

# Champion of Change: A peer led model

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# Champions of Change

A unique peer led project which addresses the worryingly high rate of HIV among African communities in the Midlands by addressing HIV-related stigma.

## Aim

- ❖ To change the perception of HIV through community engagement with African communities
- ❖ To recruit community champions to facilitate sustainable change in attitudes and behaviour related to HIV and stigma

# How

- ❖ Through building trust and relationships within local community settings (e.g Shops, Hairdressers , Churches etc)
- ❖ Recruitment and Training champions who become peer leaders from communities

# Outcomes

- ❖ Recruited and trained 29 change champions of which 8 were trained to level 3 OCN qualifications.
- ❖ Partnerships were created with organisations and community groups that serve the African community.
- ❖ Empowered communities with knowledge and understanding about HIV
- ❖ Enabled community members to be confident in speaking about HIV and sexual health openly

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# Benefits of peer led intervention

- ❖ Ownership of the project by the community (sustainability)
- ❖ Community actively in every aspect of the project
- ❖ Build trust and capacity
- ❖ Increased information and uptake of services

The background of the slide is a complex, repeating geometric pattern of yellow lines. The pattern consists of multiple parallel lines that form a series of interlocking, stepped shapes, creating a sense of depth and movement. The lines are arranged in a way that they appear to recede into the distance, forming a series of nested, angular shapes that resemble a stylized, abstract architectural or natural structure. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured background that frames the central text.

# Faith Leaders initiative

**Sherine Edwards-Dodd**

# Outcomes: Churches United to Fight Stigma

- ❖ Monthly drop-in clinic
- ❖ Workshops
- ❖ Stronger partnership with faith leaders
- ❖ Ownership and active involvement of faith leaders in planning sessions
- ❖ Developed a basic guide on addressing HIV from the pulpit
- ❖ Strategic partnerships ( faith covenant, WPN)

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# Key Message

- ❖ Potential for faith leaders to be key players in HIV prevention
- ❖ We are not experts ( we need your input)
- ❖ Faith leaders need a sense of control as to what information is disseminated within their ministry