

Welcome Hear Project

Targeting new arrivals in the UK on HIV prevention

**Wellington Moyo – Yorkshire MESMAC
(Wakefield)**

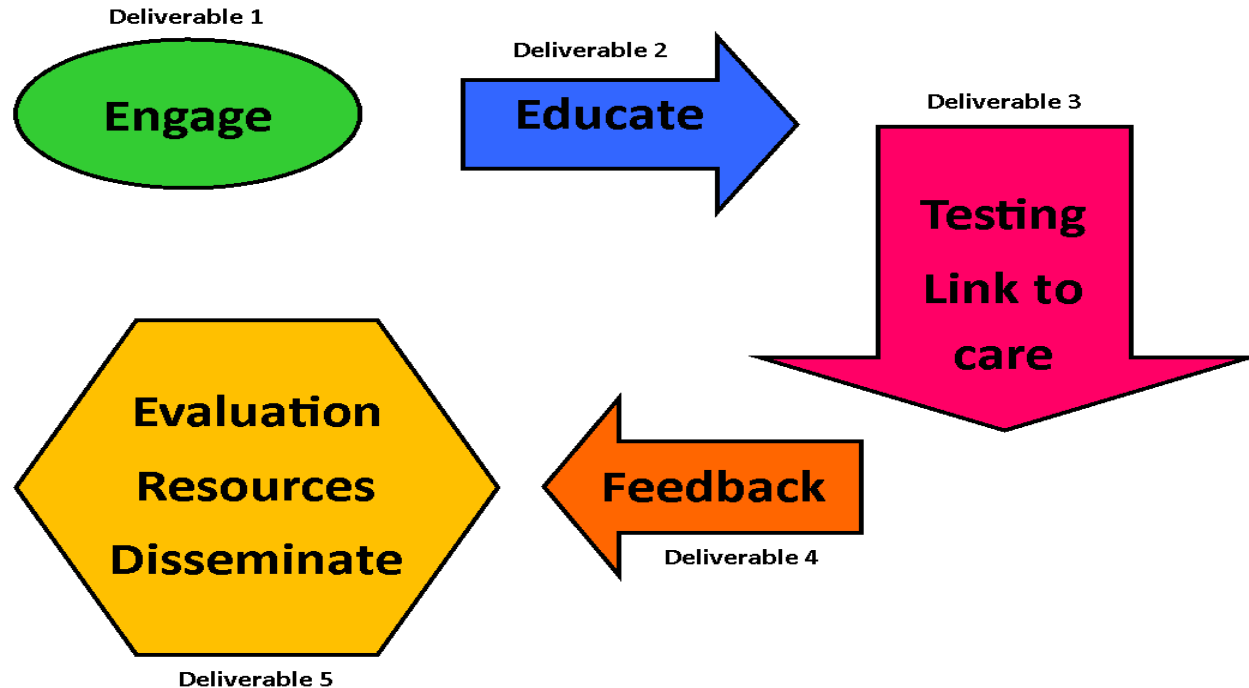
Urban House – Wakefield



Background

- Welcome Hear project targets new arrivals (asylum seekers) in UK on HIV prevention at Urban House
- Urban House – immigration transition centre receiving 200 – 300 people per fortnight
- Workshops and testing delivered in languages spoken by the targeted groups through the use of interpreters on weekly basis
- Tigrinya (Eritrea), Arabic (North Africa), Swahili & French (formerly French colonies) amongst the languages interventions delivered
- Pathways for referral to GUM established

Method - How we do it?



Delivery

- Focus mainly given to African women and MSM who form the larger group of migrants diagnosed with HIV in the UK
- HIV workshops delivered to raise awareness to the new arrivals
- HIV testing opportunities offered inside and outside Urban House by staff and volunteers (who include transition members) to promote participation
- Interpreters making it easier for the groups to hear and make decisions

Progress

- A total of 187 people reached over 4 workshops (8 HIV testing sessions), with 85 HIV tests done
- Approximately 55% of the service users are men
- Mostly African nationals from Sudan, Cameroon, Chad, Somalia, DRC, Uganda, Eritrea & Ethiopia
- More couples taking tests together
- Increased condoms uptake
- More volunteers offering their services to the project

Impact on future HIV prevention in UK

- Reduction in undiagnosed and late diagnosed HIV infection
- More people living with HIV linked to care
- Reduced HIV stigma amongst MARPS
- Reduced time from infection to diagnosis
- Increased HIV testing amongst MARPS
- Increased collective capacity of the HIV prevention sector to meet the needs of MARPs

Benefits

- First and best chance to test people when they arrive in the country
- Targeted, cost effective HIV and 'HIV services' Awareness sessions
- Easy and cheap here, challenging and expensive later
- Concentrated location of MARPs enables efficiency of reaching many in one place
- Provide services to a lot of people in a short period of time
- Reduce time between infection and diagnosis

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Monitoring system to collect HIV prevention data in place
- Feedback from service users to assess increase in HIV knowledge/support in UK
- External evaluation partner to gather qualitative data and service users feedbacks
- Podcasts for future HIV interventions