

Young People's Panel

Recruitment Pack



About Waverley Care

At Waverley Care, we take a positive approach to HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health.

We work closely with communities, starting conversations about these issues, encouraging people to access testing and empowering them to make choices that improve their health and wellbeing.

We're also here for people living with HIV or hepatitis C, working with them to understand their needs and offering practical support that helps them to live well.

We work hard to challenge the stigma associated with HIV, hepatitis C and sexual health, and address the broader inequalities that our communities face.

Across all of our services, Waverley Care's ability to adapt to change, alongside the quality of our services and professionalism of our staff, underpins the strong reputation we have built. As we continue to learn and adapt to a changing world, we want to make sure we are guided by the experiences of the people we work with – including young people.

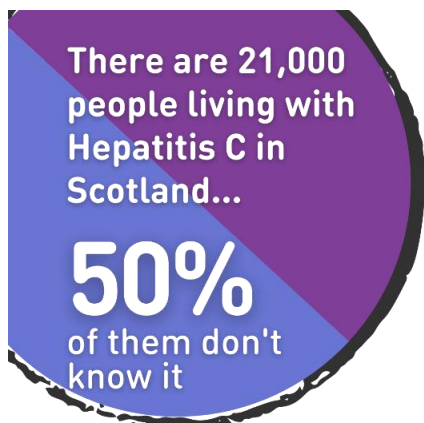
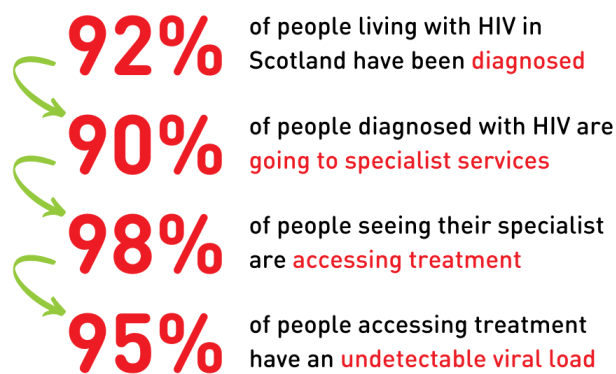
Getting to zero HIV infections

Long-established treatments are allowing people to take control of HIV and live long, healthy lives, while advances in prevention, including PrEP and U=U offer the tantalising prospect that we can achieve the ambition of zero new HIV infections by 2030.

The single biggest barrier to achieving that ambition is stigma. The devastating impact of HIV in the '80s and early '90s continue to influence perceptions of the condition to this day.

We know that stigma has a damaging impact on the physical and mental health of people living with HIV. We also know that it is one of the biggest factors preventing people from getting tested and knowing their HIV status.

It doesn't have to be this way - the science is there and we believe it's time for society to catch up.



Eliminating Hepatitis C

Within the next four years, we have a Scottish Government-backed commitment to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health concern. This has been made possible by the introduction of revolutionary new treatments that have proved quicker and more effective than their predecessors.

The 2024 elimination target hinges on our ability to reach the estimated 10,500 people who are living with the condition, but have never been diagnosed – including many who are completely cut off from support and considered 'hard-to-reach'.

Even if the target is achieved, the definition of 'elimination' means that beyond 2024, there could still be thousands of people with complex needs living with hepatitis C. Ensuring that they continue to receive support with a wide range of issues will be vital.

Scotland has long talked itself up as a global leader in hepatitis C. Now it's time for us to put our money where our mouth is.

Improving Sexual Health

Sexual health is not just about preventing unwanted pregnancy or STIs.

Our approach is much broader, encompassing everything... from learning how to use condoms, promoting healthy relationships, understanding consent and the law... to improving understanding of sexuality, gender and identity and encouraging learning around sexual pleasure.

Our involvement in sexual health has grown from its role in HIV transmission, to becoming a more fundamental part of what we do, particularly through our Wave and SX projects.



Wave provides sexual health and relationships support for under 25s in Highland and Argyll & Bute.

We offer *education programmes for young people * training for professionals *information and advice for young people online *free resources

Part of Wave's ethos has been to involve under 25s in the development of the service from day one. Young people have helped decide everything from our logo, to how we deliver education programmes, and we work hard to keep participation at the heart of our service.

To find out more about Wave, visit www.wavehighland.com.

SX is about improving the sex, health and wellbeing of gay and bisexual men, and all men who have sex with men living in Scotland.

Our ethos is to be sex positive and we strive to improve the physical, sexual and mental health and wellbeing of all men who have sex with men.

We are proud to be part of the LGBTQ+ community, and we aim to reflect the diversity of the people we work with.

To find out more about Sx, visit www.s-x.scot.



For more information about all Waverley Care services, visit www.waverleycare.org.

About our Young People's Panel

Waverley Care strives to ensure that people's voices are heard throughout our work, and we engage with the communities we work with to ensure the services we provide are exactly what people want and need.

Now we are bringing together a young people's panel to help us develop and improve our services for under 25s across Scotland.

Together, our panel will:

- Ensure that the needs of the young people we work with are put first
- Help set strategic direction and oversee its implementation within our services
- Ensure that young people's voices are heard and represented across all areas of our work
- Work with partner agencies to represent young people across Scotland and influence policy and practice within sexual health and relationships.

Structure and Commitment

The panel's structure and priorities are shaped by its members, supported by Waverley Care staff.

All panelists are invited to attend full panel meetings once every 2/3 months, as well as getting opportunities to be involved in specific projects and bits of work as and when they arise. It is down to each panelist to manage their own capacity, no-one will be expected to participate in every opportunity that comes up.

Meetings are currently held remotely via Teams or Zoom, with members using Discord to communicate about specific bits of work in between meetings. This might change in future, with more chance for meetings to include a mix of virtual and face-to-face events.

In addition to meetings, the panel will be responsible for reporting to Waverley Care's Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees on their work and involvement, as well as working directly with staff from different Waverley Care services on specific targets.

There will also be opportunities for panelists to work with partner agencies to influence change in practice and policy across Scotland.

Who we're looking for

The main criteria for panelists are:

- **Must be aged 16-25**
- **Must live in Scotland**

We are looking for proactive individuals who share our values and believe passionately in supporting young people to overcome inequalities to improve their health and wellbeing.

Previous experience of participation in sexual health is not essential, and we may be able to offer mentoring and training to support appropriate candidates to develop their skills.

We believe that people from all backgrounds can bring valuable skills and experiences. Below, we've set out some examples of the types of attributes that we are looking for in our panelists. However, this should not be viewed as a checklist.

Whether you have one, some, or all of the attributes listed, the most important factor is passion for helping to empowering young people to live healthy lives.

Skills and Knowledge

- An excellent communicator, confident expressing their views and opinions.
- Understanding of the issues around sexual health and relationships that face young people across Scotland.
- Ability to think creatively and work with different groups of people.
- Ability to prepare and present information that represents the needs of under 25s.

Qualifications and Experience

- Lived experience of the issues that our charity deals with – including personal experience, or experience of supporting or working with others. This could include:
 - experience of accessing sexual health services/have been affected by sexual health and relationship issues
 - lived experience of issues that disproportionately affect young people (accessibility, stigma, etc.)
 - experience from within groups in society disproportionately affected by poor sexual health (e.g. gay and bisexual men, transgender people, African communities, people living with a disability)

Values and Behaviours

- Commitment to improving the sexual health and wellbeing of young people.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to the role.
- Self-motivated, proactive and flexible.
- A team player with the ability to develop good working relationships with other panelists, staff and partners.
- Able to demonstrate understanding of and apply our work place values:
 - Respect - we embrace equality and diversity, are open, transparent, honest, inclusive and trustworthy.
 - Believe - we value, listen and respond to the reality of each person's experience.
 - Build - everything we do aims to realise people's full potential.
 - Inspire - we are dedicated to breaking down barriers and working creatively towards a healthier future.

How to apply

To apply, please send either a short video **or** a written statement telling us:

- about you;
- why you are interested in joining the panel;
- what you can bring to the role.

Applications can be sent to **hello@wavehighland.com**.

Please note: This is a voluntary, unpaid position but reasonable expenses are covered