

# **Call for evidence – APPG inquiry into fragmentation of HIV services in England following the implementation of the Health and Social Care act (2012).**

## **Background to the inquiry**

In April 2013 the Health and Social Care Act (2012) came into force. Implementation of the act resulted in significant changes to the commissioning of key HIV services with responsibility being shared between local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England. This has given rise to concerns about the practical implications of the Act, including:

- the potential fragmentation of services
- the lack of accountability in local authorities tasked with maintaining treatment and prevention programmes
- the impacts of budget constraints on provision of services
- geographical differences in service quality and availability
- the lack of specialised HIV expertise within local authority commissioning bodies

Now that the Act has been in force for 2 years the APPG would like to take stock of its consequences. We would like to investigate whether the changes have benefitted or hindered HIV services and treatment. Anecdotal evidence to date implies that the quality of services has declined in many areas. Taken alongside the increased prevalence of HIV within key demographics, this suggests that there is a very real risk that the changes could be impacting on the effectiveness of services and putting the NHS under greater strain through increasing treatment costs.

The inquiry aims to identify what changes may be necessary to ensure the highest quality of HIV services are delivered whilst ensuring that the appropriate bodies have clearly defined budget responsibility and other accountability measures are in place to ensure that public funds are utilised most effectively. We are also keen to identify examples of best practice that could become potential templates for success.

## **Process**

Written submissions will be invited and considered in late 2015.  
Further field research and oral evidence sessions will be conducted in early 2016.  
Findings and recommendations will be published spring/summer of 2016.

## **Questions for the inquiry**

1. What has been the impact of the changes to health commissioning, introduced in April 2013 by the Health and Social Care Act (2012), on the provision of the following services:
  - a. HIV testing
  - b. HIV prevention
  - c. HIV treatment
  - d. HIV related social care
2. Is an adequate level of clinical expertise present within the relevant commissioning bodies?
3. Which body or bodies should be responsible for the commissioning of each of the services?

4. Which body should be responsible for oversight and ensuring standards of provision are met?
5. What impact have the changes had on the implementation of NICE guidance in relation to the HIV prevention and care pathway? (Please include examples of good or bad implementation and/or examples of innovation or good practice developed as a result of the act)
6. What steps could be taken to adapt the current arrangement to ensure that measures are in place to achieve the highest standard of services whilst ensuring public funds are most effectively spent?
7. Please share any other relevant information.

## **Guidance for submissions**

**Deadline for submissions is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 9am.**

- The submission should be in Word format emailed to [matt.grady@parliament.uk](mailto:matt.grady@parliament.uk);
- It should be clearly stated who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation;
- If your submission refers to a local authority, please indicate clearly which local authority;
- It should comprise a single document attachment to the email;
- It should begin with a summary in bullet point form;
- It should have numbered paragraphs;
- It should be no longer than 3000 words;
- Please only answer the questions which you feel are relevant to you, do not feel you have to answer all of the questions;
- Please use the question headings and numbers to organise your response.

Written evidence may be referenced in the final report. If you wish for your evidence to be anonymous please make this clear. Submissions should be emailed to the group's Policy Advisor, Matt Grady at: [matt.grady@parliament.uk](mailto:matt.grady@parliament.uk). If you have any queries about the report or require further information please contact Matt at the email address above.