



SOCIAL STUDIES

AIDS CONCERNS US ALL

Resource Content

This resource aims to address any prejudiced beliefs surrounding HIV and AIDS. It also highlights the fact that HIV and AIDS can affect anyone and everyone regardless of age, gender, race or sexuality.

Experiences and Outcomes

Social Studies - People in society, economy and business

SOC 2-16b - I can gather and use information about forms of discrimination against people in societies and consider the impact this has on people's lives.

Interdisciplinary Learning Opportunities

Health and Wellbeing - Mental and emotional wellbeing

HWB 2-08a - I understand that people can feel alone and can be misunderstood and left out by others. I am learning how to give appropriate support. *Responsibility of all



FACT SHEET

HIV/AIDS in Edinburgh and the Lothians

By the end of 1989, the HIV infection rate in Edinburgh was nearly seven times the national average. This led to Edinburgh being dubbed the “AIDS capital of Europe” in the national press at the time. The AIDS epidemic affected people from all walks of life; men, women, children, homosexuals and heterosexuals, as well as intravenous drug users and haemophiliacs.

At first, there was some uncertainty about how the virus could be transmitted - so with the passing of time, treatment and prevention initiatives focussed on different ways that HIV could spread. Early efforts concentrated on transmission through homosexual sex, but the focus was soon widened as it was realised that the virus could also be spread by transfusion of contaminated blood, sharing needles to inject drugs and heterosexual sex.

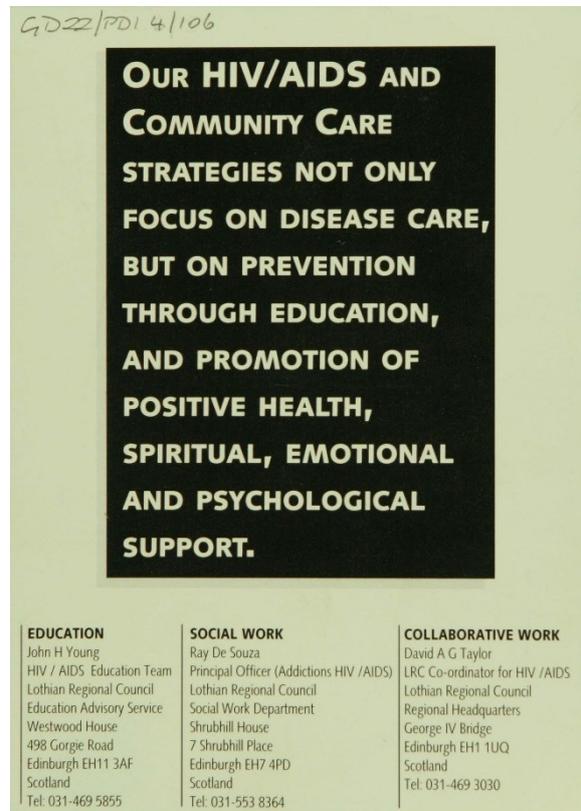
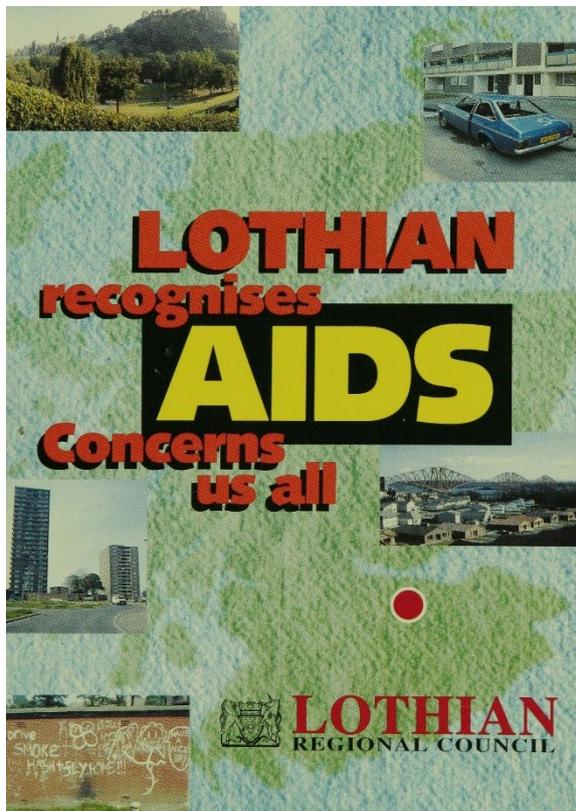
The scale of infection in Edinburgh meant that a major response was needed from a range of groups. Different bodies worked together to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS, including Lothian Health Board, local government, police, charities, voluntary groups and campaign organisations. They worked to identify people who were HIV positive so that appropriate treatment and care could be provided and infection prevention plans put in place. At the same time, ground-breaking public awareness campaigns educated the public on how they could (and could not) be at risk.

AIDS concerns us all

This promotional postcard was designed and used in a campaign by Lothian Health Board in the 1990s. An important feature of the campaign was to avoid stigmatising particular groups because at this time, in Edinburgh and the Lothians, HIV and AIDS was a problem for the general population.



RESOURCE IMAGES



SOC4.01 - Front

SOC4.02 - Back

Use the reference numbers below these images to help you find the corresponding downloadable images on the website



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Starter Activity – What does someone with HIV look like?

- a. Divide the class into groups. Ask each group to draw a picture of someone with HIV. This activity is designed to bring out any prejudiced belief that they class may hold. Ask students to annotate the picture with things about that person, such as:
 - i. What is their name and occupation?
 - ii. How old are they and where do they live?
 - iii. What are their hobbies?
- b. Pin the posters up at the front of the class and use these posters as a basis for discussion.
- c. Ask the groups why they chose certain characteristics for the person with HIV.
- d. Ask how they would behave towards them.
- e. Explain what stereotyping is and ask students to imagine what it is like to be the person they profiled. How would they feel if others judged them in that way?
- f. Highlight the fact that you can't tell if someone has HIV or AIDS by looking at them. Emphasise that HIV and AIDS concerns us all and can affect anyone, regardless of race, sexuality, age or gender.

2. Main Project – How to offer support

- a. Show students the “Lothian recognises AIDS concerns us all” postcard.
- b. Ask students what they think the poster is trying to get across.
- c. What do they like about the poster?
- d. What don't they like about the poster?
- e. Ask students to write a letter, either to someone who has HIV, or from someone who has just been diagnosed with HIV.
 - i. Writing a letter to someone who has HIV
 - ii. How might this person be feeling?
 - iii. How can you offer support?



- f. Writing a letter from someone who has just been diagnosed with HIV.
 - i. Imagine you have just been told that you have HIV
 - ii. How would you feel?
 - iii. What are your fears and hopes?
 - iv. How would you like people to behave towards you?

3. Closing – Presentation

- a. Ask students to read letters aloud to the class.
- b. Comment and debate can follow these presentations.