

# Tackling stigma – a London hospital experience

Dr Iain Reeves

Homerton University Hospital

# Declaration of Interests relating to this presentation

- None

## **BHIVA Standards of Care 2018. Section 2: Person- centred Care**

“Staff involved in HIV testing, diagnosis and treatment should have access to training and information that explicitly addresses the stigma and prejudice faced by people in key populations, in particular on the specific needs of trans people and people who use drugs, designed to challenge preconceptions and stigma still experienced by members of these groups.”

“Staff across all healthcare services should be provided with training on how to identify the impact and effects of stigma, including what it is, how it is manifested, the consequences on mental well-being and behaviour, as well as how issues can be addressed practically.”

# Stigma



Emile Durkheim

Socially constructed notion of social acceptance based upon identity and association.



Erving Goffman

“the situation of the individual who is disqualified from full social acceptance”

# Στίγμα

## Στιγματίζω



# Tackling HIV Stigma: What works?

Using the global evidence base to reduce the impact of HIV stigma



Protecting and improving the nation's health

## Positive Voices: The National Survey of People Living with HIV

Findings from the 2017 survey

HIV in the UK: Changes and Challenges; Actions and Answers  
*The People Living With HIV Stigma Survey UK 2015*  
National findings

STIGMA SURVEY UK 2015

BYUS  
FORUS



Ok – but what do you actually do?

# What we did

- Declaration on WAD 2018
- Formed a working group in the department
- Did some research
- Made a plan

# Staff and patients

- Patient forum
  - Led by peers
  - Distinctions between self-stigma and enacted stigma
- Staff
  - Away half-days x 2
  - Thinking about:
    - What we understand by stigma
    - The impact on the people we see
    - Planning what we might do

Our strategy

Plan

Measure

Do

Measure again

# Schwartz Round

- Staff support
- Reflective
- Evidence based format
- Focus is not on clinical care delivery
- Aim to deal with staff experience / emotional impact





HIV

## Homerton's HIV team fighting stigma inside and out



By Boyz

Posted on 20th August 2019



Homerton Hospital in East London has been looking after people with HIV at the Jonathan Mann Clinic based in the Clifden Centre since it opened in 2013. The clinic is named after the leading US doctor who pioneered AIDS research in the 1980s. David Bridle spoke to the Homerton team of Dr Iain Reeves, Lead Consultant for HIV, Mike Spall-Hancy, Charge Nurse for HIV care and Chris Buckley who is HIV himself and is the HIV Peer Navigator

# Literature Review

“There is a scarcity of well designed intervention studies that document stigma reduction in people living with HIV and few studies that specifically assess the effect of stigma on health-related quality of life.

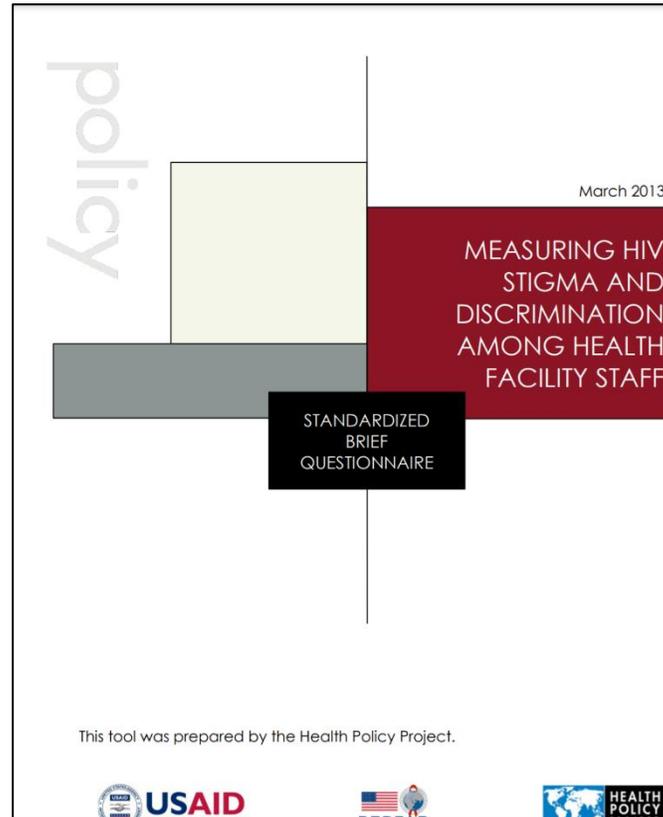
Further, few interventions target discrimination from providers outside of HIV-specific care or involve people living with HIV in both the design and implementation.”

University of Adelaide to GTF.

**Competing interests:** The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

ance to universal precaution (MD = 1.65 [95% CI 1.41 to 1.89]) when compared to usual care (moderate quality evidence). The Summary of Findings table (SOF) is shown in [Table 1](#).

# Measure



<https://www.healthpolicyproject.com/index.cfm?ID=publications&get=pubID&pubID=49>

# Questions

- **Worry** about performing care activities
- **Witnessed** discrimination / poorer care
- **Attitudes** to PLHIV
  - PLHIV should be ashamed
  - PLHIV do not care if they infect others....

# WAD 2019

- Administer questionnaire at WAD stall in main hospital
- Aim to perform pilot – get an idea of acceptability / utility
- Plan then to administer to different staff groups / departments
- Research ethics – not required if study concerns healthcare staff and performance of their ordinary duties



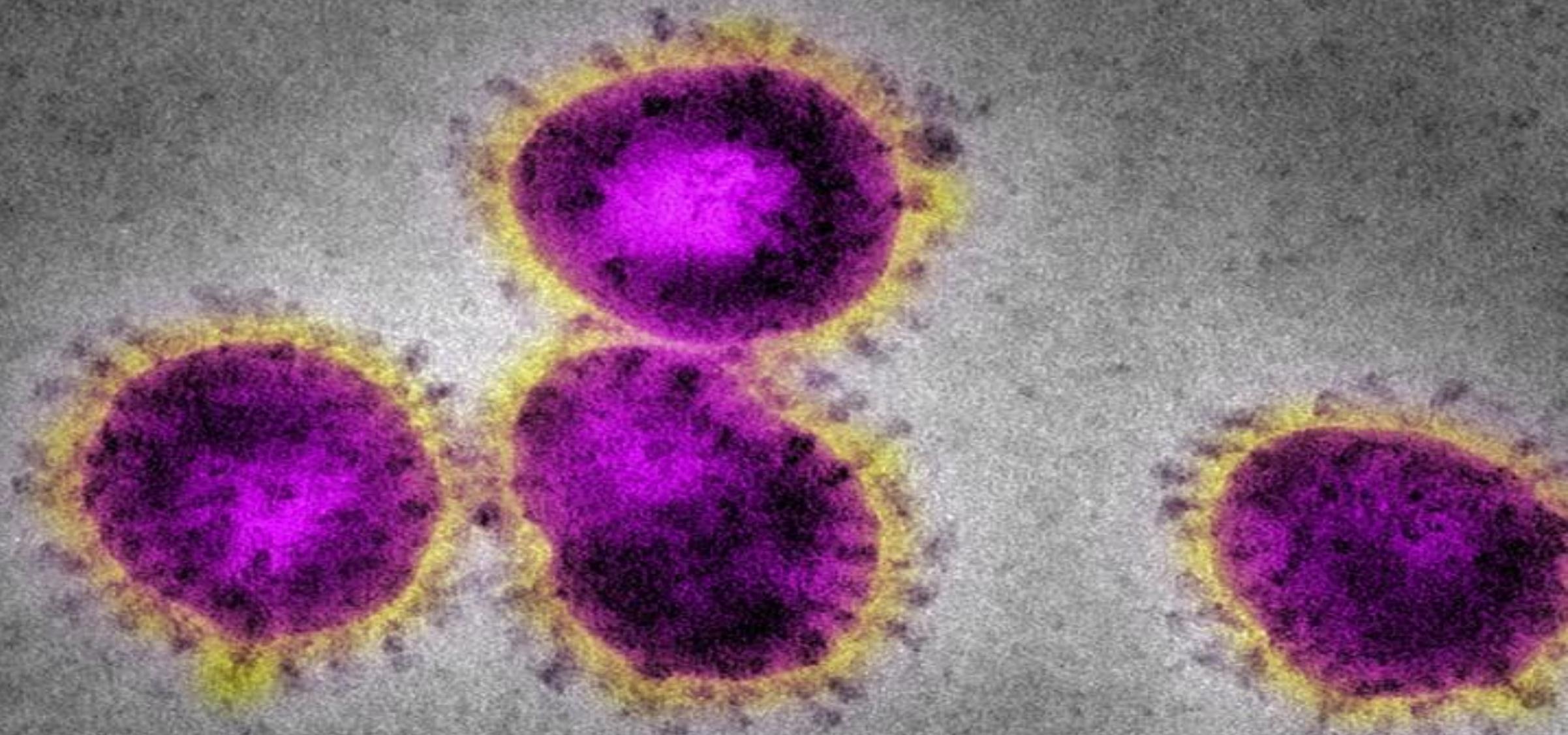
# Questionnaire result

Most important lesson:  
Plan properly!

184 responses with no staff group info

# Do: some ideas

- Get Trust involvement
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Compassionate Care
- Think about synergies with other health issues associated with stigma:
  - Diabetes
  - Mental health
  - Drugs and alcohol
- Make some short films
  - Involve PLHIV
  - Involve Opinion Leaders
  - Try to make it relevant to real life situations



# Conclusions

- There are validated tools to measure stigma
- Plan carefully and communicate with your team
- Involve PLHIV at all stages
- Get buy in from your organisation
- Evidence for interventions is weak, but you can approach this as a QI project
- Think about what motivates change – knowledge unlikely to be enough on its own