

## Coming Soon: National HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Campaign

In July 2011, GHN and HSE will launch a National HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Campaign aimed at MSM.

The campaign will comprise of three phases with peer-led key messages being developed by a youth group facilitated by BeLonG To Youth Services. Phase 1, to be launched in July 2011, will seek to raise self-esteem and encourage and promote individual and collective responsibility relating to sexual health.

Promotion of the campaign will focus on younger men and men residing outside urban areas, in particular those living in the Dublin Mid-Lenister and Dublin North East HSE regions. In addition to a social marketing campaign promoting key messages, part of the campaign will also include health promotion workshops, and increasing access to condoms and lube.

Further details on the launch of Phase 1 of the campaign will be emailed to all newsletter subscribers in the coming weeks.

Follow the campaign on facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Man2Man/172493179447045?ref=ts>



## HIV in Ireland: 2010

New figures have recently been published by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) on HIV in Ireland.

The new report shows there were a total of 331 new HIV diagnoses reported to the HPSC during 2010. This compares to 395 in 2009, a 16.2% decrease. This brings the cumulative total of HIV infections reported up to the end of 2010 to 5,968. A summary of the figures relating to MSM derived from the report is as follows:

- There were 134 new HIV diagnoses among MSM in 2010, representing 40.5% of all the newly diagnosed cases in 2010 where probable route of transmission was known.
- The median age of new cases among MSM was 34 years (range 20-62 years). 31.3% were aged under 30, 69.4% aged under 40, and 90.2% aged under 50.

- 67.9% (91) were born in Ireland, 11.2% (15) were born in Latin America, 6.7% (9) were born in Western Europe and 6% (8) were born in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Of the new cases among MSM at the time of HIV diagnosis, 100 were asymptomatic, 11 were diagnosed with AIDS and four had acute HIV infection.

A full report on the statistics is available at [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie).

## GSD - Now open 7 days - Because life doesn't wait until Monday!

Gay Switchboard Dublin (GSD) is delighted to announce the expansion of services, now available for our callers 7 days a week from the 21st of May 2011.



Our callers can now contact our trained volunteers from the hours of 4pm to 6pm every Saturday and Sunday as well as on weekdays from 7pm to 9pm. Our extended service will hopefully allow us to reach out to more people when other services may not be available. We know that life can get difficult and problems can arise on any given day and GSD is now here for you every day.

This expansion in service comes on the back of our continued training of new volunteers within the service and reflects our commitment to increase our support to the LGBT community. Our friendly and supportive team of volunteers, all of whom identify as either gay, lesbian and bisexual, can help you make that first step in discussing what is on your mind. We are also there for concerned parents, family members and friends too.

We do not judge, our service is there to listen to you when you may not have anywhere or anyone else to turn to. Our service is fully confidential and we can offer you a safe environment to discuss a range of issues such as coming out, relationships, sexual health matters, or where to go out. If there is any query we cannot fully help you with we can signpost you to other relevant support services. Just remember it is your call! No problem is too small to share. Whatever you need to discuss we will be there for you 7 days a week on 01-872 1055, no matter what part of the country you live in.

More information on GSD is available by contacting the Public Relations & Advertising Coordinator at: [publicrelations@gayswitchboard.ie](mailto:publicrelations@gayswitchboard.ie).

On Irish AIDS Day, 15th June 2011, Dublin AIDS Alliance launched a new resource for people living with HIV.

'Living with HIV in Ireland: A Self-Help Guide', was developed and produced in conjunction with 58 people living with HIV and covers areas such as rights, housing, travel, and legal issues as well as psychosocial issues such as emotional wellbeing, disclosure, and stigma and discrimination.

The guide is a response to the National AIDS Strategy Committee's HIV and AIDS Education and Prevention Plan 2008-2012 which recommends that "supports should be made available to people who are HIV positive to enable them to act as advocates in relation to their own needs". Hard copies of the guide can be obtained through Dublin AIDS Alliance and will also be available through other HIV services and clinics. The guide is also available to download at [www.dublinaidsalliance.ie](http://www.dublinaidsalliance.ie).



## Dublin Forum for People Living with HIV

Are you living with HIV? Are you happy with HIV services?

Positive Now is holding a forum in Dublin on 23rd June 2011, at Dublin City Council Wood Quay Centre, from 2pm to 4pm. Positive Now is a group of people living with HIV working to ensure that the voices of HIV positive people are central to policy and service level decisions, whilst endeavoring to challenge the irrationality of HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Members of Positive Now have four positions on the Government's National AIDS Strategy Committee and Positive Now is also represented on the HIV Services Network. The forum is open to all HIV positive people and issues arising and discussed at the forum will be confidentially brought back to the relevant agencies. Further forums are being planned for different locations around Ireland. For more information and details email [info@positivenow.ie](mailto:info@positivenow.ie) or telephone 01 8733799.



## Drugs/HIV Helpline: New Email Support Service

The Drugs/HIV Helpline (1800 459 459) is a free and confidential national helpline service operated by the HSE.

The helpline offers support, information, guidance and referral to anyone with a question or concern relating to drug or alcohol use and/or HIV and sexual health. Most calls to the helpline are from individuals, partners and family members as well as professionals working in the area of addiction and sexual health.

A new Email Support Service has been launched as part of this service. Service users can email [drugshiv@hse.ie](mailto:drugshiv@hse.ie) for support and information. The email service operates the same hours as the helpline: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm.



## Increased access to Counselling Services in Southern HSC Trust Area

The Rainbow Project has provided access to a free professional counselling service for over five years in Belfast and Foyle.

The service is available to gay and bisexual men or men who are unsure of their sexual orientation from all over Northern Ireland. This service has now been expanded, in partnership with Newry Rainbow Community and Protect Life Centres, and offers men from the Southern Trust area an opportunity to access counselling in Newry town and other local venues if preferred. To access the service from any of the locations contact the Rainbow Project on 028 (048 from RoI) 90319030, email [counselling@rainbow-project.org](mailto:counselling@rainbow-project.org) or visit [www.rainbow-project.org/counselling](http://www.rainbow-project.org/counselling).



The Rainbow Project, in partnership with the Royal GUM Clinic, organises free, confidential, sexual health testing and support clinics in the community.

Clinics operate a drop-in service (no appointments necessary) and the current locations are the Pipeworks Sauna, Outside Sauna, and at The Rainbow Project's offices at the LGBT Centre. Dates for the clinics are posted on the Rainbow Project's website: [www.rainbow-project.org/sh/sexual-health-testing/community-testing](http://www.rainbow-project.org/sh/sexual-health-testing/community-testing). The next community testing date is Tuesday 21st June 2011 and the venue is the Outside Sauna located just off Donegal Street on 1-5 Donegal Lane. The clinic will run from 5:30pm to 8:00pm and there will be free admission to the sauna for all who get a sexual health check-up.

### What happens at the Clinic?

You will be asked for your name and some contact details. This information is strictly confidential and is not shared with your GP. A doctor/nurse will also ask you some questions about your sexual history. You will be asked to give a urine and blood sample. These samples will be tested for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, and Chlamydia. Hepatitis A and B vaccinations will also be offered. The doctor will talk with you about when your results may be available, as some results can take up to two weeks, and you will be asked your preferred method of contact with results (phone, email, text). The Rainbow Project's Physical and Sexual Health Worker, Harry McNulty, will be in attendance at each clinic to answer any questions that you may have. Harry can also be contacted on 028 (048 from Rol) 9031 9030 or email [harry@rainbow-project.org](mailto:harry@rainbow-project.org).

The Rainbow Project also offers HIV Rapid Testing on Monday and Wednesday mornings, by appointment only, at its offices at the LGBT Centre, 9-13 Waring Street. The Royal GUM Clinic operates a walk-in clinic for gay and bisexual men on Thursday evenings from 5pm to 7pm.



## The Other Side of the Rainbow

In April, The Rainbow Project launched a new DVD resource aimed at community/voluntary/statutory professionals working in Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion.

This forms part of the PINK BRAIN branding, a three tiered campaign which seeks to redress poorer mental health outcomes amongst the LGBT community.

The three tiers are:

1. To sensitively raise awareness amongst the LGBT community of the increased level of risk and the support that is available;
2. Raise awareness amongst professionals of the increased risk and reasons for this; and
3. Provision of training to professionals.

The DVD seeks to explore this issue and give professionals a greater awareness of the issues faced by LGBT people and why they are a high-risk group in terms of mental health and suicide. It also contains some real-life stories of the experiences of the people who are LGBT and gives an introduction to the various services provided by The Rainbow Project.

'The Other Side of the Rainbow' can be viewed on The Rainbow Project You Tube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/therainbowproject>.

## Your Free Safer Sex Pack...



## ...Pick it up!

Available from:

Outhouse LGBT Community Centre, 105 Capel St., D1 [www.outhouse.ie](http://www.outhouse.ie)

The GMHS STI Clinic, Baggot St Hospital, D4 [www.gmhs.ie](http://www.gmhs.ie)

Free samples or low cost bulk packs online [www.Man2Man.ie](http://www.Man2Man.ie)

The safer Sex Pack (condom and lubricant) are supplied by GMHS for men who have sex with men (MSM).



HEALTHCARE AUTHORITY  
Health Service Executive

# HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Awareness for MSM



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A GHN & HSE Initiative



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## New Campaign Coming Soon!