

A framework for planning and implementing effective HIV prevention interventions for African people in England: increasing **knowledge, will and power**

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1. Issues and background

Consistent planning and provision of collaborative evidence-based HIV prevention interventions requires a clear set of shared parameters. The planning framework described below is contextualised by the environment for which it was designed. The estimated HIV prevalence among Black African people in England is 3.7% (in the white majority population it is 0.09%). England's Department of Health funds the National African HIV Prevention (NAHIP) Programme, made up of community-based organisations jointly devising and delivering targeted HIV prevention interventions for Black African people in England.

2. Description

Sigma Research was commissioned by NAHIP to undertake the development of a planning framework. The aim was to build consensus among partners, support the articulation of their shared HIV prevention aims, and to describe best practice in meeting them. Intensive research and development work with NAHIP partners resulted in two written resources:

The Knowledge, the will and the power: a plan of action to meet the HIV prevention needs of Africans living in England (KWP), and ***The African HIV Prevention Handbook: putting the Knowledge, the Will and the Power into practice (Handbook)***. They are summarised on the right.

Dissemination and application is an essential element of the framework's success. This has been achieved by:

- stakeholder ownership and involvement throughout the process of the framework's development;
- free access to the framework documents online and in hard copy; and
- training sessions that bring together service funders and providers to discuss their shared goals within this overarching framework for action.

3. Lessons learned

Agencies have responded positively to the re-ignition of their work enabled by this process. Some organisations and funders report improved mutual understanding as a result. There remain ongoing challenges to the implementation of a harm reduction approach in community settings where such concepts remain quite new.

4. Next steps

Together *KWP* and the *Handbook* offer tangible, clear descriptions of which HIV prevention interventions for Africans in England are likely to have the greatest impact, and why. These documents now rest at the heart of national and local delivery plans, increasing the shared purpose between stakeholders. A dedicated website (www.kwp.org.uk) and a broader programme of training and support will further strengthen local partnership working. Countries with sizeable African diaspora populations may want to adapt *KWP* and the *Handbook* to contribute to their own national responses. We welcome contact from anyone who is interested.

KWP summary

Not all African people are the same, and some are more likely than others to be involved in HIV exposure and transmission.

Clear goals and targets help to focus interventions where HIV prevention need is most acute. In order to avoid HIV transmission, people will require various elements of knowledge, will and power.

The NAHIP shared programme goal:

Minimise the number of sexual HIV acquisitions and transmissions involving African people living in England.

Strategic behavioural aims:

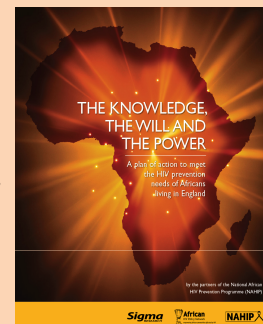
- Reduce the length of time between HIV infection and diagnosis.
- Reduce the number of HIV sero-discordant unprotected intercourse events by increasing the number of times that sex is deferred or declined, by choosing non-penetrative sex and by using male and female condoms.
- Reduce the number of condom failure events.
- Reduce ejaculation during penetration and the presence of other STIs when exposure occurs by increasing withdrawal and STI testing.
- Increase PEP in people sexually exposed to HIV.

African priority groups (in order):

1. People with HIV
2. People in sexual relationships with people with HIV
3. People with multiple sexual partners
4. People who have sex with people with multiple sexual partners
5. People who are or will be sexually active

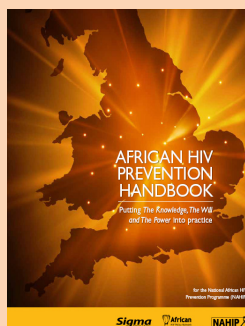
Given that any individual's capacity to act is influenced by their social context, *KWP's* detailed **HIV prevention aims** focus on:

- meeting the needs of individual Africans;
- organisational capacity to respond to individual needs; and
- actions of policy makers, researchers and planners.



KWP and *Handbook* are freely available at:
www.sigmaresearch.org.uk

Handbook summary



The *Handbook* is the implementation guide for *KWP*. It supports strategic intervention planning, and aims to clarify concepts and the language used to describe various HIV prevention interventions. Ideas about bundling *Talking and Listening* interventions with those that involve *Reading and Writing*, or *Giving and Taking* are included. Each intervention is described with reference to its component parts, as well as its strengths and limitations.

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