

Community Partnerships

Supporting and working with community groups and clubs to promote a deeper understanding of local health and care needs and experiences

Spotlight on



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

Community HIV Specialist Service

The Community HIV Specialist Service (CHIVSS) offers community nursing and some psychological therapies to people living with HIV, aged 18 and over, in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex.

The service offers information, support, and advice to help people understand their condition(s), find out how to keep well, learn about taking their medication, discuss any challenges, and find out what other support might be needed.

CHIVSS work very closely with local specialist HIV clinics as well as HIV research departments. They have close links with local GPs and the voluntary sector.

The service is made up of specialist nurses in HIV and consultant psychologists. They have bases in central Brighton and Crawley Hospital, but can visit at home, in hospital or at a health clinic.

The services they offer include:

- Nursing support with home visits and health checks
- Case management of complex health issues
- Advice on making decisions about starting, changing, or stopping antiretroviral therapy
- Information to help the person living with HIV, their carers, and supporters to make choices about their healthcare
- Advice to help control symptoms from medication, for example pain, vomiting, diarrhoea
- Some psychological therapies
- Sexual health education and promotion
- Discharge planning from hospital
- Assisting and encouraging people to share their HIV status with others
- Help people understand medical terms

The aim is to promote independence, choice of lifestyle, and wellbeing. Helping people living with HIV, their carers, and supporters to make decisions about their health. They are part of a person's journey as many people see them when they are first diagnosed and come back over the years, if and when they need to.

They have three units covering the Brighton & Hove and West Sussex areas:

Brighton and Hove Team covering the B&H central commissioning group area (based at School Clinic, Brighton)

North Team covering Crawley, Horsham area (based at Crawley Hospital)

South Team covering Worthing, Chichester, Littlehampton area (based at School Clinic, Brighton)

The service is open 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday, except for public holidays.

Community HIV Specialist Service aims to contact anyone referred to the service as soon as possible, ideally within three working days.

The service works with people to explore their health needs and consider other factors such as the needs of their family, children, carers, and supporters. Then agree with the person an appropriate care plan. Following the referral and with the person's consent, communicate any ongoing issues back to the referrer.

Generally, people are referred via GPs, specialist HIV clinics, or by other medical or social care professionals. However, they do accept self-referrals.

Visit us at: www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/hiv

For help, advice, and information or to share your story

Healthwatch is your health and social care champion.

If you use GPs and hospitals, dentists, pharmacies, care homes or other support services, we want to hear about your experiences. We have the power to make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers listen to your feedback and improve standards of care. We also help people to find reliable and trustworthy information and advice



Last year, we helped nearly a million people like you to have your say and get the support you need.



If you are setting up or would like to share news of a similar project we would be interested to hear from you. Please contact Cheryl Berry, Community Partnership Lead: cheryl.berry@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk

w: healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk t: 0300 012 0122

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