

# ‘Don’t forget the children’ – even in a pandemic!

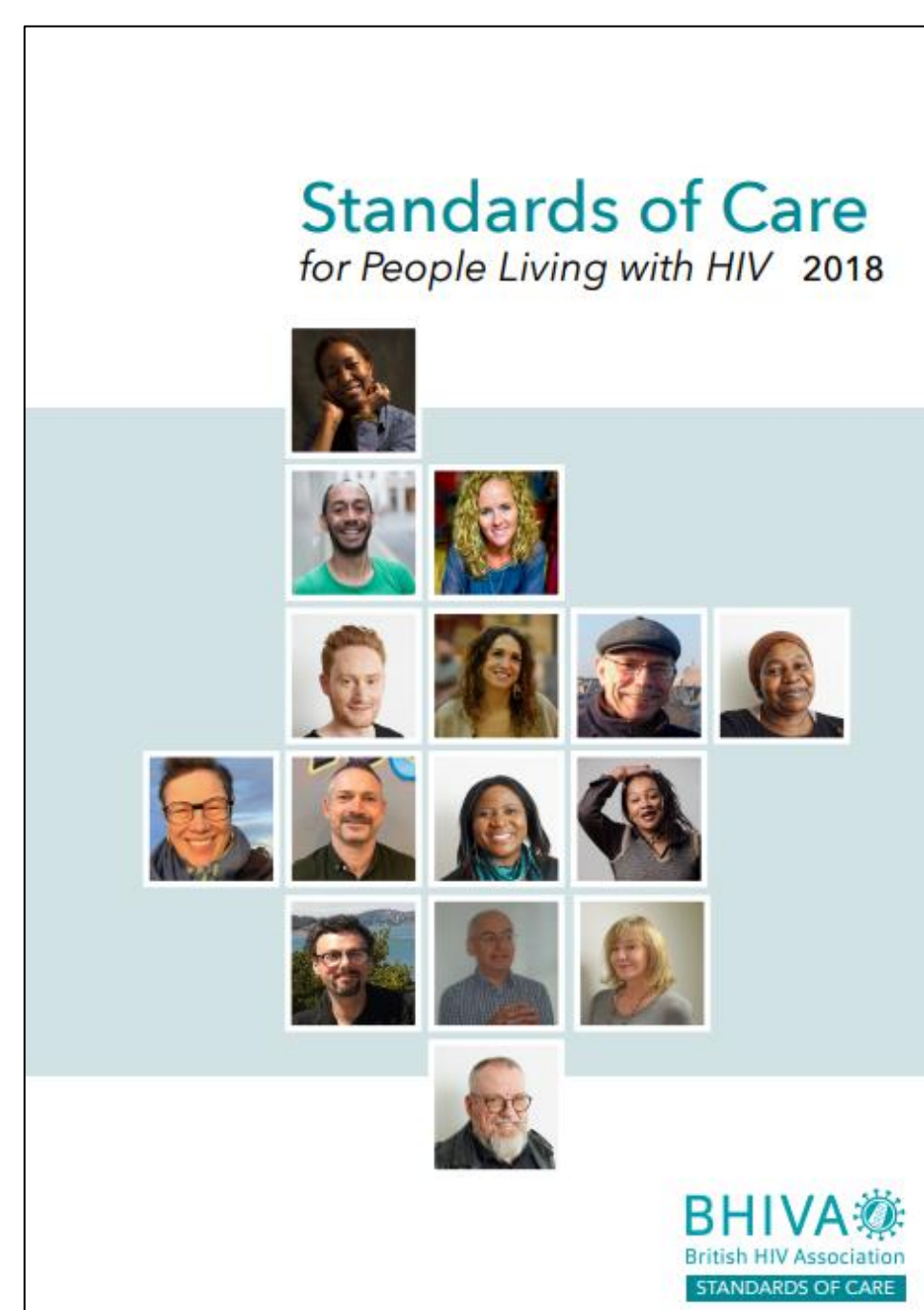
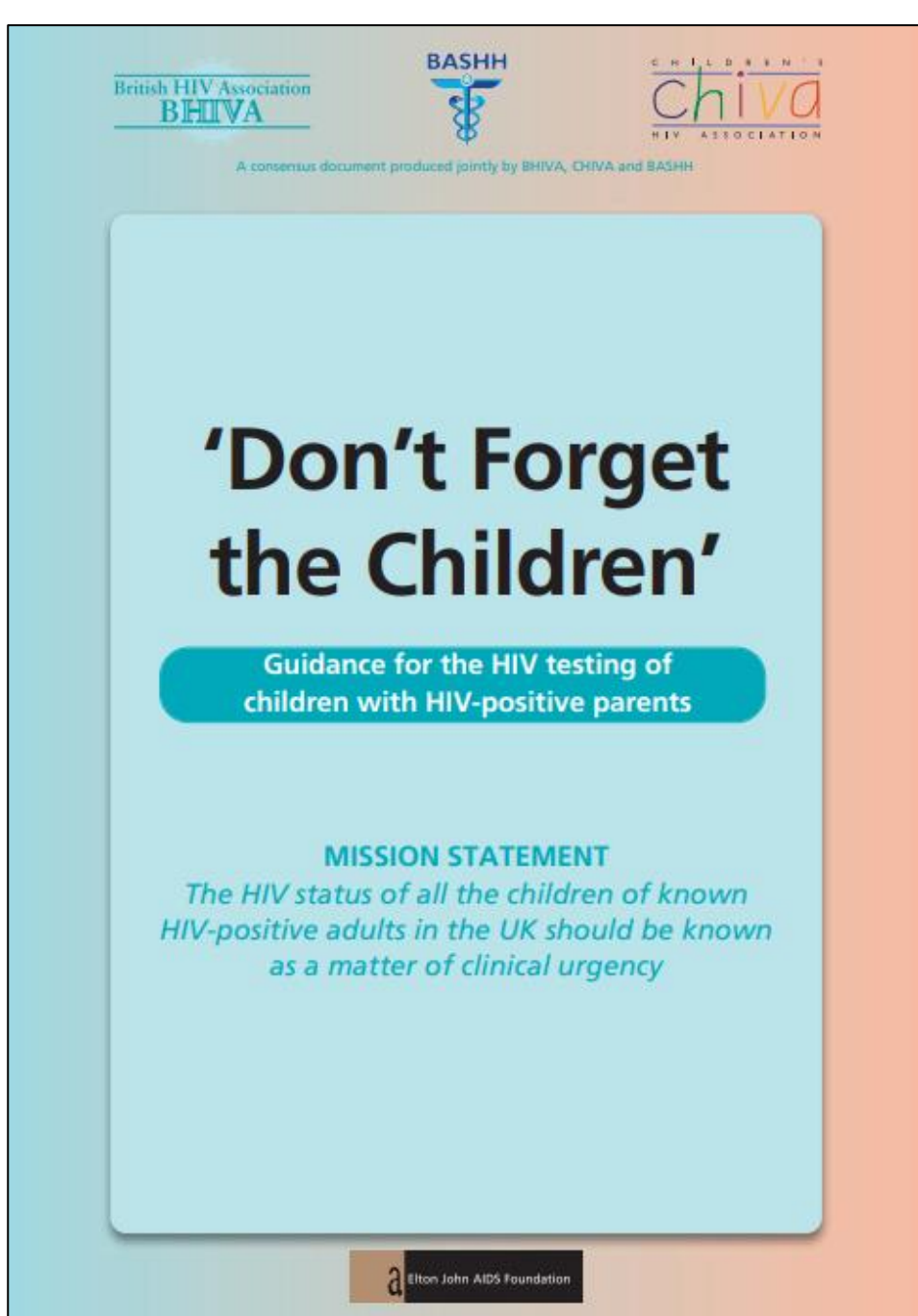
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## Introduction

BHIVA’s ‘Don’t Forget the Children’<sup>1</sup> and Standards of Care<sup>2</sup> documents highlight the importance of routine HIV testing for children of people living with HIV (PLWH).

Our HIV service audited child testing in 2008, 2009 and 2010 with 46%, 78% and 82% respectively of children requiring testing having a documented result.

Having evolved a child testing pathway and MDT, with dedicated Health Advisor and Paediatric Nurse support, we wanted to re-evaluate our child testing performance during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Child testing referral form	
Please email completed form to: <a href="mailto:marjadowie@nhs.net">marjadowie@nhs.net</a> copy to <a href="mailto:susanmoorehouse@nhs.net">susanmoorehouse@nhs.net</a>	
Date of referral	
Name and contact details of referrer	
Child details	
Child's name	
DOB	
Address	
Telephone number (if appropriate)	
NHS number	
Siblings also requiring testing	
Child's name	
DOB	
NHS number	
Knowledge of reason for referral	
Child's name	
DOB	
NHS number	
Knowledge of reason for referral	
Siblings already tested	
Child's name/DOB	
Date and location of test result (please attach evidence if available)	
Please add additional siblings	
Parent/NOK	
Full name	
DOB	
Address (if different to above)	
Telephone number	
NHS number	
Relationship to child	
Consent to contact	
GP	
GP details	
Consent to inform GP of result	YES/NO
Other professionals involved e.g. social care	
Child/children's knowledge of reason for referral	
Reason for referral and relevant history	
e.g. has child attended LTHT previously/country of origin/ time as UK resident/safeguarding concerns	

Figure 1: LTHT’s HIV Outpatient Service Child Testing Referral proforma

## Conclusions

Our service has a robust mechanism in place for asking all newly diagnosed individuals, and those new to our service, about children during their first consultation.

Where children without documented evidence of HIV testing are identified our child testing pathway ensures timely investigation and documentation - all child testing was completed within one month of parental diagnosis in this audit sample. Our service surpassed the BHIVA standards for child testing for all new diagnoses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Future planned work includes a re-audit of child testing for those already known to our HIV service. As neither parental status nor child location is static regular enquiry in relation to children needs embedding into routine HIV care.

## Methods

Newly diagnosed PLWH, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, were identified via our HARS dataset at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

32 individuals were identified, and their case notes reviewed retrospectively against the relevant auditable outcomes from BHIVA’s Standard’s of Care document<sup>2</sup>.

## Results

**Standard 1:** Documented evidence that child testing had been considered within 4 weeks of diagnosis, BHIVA target 95%, service result 32/32 (100%).

13/32 had a total of 35 children, 29 of whom did not require testing:

- 20/29 had documented evidence their mother was not living with HIV post childbirth.
- 9/29 were >18 years and all but 1, not living in the UK, had either tested in sexual health or antenatal settings.

6/35 (17%) children required testing.

**Standard 2:** Documented HIV test result of child within 6 months of their parent’s diagnosis, BHIVA target 90%, service result 6/6 (100%):

- 5/6 tested aged >18 months.
- 1 child <18 months, whose parent was diagnosed antenatally, awaits final 4<sup>th</sup> generation testing at 18 months.

Demographics of children requiring HIV testing				
Parent	Age at testing	Gender assigned at birth	Parental ethnicity	HIV test result
1	4 years 5 months	Male	Romanian	Negative 4 <sup>th</sup> generation
	4 years 5 months	Male	Romanian	Negative 4 <sup>th</sup> generation
2	4 years 1 month	Male	Black African	Negative 4 <sup>th</sup> generation
	Birth – 3 months	Male	Black African	Negative PCR x 3
3	17 years 9 months	Female	Black African	Negative 4 <sup>th</sup> generation via sexual health services
4	15 years 6 months	Female	Black African	Negative point of care

Table 1: Demographics of children requiring HIV testing

## References

1. BHIVA. ‘Don’t Forget the Children’ Guidance for the HIV testing of children with HIV-positive parents; 2009. Available from: <https://www.chiva.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/dont-forget.pdf>
2. BHIVA. Standards of Care for People Living with HIV; 2018. Available from: <https://www.bhiva.org/file/KrfaFqLZRIbHg/BHIVA-Standards-of-Care-2018.pdf>