

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion in the name of Councillor Hall to be seconded by Councillor Reid	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 25 2015

“This Council notes that World AIDS Day on the 1st December is an opportunity to show support for people living with HIV, remember those who have lost their lives because of HIV, and learn the facts and realities of HIV today, in the UK and worldwide.

This Council further notes that

- i) Many asylum seekers living with HIV find it difficult to meet their health needs due to poverty and financial hardship as they struggle to afford the resources needed to take HIV medication as prescribed and remain healthy.
- ii) HIV treatment is available to everyone living in the UK, regardless of immigration status, but must be adhered to exactly to be successful.
- iii) Access to and adherence to HIV treatment means that a person living with HIV can maintain good health and become effectively non-infectious by suppressing their viral load, the amount of HIV present in the body.
- iv) Poor adherence to HIV treatment increases the risk of poor virological control, which is associated with illness and also HIV transmission.
- v) Migrant and asylum seeking people in the UK, especially those born in sub-Saharan Africa, are disproportionately affected by HIV.
- vi) Nutritious food to take HIV medication as prescribed, access to suitable warm clothing, travel costs to hospital appointments and potential accommodation adaptations are needed by people living with HIV to avoid heightened health risks posed by having a compromised immune system.

This council further notes the Immigration Bill 2015 proposes to:

- i) Stop support for appeals rights exhausted asylum seekers, including families with children.
- ii) Require landlords to check immigration status documents of tenants and enable them to evict people whose immigration status means they do not have a ‘right to rent’.

This Council believes:

- i) Adults and children living with HIV and their families should be supported to maintain their health and manage their condition for as long as they remain in the UK.
- ii) The proposed repeal and rapid removal of support for appeals right exhausted asylum seekers will leave those living with HIV destitute and unable to manage their condition.
- iii) Proposed requirements for landlords to check the immigration status of tenants and evict people whose immigration status means they do not have a right to rent runs the risk of removing the stability needed to adhere to medication and remain healthy for those living with HIV.
- iv) These proposals within the Immigration Bill have the potential to undermine the ability of asylum seekers to manage their condition and thus impact on their health and that of the wider public health of the community.

Recognising the impacts that proposals within the Immigration Bill will have on asylum seekers living with HIV, this Council resolves to:

- i) Call upon the Government to remove the provisions in the Immigration Bill that will impact negatively on people with HIV and
- ii) Ensure that appeals rights exhausted asylum seekers living with HIV locally are supported to maintain good health for as long as they remain in the UK
- iii) Call upon the Government to fund Local Authorities including Lewisham Council to receive sufficient funding to achieve these objectives.”