



ACET

www.acet.je

ACET *in Action*



HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Jersey

Annual Review **2007**

Director's Report



Rosemary Ruddy - Executive Director

There are now over 700,000 people living with HIV across the EU, and this number continues to rise year on year.

Fear and stigma

Over the past 20 years there have been huge changes in people's perceptions of HIV; how it is spread and how it affects the lives of the people living with the

virus. However one thing has not changed and that is the stigma and discrimination that surrounds people living with HIV.

In the beginning, people were afraid to touch anyone who was HIV positive, not drinking from the same cups or eating from the same plates. HIV positive patients in hospitals were isolated; HIV positive children were banned from some schools and in some cases burnt out of their homes. HIV stigma was a life threatening issue, which some brave people, such as Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, challenged when she tenderly hugged an AIDS patient while other people were terrified.

A barrier to prevention

A recent report from UNAIDS, undertaken by WHO Europe, identifies continuing discrimination as a real challenge and a significant barrier to an effective public health response to this epidemic. In many countries HIV positive people are discriminated against by employers, insurance companies, health care professionals, friends, families and Governments. There are over a hundred countries in the world today that have restrictions on HIV positive people visiting them or living there.

A breach of human rights

A report from the National AIDS Trust and AIDS Action Europe highlights discrimination in provision of goods and services, employment, healthcare, data protection, family rights and the legal system, all of which breach fundamental human rights.

Even more seriously, some countries are criminalising positive people for HIV transmission - putting the burden of HIV prevention solely on the shoulders of positive people.

Fear of rejection

Today the improvements in HIV treatment mean that HIV positive people are living longer and are capable of having productive lives. However, because of the continuing stigma and discrimination attached to a positive diagnosis, many live in fear that disclosure of their HIV positive status will lead to rejection from family, friends and potential partners.

This fear is intensified in a small community like Jersey where rumours and gossip, coupled with widespread ignorance and unfounded fears of transmission, work together to greatly increase the mental anguish of people living with HIV in the island.

Urgent need for HIV training in Jersey

A recent research report published by the Children and Young People HIV Network provides case examples of the damaging effects of stigma on young people living with HIV in Jersey. The report highlights the urgent need for HIV training for all professionals involved with the care of children and young people, coupled with the need to develop HIV policies and practice guidelines to guard the privacy and confidentiality of those infected and affected.

Confidentiality is crucial

Here at ACET we see first-hand the damaging effects of HIV stigma on the lives of our clients. That is why their confidentiality is of paramount importance to us. We also understand their need for unconditional love, understanding and practical support as they learn to live with a highly stigmatised chronic long-term illness.

That is why we are currently lobbying government policy-makers to ensure that the recommendations of the recent research report are implemented as soon as possible.

Island-wide campaign in 2009

Furthermore, we are committed to working with business, schools, Government, churches and the media to develop an island-wide HIV awareness campaign for 2009 to **Stamp out Stigma** and ensure that people living with HIV in Jersey are fully protected and treated with the respect and understanding they so desperately need.

There is still a great deal to do in terms of prevention programmes and caring for those living with HIV; engaging young people with relevant and practical education to help them develop the skills they need to make healthy choices; and providing high quality HIV training to meet the needs of professionals, employers and employees. However, I remain convinced that, working together, we can make a real difference.

Please continue to support us and work with us to make HIV stigma and discrimination a thing of the past in Jersey.

Rosemary Ruddy

Executive Director

“ Here at ACET we see first-hand the damaging effects of HIV stigma on the lives of our clients ”

Chairman's Message



Bruce Willing CBE - Chairman

It has been both a rewarding and a challenging year for everyone at ACET Jersey.

New Service Level Agreement

Rewarding because we have seen the value and impact of our HIV prevention programmes recognised within the highest levels of the Department of Health and Social Services and

endorsed with the signing of a new Service Level Agreement, which has helped to secure the future of our pioneering work with the Portuguese community in Jersey.

An unfashionable cause

Challenging because HIV/AIDS remains a very unfashionable cause for most people in Jersey. We deal with a subject that people would rather not talk about, let alone acknowledge, unless they come face-to-face with it in the form of a person living with HIV in Jersey, or because one of the ACET team is challenging them with the facts.

I am concerned that ACET, as an agency, is still essentially alone in Jersey in recognising the realities of HIV and the social and economic implications of ignoring the spread of this disease within our society. HIV is not exclusively a disease found in Africa, third world countries and among the gay community. Here in Jersey we have an ever-growing number of people from all walks of life, including Jersey teenagers, living with HIV.

A serious public health challenge

HIV is one of the most serious public health challenges in the world today for two fundamental reasons: there is no cure or vaccine; and the numbers living with the virus are continuing to increase in every country of the world.

Ignoring the issue puts our young people at serious risk. It is harrowing to hear that young people infected in Jersey are not only in deep shock but also saying: "I didn't believe HIV was around in Jersey because we don't ever hear about it?"

We know from data collected in the UK from Unlinked Anonymous Testing that one third of people infected are undiagnosed and can be inadvertently passing on the virus to their sexual partners.

A false sense of security

I therefore believe it is vital that a programme of Unlinked Anonymous Testing is implemented in Jersey without delay. Without data from this programme young people are being lulled into a false sense of security and we are all flying blind.

To use a contemporary analogy, it is exactly the same as refusing to carry out vital research into global warming and simply continuing deny that there is a problem.

Compassionate support

Over the past year our small team at ACET have worked tirelessly to provide unconditional and compassionate emotional and practical support for those in Jersey who are infected and affected.

HIV in the workplace

Working in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank we have developed new training programmes to raise awareness of HIV in the workplace, to challenge stigma and discrimination and to protect workers living with HIV. It has also been encouraging to see the establishment of an HIV Business Forum, which brings together business leaders, politicians and senior civil servants with a desire to grapple with the challenges HIV presents for business.

Prison programme

Prisons are breeding grounds for blood-borne viruses, including HIV, where infections can gain critical mass and move into the wider community. I am therefore pleased we have been awarded a two-year grant from the Drugs Trafficking Confiscation Fund to develop and deliver a comprehensive training and prevention programme for staff and prisoners to tackle blood-borne viruses at HMP La Moye.

Schools and young people

We are also expanding our education and training programmes with staff and young people in schools to include a staff training programme, **Working towards an HIV-friendly school**, which will help schools develop policies and practice guidelines which support and protect children and families living with HIV. We are also developing a new programme of sex, relationships and HIV education to complement PSHE programmes in Secondary schools and equip young people to make healthy choices.

It is rewarding to see what can be achieved by a small charity made up of people with a passion to make a difference. However, the challenges are still significant, although not insurmountable. With your continued support I am convinced that we can minimise the spread of HIV in Jersey, as well as improving the lives of those already affected.

Bruce Willing CBE
Chairman

“ I believe it is **vital** that a programme of **Unlinked Anonymous Testing** is implemented in Jersey **without delay** ”

9 ways ACET is responding to HIV/AIDS in Jersey. With your support we are >

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Government grant

I am pleased to report that at the end of 2007 ACET signed a Service Level Agreement with Health and Social Services, which will provide recurring funds to ensure the continuation of ACET's HIV education and prevention programmes for Jersey's largest minority community.

Over the past 11 years ACET has been successful in developing an impressive programme of outreach work coupled with health and literacy education for the Portuguese community in Jersey, many of who have real problems understanding important health information.

The new grant will enable us to provide practical and emotional support in Portuguese for those living with and affected by HIV in Jersey; continue to develop and deliver bespoke health education and prevention programmes for people whose first language is not English; provide an advisory and consultancy service for professionals working in Jersey's health and social services who provide services for Portuguese people; and furnish Health and Social Services with valuable data about the health needs of the Portuguese community in Jersey.

Drugs Trafficking Confiscation Fund

A two-year grant to develop and deliver a new education and training programme to tackle blood-borne viruses at the prison was also secured in 2007.

Lloyds/TSB Foundation for the Channel Islands

We are grateful to the Lloyds/TSB Foundation for the Channel Islands who awarded ACET a three-year grant in 2007 towards developing and implementing a new infrastructure and improved counselling and prevention services for high-risk client groups.

Anonymous charitable trust

A substantial portion of ACET's current funding is drawn from an anonymous charitable trust, which fully supports ACET's aims and objectives. 2007 was the third of the Trust's four-year commitment to support the work of ACET Jersey.

Major donors

ACET continues to receive support from a number of major donors. The Association of Jersey Charities awarded us £10,000 to provide more care and support services for people living with HIV in Jersey. We also continued to receive a recurring grant from the Sir James Knott Trust for our work with minority communities.

We remain grateful to Children in Need for their long-standing support of ACET's Saturday Kids Club, which forms an integral part of The Link, our Community Development Project.

Generous support has also been provided from the Elizabeth V A Rouse Settlement, the Robert Hall Foundation, TOC H, Standard Chartered (Jersey) Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada, BBC Jersey, IT Consult Ltd and all those brave people who took part in the Itex walk in 2007.

Churches

ACET is a faith-based charity founded on Christian principles, so we are especially thankful to the congregations of St Paul's Church, Jersey Community Church, Parish Church of St Ouen, Samares Methodist Church and Georgetown Methodist Church for their significant contributions and prayerful support.

Companies and schools

Gaining the support of the wider community is important to every charity, so we have been heartened to discover that staff from an increasing number of companies have been nominating ACET to receive the proceeds of workplace fundraising activities.

This approach has also been in evidence at local schools where students have selected ACET as one of their chosen charities and organised special fundraising events around World AIDS Day.

A firm financial footing

Looking at the Balance Sheet for 2007, I am pleased to report that ACET's assets at the end of 2007 were much healthier than the previous year and, provided the DTCF grant is released when the Service Level Agreement is signed with HMP La Moye, the charity should continue on a firm financial footing into the foreseeable future.

Malcolm Lewis FCA

Honorary Treasurer

Key Achievements in 2007



Provided 500 hours of confidential information and advice, together with emotional and practical support, for people living with HIV in Jersey.



Worked with a researcher from the Children and Young People HIV Network in the UK to raise awareness of the damaging effects of stigma and discrimination on children and young people living with HIV in Jersey.



Highlighted the need to provide updated HIV training and practice guidance for local professionals providing services for children and young people living with HIV in Jersey.



Highlighted the need to revise and update the States of Jersey HIV anti-discrimination policies and practices.



Educating young people

about the risks and teaching them how to avoid HIV infection.



Supporting parents

with parenting courses and practical resources to use as their children grow up and ask difficult questions.

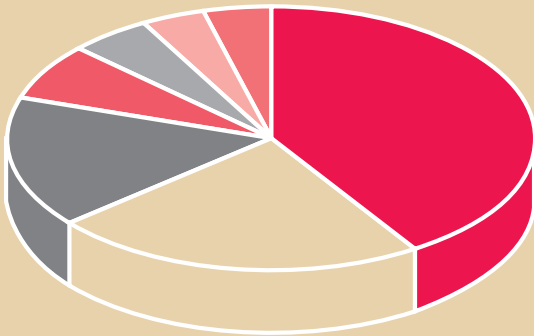


Reaching minority groups

with life-saving information and education about HIV/AIDS, drugs and sexual health.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2007

Expenditure £179,808



Minority Communities	£73,809
Children and Young People	£41,454
HIV Training	£30,363
Support for HIV positive people	£13,052
Parents	£8,874
Fundraising	£6,178
Central Administration	£6,078

Income £184,814



Trusts and Foundations	£137,972
Private Donations	£19,134
Companies	£12,168
Churches	£10,498
Tax Recovered, Bank Interest and Course Fees	£5,042
States of Jersey	£0

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2007

ASSETS	£	FUNDS	£
Fixed Assets		Reserve Funds	
Equipment	2,796	Brought forward	10,643
Current Assets		Surplus for the year	5,006
Cash at bank and in hand	16,650	TOTAL	15,649
Net current assets/(liabilities)	(3,797)		
TOTAL	15,649		



Worked with Standard Chartered Bank to promote their corporate responsibility programme, Living with HIV, and challenge local business to play a part in HIV prevention and education.



Launched HIV in the Workplace, a new programme of diversity and equality training to help employers manage and protect HIV positive employees.



Supported the establishment of an HIV Business Forum to harness the resources and expertise of business in educating people about HIV and challenging stigma and prejudice.

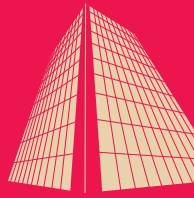


Secured a grant from the Drugs Trafficking Confiscation Fund to develop and deliver a whole prison approach to blood-borne viruses, including HIV, at HMP La Moye.



Providing confidential advice, information and support

for everyone affected by HIV/AIDS in Jersey.



Helping employers

recruit and manage HIV positive workers without prejudice or discrimination.



Providing HIV Equality and Diversity Training

for professionals and staff in the workplace.

About ACET Jersey

Who we are

ACET (AIDS Care Education and Training) Jersey is a member of the rapidly growing ACET International Alliance. The Alliance is an independent group of organisations around the world working to reduce the rates of new HIV infection, care for those affected by HIV/AIDS and support AIDS orphans.

Alliance members provide care, education and training to all those affected by HIV/AIDS and related issues, regardless of ethnicity, religious affiliation or any other factor. Each ACET programme is independent, with its own national leadership and accountability.

ACET Jersey's members are Christians who are committed to expressing in their life and work something of the practical and unconditional love of God as shown to us in Jesus Christ.

What we do

- We influence attitudes, behaviour and decisions at all levels that have an impact on the lives of people affected by, and at risk of, HIV and AIDS in Jersey.
- We provide practical and emotional care and support for all who are affected by HIV, regardless of how they come to be so, fighting stigma and discrimination and encouraging acceptance of those with HIV.
- We deliver life-saving education, encouraging long-term healthy lifestyle choices, giving young people the skills and confidence to resist peer pressure and to find their own way, using messages that are clear and adapted to each audience.
- We provide training for employers, professionals and workers on all the issues, including stigma and discrimination, associated with HIV/AIDS in the workplace and the wider community.

Why we are needed

HIV is increasing in every country of the world including the UK. 33 million people are currently estimated to be living with HIV worldwide, 73,000 in the UK.

There is no cure and a vaccine is still more than ten years away.

The pandemic continues to grow and change. Worldwide there are now more women than men living with HIV. The fastest rate of growth is currently in Central Asian countries where HIV is sweeping through the injecting drug user population.

The situation in Jersey

One of the challenges for HIV prevention is the numbers who are undiagnosed and could unknowingly be putting their sexual partners at risk.

At present, we have no way of estimating the numbers who are undiagnosed in Jersey. However, we do know that all sexually transmitted infections are on the increase in the island and locally an average of 1 person every month is diagnosed HIV positive.

Those most at risk of infection in Jersey are young people and marginalised groups, which include gay and bi-sexual men, injecting drug users who share needles, and people whose first language is not English.

In a small community like Jersey, many people living with HIV hide their status because they fear they or their families will suffer as a result of widespread HIV-related prejudice and discrimination.

Ignorance about HIV not only costs lives, it gives rise to unfounded fears of transmission and contributes to stigma and discrimination.

How we work

- We challenge complacency about the disease at a political and personal level.
- We provide confidential practical and emotional support for people affected by HIV and act as advocates on their behalf.
- We provide programmes of HIV education for young people in schools, youth groups and the wider community.
- We provide parents with resources and support to help them teach their own children about the issues associated with HIV/AIDS.
- We educate migrant workers and other minority groups about HIV/AIDS and ensure they know how to avoid infection.
- We help employers understand the needs of workers affected by HIV and ensure they know how to support and protect people living with HIV in the workplace.
- We work in partnership with a range of statutory and community agencies and participate in local forums with peer agencies.
- We provide training and seminars for employers, professionals and workers in all the issues associated with HIV/AIDS, including the unfounded fears that hinder prevention and give rise to prejudice, stigma and discrimination.



Reached an average of 83 migrant workers every week with education and information about HIV, sexual health and relationships, together with practical advice and support in accessing local health and welfare services.



Provided a bespoke programme of 108 Skilled for Health classes and 334 assisted e-learning sessions at The Link to help economic migrants with very low levels of literacy safeguard their own health and access local services.



Developed and delivered a new Parenting Course for Portuguese parents in partnership with Parenting Services at the Bridge.



Secured government funding to further develop health improvement education and access to health and welfare services for Portuguese people in 2008 and beyond.



Running AIDS campaigns

to challenge complacency and educate all sectors of the community.



Influencing policy-makers

about the need to minimise the spread of HIV and support those affected.



Challenging HIV-related stigma and discrimination

wherever it appears in the community, in schools and in the workplace.

ACET Jersey

Patrons

Jersey

Sir Philip Bailhache, Bailiff of Jersey
The Very Reverend Canon Bob Key, Dean of Jersey
Monsignor Nicholas France, RC Dean of Jersey
The Reverend David Coote, Superintendent Methodist Church Jersey
Clive Barton FCA FIM, Moore Stephens

UK

Gerald Coates, Pioneer Churches
Sir Cliff Richard OBE

Trustees

Brigadier Bruce Willing CBE, Chairman
Malcolm S Lewis FCA, Honorary Treasurer
Lou Scott-Joynt
The Reverend Ray Speck
Philip Slater
Norris Syvret

Executive Director

Rosemary Ruddy BA FCMI MinstF (Cert)

Sponsors

We would like to thank all those who have supported ACET Jersey's work in 2007 with gifts and sponsorship, especially those who have given regularly to our work.

Churches

Georgetown Methodist Church
Jersey Community Church
Methodist Church Multi-Racial Projects Fund
Parish Church of St Ouen
Samares Methodist Church
St Paul's Church

Companies

A M Consultancy Limited
Cosmopolitan
Itex Jersey Limited
I T Consult Ltd
Jersey Events
Standard Chartered Bank

Trusts and Foundations

Association of Jersey Charities
BBC Children in Need
Elizabeth V A Rouse Settlement
Gouray Lodge Charitable Trust
James Roberts Memorial Trust
Robert Hall Foundation

Staff at

AIB Bank (CI) Limited
Barclays Wealth
Employment and Social Security
HSBC
Jersey Opera House
KPMG
Moore Stephens
Mourant
Royal Bank of Canada
Sir James Knott Trust
TOC H Jersey Charitable Trust
Zurich Trust

Schools

Beaulieu Convent School
Haute Vallee School
Hautlieu School
Jersey College for Girls
Le Rocquier School



Provided HIV/AIDS education for 650 students in 4 island secondary schools.



Provided Children's Clubs with opportunities for personal and social development for 95 vulnerable children at risk of drug misuse and early sexual activity.



Ran the 2007 World AIDS Day Campaign in Jersey including a Student Leadership Programme coupled with exhibitions and events in schools, Street Collections and Dress Down Days.



Developed a new staff training course, Working towards an HIV-friendly school, which ensures staff have up-to-date knowledge of HIV; and have policies and guidelines in place to protect confidentiality and avoid the harm that can be caused to children and families by HIV stigma.



ACET

www.acet.je



“ We cannot deal with AIDS by making moral judgements or refusing to face unpleasant facts - and still less by stigmatising those who are infected and making out that it is all their fault ”

Kofi Annan
Former Secretary General
United Nations

AIDS Care Education and Training Jersey (ACET)

is an association incorporated before the Royal Court of Jersey in December 1994. The charity is a member of the ACET International Alliance.

ACET Jersey, 6 Plaisance Terrace,
La Route du Fort, St Saviour,
Jersey JE2 7PA
Telephone: 01534 505957
Facsimile: 01534 505958
Email: info@acet.je
Website: www.acet.je



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE