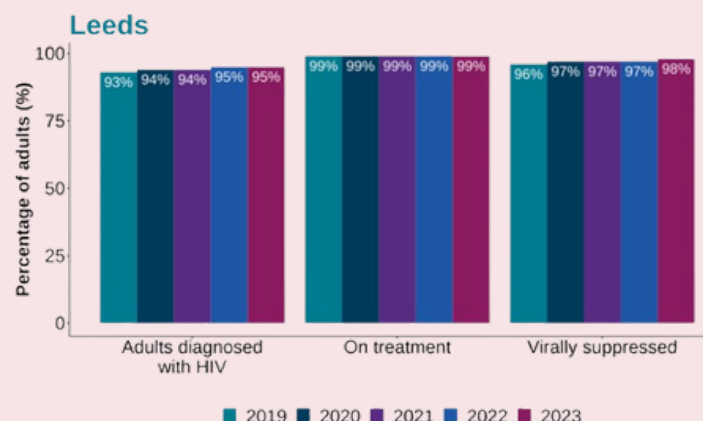
ZERO

new viral hepatitis infections in Leeds by 2030

ZERO

stigma related to all these infections in Leeds by 2030

HIV



As a city we are proud that we have already achieved the UNAIDS 95:95:95 targets for HIV. In Leeds:

- 95% of people living with HIV are diagnosed with HIV
- 99% of people living with HIV are on Antiretroviral Treatment (ART)
- 99% of people living with HIV are virally suppressed, so are unable to transmit HIV.

We are yet to reach our ultimate goal of no new HIV, TB and viral hepatitis infections plus the elimination of stigma in relation to these infections in Leeds by 2030, so we still have lots more work to do.

On X - @LeedsFTC ✉ Fast-track-city@leeds.gov.uk

TB

8 people per 100,000 are affected by TB in Leeds.

Active TB cases- 90 patients started on treatment for active TB in 2024 with 65 completing treatment. The remaining patients are either still on treatment, have moved abroad, sadly died or have stopped receiving treatment as it was found to not be TB. The TB service also screened 220 contacts for TB from the 90 active cases in 2024.

Latent TB - 315 patients started on latent TB treatment in 2024, which is an increase from 2023 when the TB service saw 213 patients start on latent TB treatment.

Viral Hepatitis

The number of HCV patients treated fell to 332 down from 492 in the previous year.

Opt out testing for BBV's in Leeds ED - 7 HCV cases and 64 HBV cases identified.

Community Liver Health Checks project - 6,995 fibroscans delivered, the highest number nationally. This streamlined service enabled 838 referrals to secondary care and optimised healthcare resources by returning over 6,000 patients to primary care.

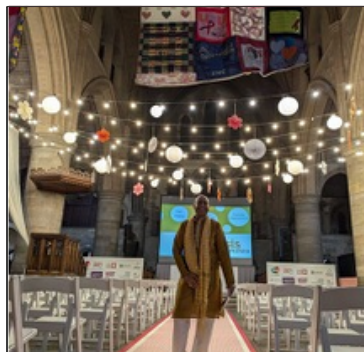
PCR testing using Cepheid machines - supported early case detection, with 477 patients tested and 48 referred, most from prison settings—highlighting the importance of in-reach care models.

Since becoming a Fast-Track City two years ago our main achievements to date have been:



- ✓ Video created to celebrate our first year achievements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvQW7BNUjJk>
- ✓ Re-establishment of opt-out HIV, hepatitis B and C testing in our emergency departments supported by government funding.
- ✓ Making 'Tackling HIV Stigma and Discrimination' e-learning for healthcare training package developed by the Manchester FTC team (huge thanks to them!) available to all health and social care staff across Leeds.
- ✓ Increased PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) provision to women and young men who have sex with men across the city & creation of a PrEP for women information video: [PrEP 4 Women Video - Yorkshire MESMAC](#)
- ✓ The Leeds HIV Service and TB clinics have worked together to set up clear pathways so that patients being treated for both conditions will have fewer appointments to attend.
- ✓ Fantastic response to our Leeds Fast-Track Cities Community Grants Programme - several successful project grants awarded & many other projects in the pipeline.
- ✓ Working towards incorporating opt-out HIV, Hepatitis B & C testing into our Leeds TB community screening programme.
- ✓ The TB outreach work funded by Leeds City Council broadened its focus to include new migrant communities, refugees and asylum seekers to engage with new entrant communities from countries where there is a high incidence of TB.

- ✓ Information sessions and the promotion of resources have been delivered to third sector and voluntary organisations to raise awareness about TB such as the key signs and symptoms, the importance of screening amongst eligible populations and that treatment for TB is free regardless of immigration status.
- ✓ Information sessions have been delivered to GP practices in Leeds to raise awareness amongst primary care of the importance of screening for TB.
- ✓ Annual review documentation at Leeds HIV service has been amended to include TB status and act as a prompt to consider testing for latent TB in appropriate situations.
- ✓ WYLCODN significantly broadened its outreach through peer support initiatives and culturally sensitive engagement campaigns, focusing on high-need, underserved populations. Community-based testing was delivered in settings such as refugee centres, faith-based gatherings, and homeless and rehabilitation services—reinforcing the Network's commitment to tackling health inequalities.
- ✓ New Leeds FTC website development in partnership with West Yorkshire Liver ODN.



Our community representative Naseer Hussain at the Fast Track Cities celebration event.

Community Representative Update

- Did an interview with FEVER FM Radio along with skyline about HIV and HEP C testing week.
- Co-hosted the Fast Track Cities Celebration event with Lady X from Skyline.
- Shared his story with NHS England Teams.
- Shared his experience of HIV treatment, and living with HIV; and the importance of testing and de-stigmatising HIV in a YouTube video for Fast Track Cities Leeds.

Data Subgroup

The Fast-Track Cities data and intelligence subgroup has helped our partnership to:

- ensure accurate data reporting & correct any errors.
- identify gaps in data collection & better understand trends / key populations.
- help drive forward work streams e.g. testing, prevention, reducing stigma etc.
- feed in community insight and intelligence from local services.
- develop a strategic and co-ordinated approach to Hepatitis, TB and HIV data and intelligence across Leeds.
- monitor our progress against the Fast-Track Cities targets.

Anti - Stigma Subgroup

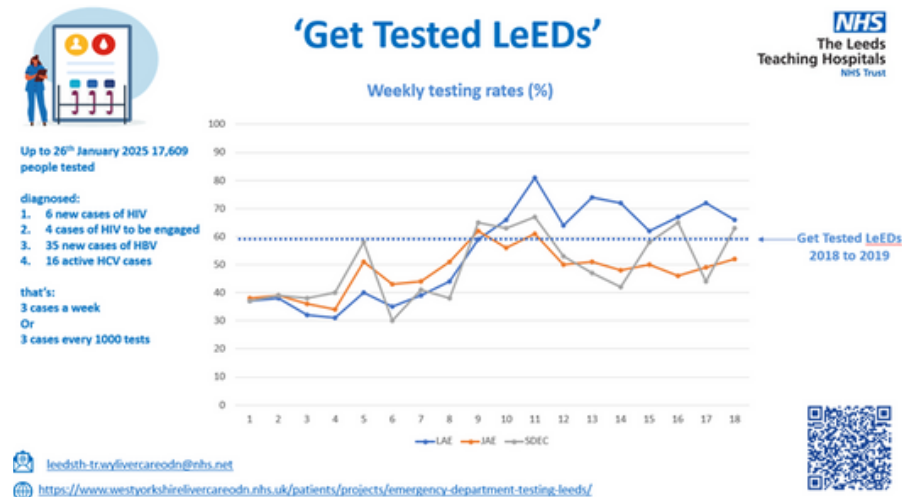
Looks at how we can reduce stigma across HIV, viral hepatitis and TB, and develop actions to achieve this. Main achievements in this second year:

- ‘Tackling HIV Stigma and Discrimination’ e-learning for healthcare training package developed by the Manchester FTC team (huge thanks to them!) now available to all health and social care staff across Leeds.
- Fantastic response to our Leeds Fast-Track Cities Community Grants Programme - several successful project grants awarded & many other projects in the pipeline.
- A wellbeing project developed by the BHA Volunteers culminated in a catwalk against HIV stigma at the Fast Track City celebration event in November.

Testing and Prevention Subgroup

Explores how we can increase the number of interventions we can offer in community settings especially to those most at risk and marginalised. Main achievements in this second year:

- Opt-out HIV, hepatitis B and C testing re-established in Leeds emergency departments in September 2024 – results to end January 2025 (see image below):



- Increased PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) across the city including the development of a new on-line service via Leeds Sexual Health.
- PrEP for women information video created by Yorkshire MESMAC and community PrEP Champions established by Yorkshire MESMAC.
- Successful grant application to enable incorporation of opt-out HIV, Hepatitis B & C testing into our Leeds TB community screening programme.



These grants are designed to empower local communities to tackle stigma and discrimination related to these conditions, centring the experiences of and amplifying the voices and stories of those with lived experience. Community grants projects that have been completed so far:

- **HIV Awareness Poster Campaign:** A HIV awareness campaign features posters designed by local individuals living with HIV. These posters were showcased at an event and are now displayed at Leeds Teaching Hospitals and council buildings.
- **Teddy Bear Trail:** A knitting group created forty hand knitted bears, bearing HIV facts. These bears were distributed across partner organisations across Leeds for HIV testing week. This included a bear that was presented to the Lord Mayor at the Fast Track Cities Celebration event.
- **Erasure Poetry Poster Campaign:** A poster campaign featuring poems created by people with lived experience. These posters were showcased at an event alongside the HIV awareness poster campaign.
- **Walking With Us - A Catwalk Against Stigma:** A wellbeing project by BHA Volunteers culminated in a catwalk against HIV stigma at the Fast Track Cities event. It included sessions on hopes, fears, and personal stories, along with music and movement activities. These sessions fostered strong friendships among participants. Despite initial fears, all participants confidently walked and danced on the custom catwalk. The project was supported by BHA staff and partners including Re-evolve Sound System, Quarmby Colour Studio, Forward Leeds, and My Life Experience.
- **Podcast Mini Series:** A five-episode podcast that discusses HIV stigma and healing from diagnosis. This podcast series invited guest speakers from faith groups and people living with HIV to share their stories. The podcast host and one of their guest speakers hosted the Fast Track Celebration event, delivering key information on the community grant projects and celebrating works of local provider.

**FAST-TRACK
LITEROUS CITIES**

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Are you based in Leeds?

Do you have an idea for a creative project that reduces the stigma associated with HIV, TB or Hepatitis?

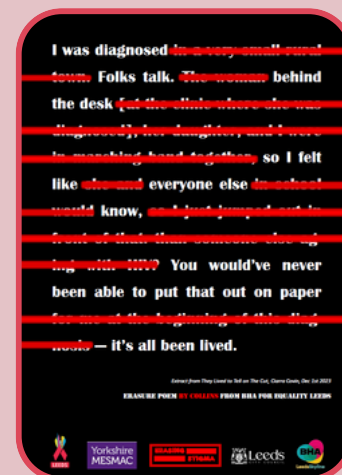
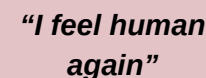
Apply for a grant of up to £1500

Applications welcome from 1st April 2025

For more information and to apply, contact:
ftrgrants@mesmac.co.uk
 Visit our website:
www.mesmac.co.uk

Yorksire MESMAC

Leeds



Hopes for Leeds Fast Track Cities for the next year

- More community involvement through ongoing community grants programme and encouraging the involvement of people with lived experience of viral hepatitis and TB.
- More GP involvement.
- More health care provider education.
- Introduce BBV testing as part of TB screening. A grant from Gilead has been received for a one-year pilot of introducing BBV screening (HIV, hep B and hep C) for new entrants who are receiving TB screening in the community.
- Establish joint HIV and viral hepatitis community & peer support programme.
- TB services to start a pilot with Leeds Sexual Health offering TB screening to sex workers through clinics and outreach.
- TB services to explore collaborative working with the prison service and Forward Leeds.
- Display Fast-Track Cities Community grants work at local museums, reducing HIV, TB and viral hepatitis stigma.
- Introduce TB and viral hepatitis e-learning.
- Develop and deliver a Fast Track City awareness training session which spotlights on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis.
- WYLCODN will build on its hepatitis C experience to expand early intervention into other liver diseases, such as hepatitis B and alcohol-related liver damage.

