

Northern Ireland's
only HIV charity



ANNUAL REVIEW

2022/2023

www.positivelifeni.com

A word from our CEO

Although it's hard to believe that we're already a year on since doing this the last time - it's a great reminder of all we've achieved and an opportunity to celebrate the successes of this wee organisation and the difference it's making to people's lives on a daily basis.

I just love doing our Annual Review!

Despite the challenges, we're still getting amazing feedback from the people who come to us for support ***"..just felt I should thank everyone who made me smile this year....from the bottom of my heart."***

With support from the National Lottery Dormant Accounts Fund to establish the **NI Buyers Club**, launched in June 2022, we managed to increase our reserves by almost £10,000 even in the face of a particularly difficult fundraising year. Our thanks to the Club members for their on-going support our work both financially and in kind.

Our **public affairs** work continues to play a significant role in ensuring that we keep the issues impacting the lives of people affected by HIV on the agenda and at the forefront of policy-making.

We still meet regularly with elected representatives and ensure a presence at the various political party conferences to keep the conversation going around HIV in NI and the need for a strategic approach to sexual health in general.

In December 2022 we submitted a substantial contribution to the development of the NI Sexual Health Action Plan – a space we continue to monitor for progress.

We had a second year as a nominated Charity, this time with Antrim & Newtownabbey DUP Lord Mayor, Stephen Ross. This afforded further opportunities to raise awareness and garner support for our policy asks and we complemented it with the launch of our MLA Constituency Toolkit in the Long Gallery to mark World Aids Day 2022, sponsored by the Alliance Party MLA, Kate Nicholl.

As ever, providing effective and accessible **service delivery** is always a priority for the team at Positive Life and that didn't change in 2022. While the numbers are an indicator of how well we're doing - 3769 one to one contacts and over £60,000 in previously unclaimed benefits secured - look for the quotes throughout this review to hear directly from our service users.

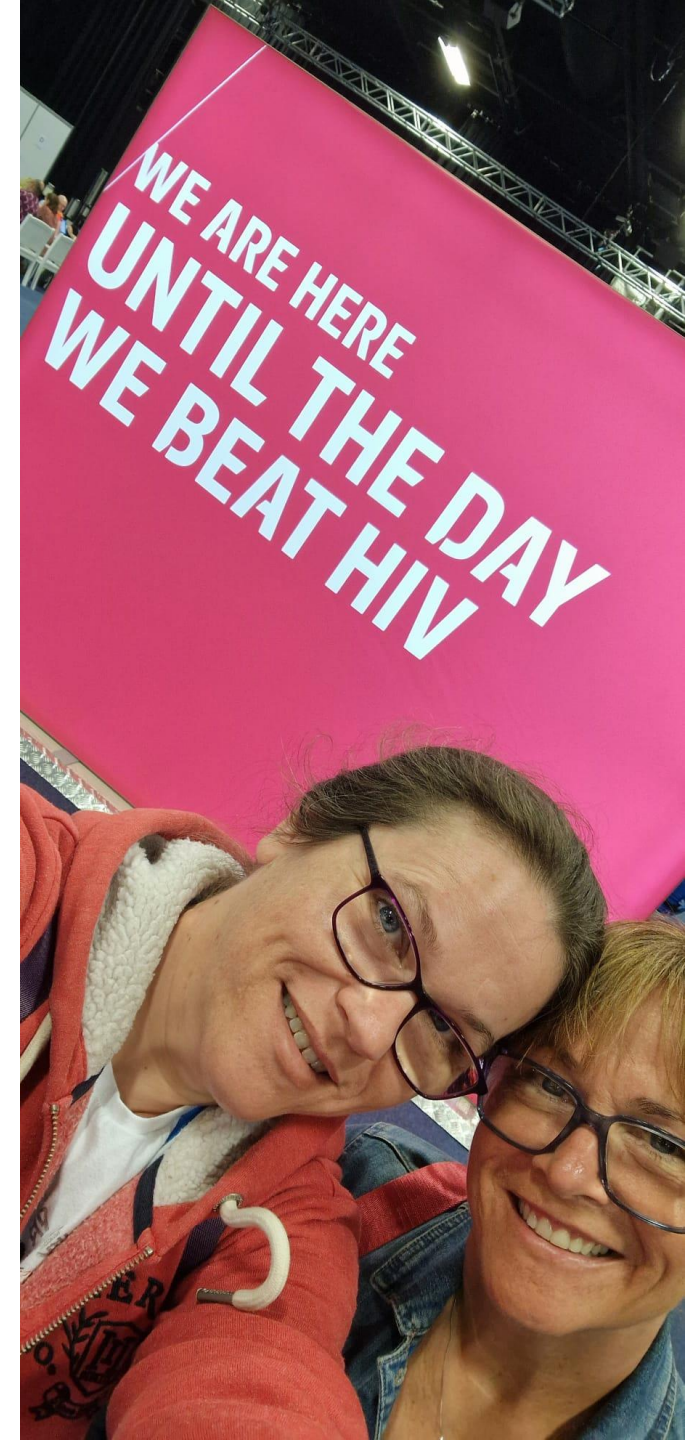
Working to **remove the stigma** that is still so inextricably associated with HIV continues to be at the core of everything we do. The past year has seen an increase in the work we do to address that - awareness raising and education. We've attended at least two public and community engagement events each month, rolled out our on-line awareness course and launched our Positive about HIV Workplace Programme, delivering education around HIV and sexual health in general into businesses across NI.

We've established a diverse social media presence increasing engagement on some platforms by over 100% - way above our targets and improving reach of and access to accurate and up-to-date myth busting information.

A lot happening, and a lot still to do if we're to achieve ambitious targets like zero new HIV diagnosis by 2030.

Look forward to seeing you back here in a year for the next update.

Jaegnie

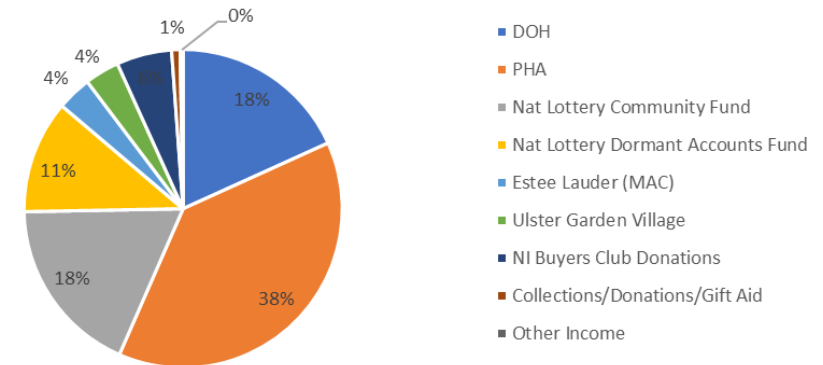


The Numbers

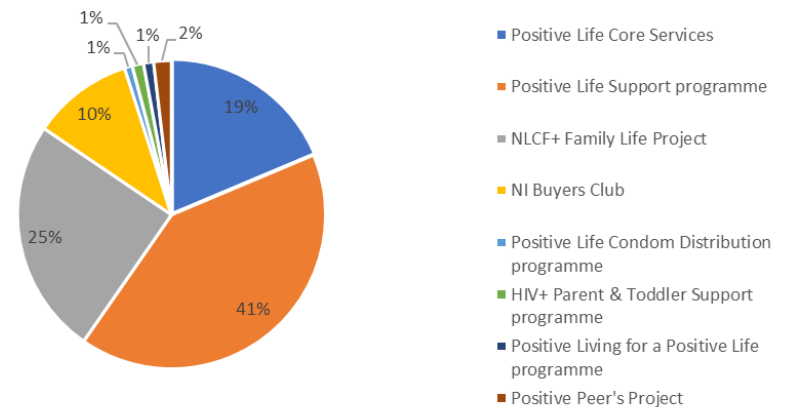
Positive Life received income of **£426,277** during 2021/22 with expenditure of **£416,486** resulting in an increase to reserves of **£9791**. Funding sources are detailed below. Positive Life's accounts 2022/23 were independently verified by chartered accountants and registered auditors Exchange Auditing Ltd.

Full copies available on request.

Income received 2022/23	
Dept of Health (DoH)	77735
Public Health Agency (PHA)	163401
Nat Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)	77317
Nat Lottery Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF)	48958
Estee Lauder (MAC)	15000
Ulster Garden Village	15000
NI Buyers Club Donations	23918
Collections/Donations/Gift Aid	3716
Other Income	1232
	426277



Expenditure 2022/23	
Positive Life Core Services	77735
Positive Life Support programme	170795
NLCF+ Family Life Project	103276
NI Buyers Club	44114
Positive Life Condom Distribution programme	3434
HIV+ Parent & Toddler Support programme	4959
Positive Living for a Positive Life programme	4391
Positive Peer's Project	7782
	416486



The year in pictures



Lord Mayor's Charity Cheque Presentation, May 2023

Antrim Castle Gardens, Clockwork Garden Party, May 2022



DUP Party Conference, Crowne Plaza Belfast, October 2022



Sinn Fein Ard Fheis, RDS Showground, Dublin, November 2022



MLA Constituency Toolkit & Workplace Education Launch, World AIDS Day, December 2022

NI Buyers Club



Wow! What a first year we had!

From a pre-COVID concept driven by a passionate commitment to bust the myths and reduce the stigma experienced every day by people affected by HIV, Positive Life created The Northern Ireland Buyers Club.

Inspired by the Dallas Buyers Club of the 1980s, which brought together people impacted by HIV and AIDs to buy the life-saving medication they needed, The Northern Ireland Buyers Club was set up to bring together and mobilise its members and supporters behind Positive Life's campaign to remove the stigma crippling the lives of people affected by HIV in NI today.

Launching the project in May 2022, 6 months later than we'd hoped we found a post-COVID fund-raising world that was very different from what we were used to, with the cost-of-living crisis having a major impact on charitable donations.

But we recruited 11 Members 😊 thank you all – and 3 Supporters – thankyou too - and in the first year we raised £23,918! Amazing generosity in such a challenging environment – a definite success!

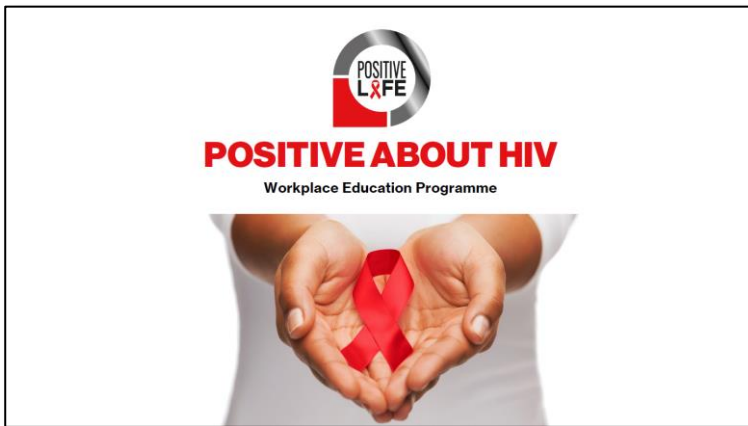
We've had support in kind too – worth around £3,000 - and I think that Kingsbridge Private Hospital and SlackPress will also vouch for the benefit of the networking too.

Social Media & Engagement



We harnessed our growing social media presence to promote our "Free Condoms" initiative in various retail and leisure venues across Belfast to mark World Contraception Day.

Our Christmas Jumper day is famed among service users and sector colleagues, as is our annual countdown to the main event!



Our World AIDS Day commemorations saw the launch of our Workplace Education Programme with support from NI Buyers Club members FonaCab.



We marked Sexual Health Week with a series of infographics called "5 Trays in 5 Days" detailing the sexual health services available in each HSC Trust in NI with helpful contact details.



Service User Feedback

“It was a wonderful opportunity to get to meet up with and catch up with someone I haven't seen for a few years and to get an introduction to a newcomer I've never met before and get to know other participants in the day much better.”

“The day event in Rostrevor Holiday Cottages was a delightful experience. The setting is ideal at the foot of the mountains, surrounded by greenery and sounds of birds, lambs and sheep. We had the added advantage of a glorious sunny, dry day which meant we could sit outside for some time at the picnic bench and swing.”

“I feel very privileged for all your support and that of your colleagues. I will love to say, 'A Big Thank You' to all of you”.

“This day was a complete tonic for me, and I left with a feeling of positivity.”

“This day in the Mournes has been great...emotional but great.”

“It was just brilliant to be able to share my story with everyone and see all the heads nodding like they understand what you are saying.”

“I really love opera but could never have afforded tickets, so this was a great treat.”

“When my mum died it was great to know that Positive Life were at the end of the phone. It has been a real godsend.”

“I wanted to thank you for your help, the session we had was very informative and helpful, and the referral to citizens advice was also very helpful. I deeply appreciate this support.”

“You have been an absolute blessing to me from when I've known you and I can't thank you enough for everything.”

“Thank you so much... you have been the only person who I have been able to trust and talk to about things I have never felt comfortable [sic] or even wanted to talk to anyone about before... you have let me see that not everyone in this world is bad...thank you so much.”

“Today was good, thanks, but as always, your kindness and listening ear was greatly appreciated”.

“Happy to chat and sing Positive Life's praises, you guys have really helped... great to have support at the other end of the phone, such a positive experience for us as a family”

“..just felt I should thank everyone who made me smile this year. You are one of them...from the bottom of my heart”

Funders

As of 31st March 2023, the number of registered service users was 281 and we facilitated;

- 141** Advice Space Sessions
- 20** Public Awareness Sessions
- 60** therapeutic group sessions
- 23** new service user registrations including **6** new families
- 3769** psychosocial contacts
- 162** volunteer hours

None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support of our Funders who are detailed below



Delivered by
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**



Our famous pink sofa is still in pride of place, but the location has had a bit of a glow up with the addition of the tile mosaic of our logo created recently by our service users



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Northern Ireland's **only** HIV charity



Our drop in services are available every weekday from 10am to 4pm.

We have disability access and there is plenty of onsite parking.

You can find us at: 20 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6FN

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