



Impact Report 2020/21

A message from the Directors...

We are extremely proud of our Management and Project teams this year; we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel with many of our services now working at full capacity albeit working in a new way. Some of the challenges presented by the Pandemic which pushed us into the need for a refresh have seen us delivering some of our projects in a more effective way.

The most prominent theme for the year that has shone through is that humans need connection to survive and thrive, whilst some of our services may work effectively online, in most part we will continue with a combination of face-to-face delivery and digital offers.

The Management Team have supported each other and their teams throughout, looking at new ways of working to ensure our wide breadth of service users continue to receive quality services from Ren-UK.

We have welcomed new staff and said good-bye to team members who have moved on to new pastures throughout the year and would like to thank all of them for them all for their dedication and support to the service.

We are positive about the future of the charity going into our 36th year of delivery. We have not only managed to maintain all our existing contracts throughout the Pandemic, but we have also secured new project funding that we plan on sustaining into the future years.

We dedicate our desire and successes to service our community members to the legacy and reputation left by our previous CEO Kathryn Talboys, to the current hard work of our Chair and Council of Management Team and to the dedication and commitment of our current Management and Project teams.

We would like to thank all our partners and in particular our funders and commissioning teams for their constant support throughout the year.

A special thank you to Blackpool Public Health commissioning team, Judith Mills, Emily Davies, Zohra Dempsey and Janet Duckworth who continue to recognise our multitude of hard work to make Blackpool a better place and continue to support a local charity to succeed its desired goals which is to serve our community.

Director of Strategy and Business, Shelley Mullarkey and Director of HR and Finance Julia Hutchings

Read more about our Impact on the communities we have served at www.ren-uk.com

MISSION & VISION – WHAT WE DO BEST!

Mission

Renaissance – UK is a dynamic and innovative service offering quality, community focused sexual health and substance use services. We specialise in supporting individuals to reduce harm, we offer specialist support, and we aim to move people forward in their lives by means of empowerment.

Putting our vision, mission and values into action

It is important when talking about or relaying our vision, mission and values, we do not change the wording. The words have been carefully chosen by us and our beneficiaries to describe the kind of charity we want Renaissance – UK to be.

We will be able to convey the messages we are giving concisely and accurately, therefore it is important that we have a common understanding of them.

We will practice what we preach always, ensuring our behaviours reflect our values.

Vision

Renaissance – UK; A world with empowered individuals, building stronger and healthier communities and reducing the risk of harm.

Renaissance UK



Dan Westwood – Patron



OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SERVICES

HORIZON

Horizon is Blackpool's integrated Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual health support service, Renaissance – UK and Delphi Medical deliver the service in partnership which is funded by Blackpool Council (Public Health).

Renaissance – UK leading on Harm Reduction, Assertive outreach and Sexual health services.

This includes;

- Drug and Alcohol assertive Outreach
- Full Harm Reduction Service – Needle exchange services, Blood Borne Virus testing, HIV and Hep C instant testing, Condom distribution, Take Home Naloxone and MSM sexual health clinic.
- Sexual Health Outreach.
- Hep C Support.
- Sex Worker Support.
- HIV specialist Support.
- LGBTQ+ community development and Groups.
- Counselling and Volunteering.

HEALTHIER LIVING

Healthier Living is the project name for Lancashire's, HIV specialist support and prevention service, funded by Lancashire County Council (Public Health).

The service works with individuals living with and affected by HIV, providing low level social care support and support groups. The service also offers community testing, education and awareness events as a form of HIV prevention.

We have the equivalent of this service also operating in Blackburn with Darwen funded by Blackburn Council and in Blackpool under the Horizon partnership funded by Blackpool Public Health.

The 3 HIV support workers offering a coordinated response across the County.

CHANGING FUTURES

Changing Futures is the project name for a county wide service providing employment and training opportunities to those who are at risk of exclusion from the labour market, to move towards or into employment.

Renaissance – UK is funded by Selnet to provide two transformational coaches who specialise in working with LGBTQ+ individuals and those living with HIV to move them towards employment.

BIG SEXY BUS

The Big Sexy Bus is our self – contained mobile testing and outreach vehicle, it has undergone refurbishment to allow Renaissance – UK to take its services into communities.

It boasts private and confidential seating areas, a kitchen and small bathroom, areas for service display and promotion.

The bus is available for external hire and in partnership with Blackpool Coach Design can be branded for one off events.

The bus has this year been further developed to make it Covid secure.

ADDER

ADDER is a new project this year funded by The Home Office and managed by Blackpool Public Health. Addiction, Disruption, Diversion, Enforcement and Recovery.

The project provides a Multi Disciplinary team to offer support to Multi Disadvantaged individuals experiencing homelessness, heroin and crack addiction, poor physical and mental health outcomes and involved with crime.

Ren-UK leading the delivery of the project for Blackpool. The aims are to reduce Drug Related death and offending within the town as well as better health and wellbeing outcomes for the target group.

TRAINING SCHOOL

The training school delivers tailor-made courses to external services in all areas of our delivery and expertise.

The training is often delivered by workers who are still working in the field and offers real time local knowledge of current issues in relation to substance use and sexual health topics.

Training can be tailored to your organisation's requirements. Renaissance – UK has over 10 years' experience of training delivery and all courses are accredited and verified by 'Open Awards'.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL OUTREACH

The team have diversified their responses this year according to the needs of the population throughout the pandemic, early on in 2022 over 100 individuals were supported from being street homeless into temporary accommodation, whilst placed the team supported the Public Health Plan with delivery of much needed medications, food parcels, substitute prescriptions and harm reduction supplies.

The service has been invaluable this year, the team worked throughout the early outbreaks and in some cases were the only people seeing

those vulnerable and isolating offering a connection and a friendly face.

Whilst placed in accommodation the team completed fast track assessments which increased the numbers accessing drug and alcohol treatment.

Due to the commitment of the team, they were all nominated and successful in being awarded - 'NorthWest Tonight Everyday Heroes' awards.

We continued partnership working with Blackpool Housing Options by offering a full time co-located Drug and Alcohol worker.



HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

The Harm Reduction manager was responsible for attending the Homeless Risk Management meetings early in 2020 and coordinating the dispersal of individuals. Needle exchange supplies and Take-Home Naloxone as well as Safe Storage boxes were distributed to all the accommodations.

A big focus on Reducing Drug Related Deaths in the town was a priority this year, the coordinator has led on the 'Drug Related Death Action Plan' for the town and Ren-UK has taken an active part in the plan by delivering the above interventions and leading on the

Needle Exchange pharmacy contracts, ensuring pharmacy staff and the Outreach team have delivered the correct messages. We also took part in awareness raising on social media and within our own Needle Exchange Hub at Dickson Road.

Fulfilling Lives Self Accreditation to become a "Multiple Disadvantaged Friendly" accredited service was completed and passed by the service.

The Pins and Needles web shop continued to run with delivery from home by the Harm Reduction lead.

HIV SUPPORT

The team have welcomed a new member this year, this meaning we have one full time worker in each area, allowing for a full-service refresh led by the Sexual Health service manager.

The service now operating a fully comparable offer in each area, with slightly differing target groups. Blackpool focusing on MSM and Gay Men and Lancashire and BwD focusing more on Black and Minority Ethnic groups as well as women. Each area has some cross over but due to the demographics each service is slightly targeted due to HIV prevalence

The HIV support team were also very reactive to the Covid-19 Pandemic and supported their most vulnerable with Home visits, delivery of medications, care packages and food parcels. Support was offered digitally via zoom and teams a group WhatsApp where individuals could stay connected with daily chats, at home challenges and activities and one to one support.

Later in the year as the service started to re-open face to face appointments re started with walk and talk sessions and appointments being offered where possible. We are happy to say the service is now fully active again.

Unfortunately, the impact of Covid-19 on some of our more poorly clients has presented challenges, however as always, the team have remained committed and motivated. An Integrated Care Community Support document was developed by the team, which was then shared across Lancashire and in many newsletters, this helped hundreds of people across the county to know which services were available for extra support during the Pandemic.

The team utilised work at home time to raise awareness of clinical indicators of HIV and what Undetectable=Untransmittable means amongst GP's and surgery staff by providing online training.

SEXUAL HEALTH OUTREACH

Probably one of the hardest hit services was Sexual Health Outreach and this was deemed unsafe for practitioners to complete due to the uncertainty of those we may meet. Therefore, the workers re-focused their time to increasing the digital offer on hook up apps and sites we regularly use as well as our own SexSmart website and chat bot.

The SHORW began working at home in March 2020 where sexual health advice and support as well as general chat to men stating that they felt lonely.

Mental health was a regular subject which was raised, as well as postal STI Screening,

which was already in place in the area prior to the pandemic from Blackpool Sexual Health Services. The availability of PrEP was also a subject which was often raised after it was passed for use in April 2020.

The Sexual Health manager worked closely with HIV Prevention England partners via webinars hosted by THT, through his diligence and determination Ren-UK was one of the first organisations to re-open their outreach and testing services, a full risk assessment was completed by the manager. A Covid 19-safer cruising guide was also developed.

SEX WORKER SUPPORT

Due to sex working venues closing throughout the most part of the year, as the other outreach workers the sex worker lead supported other team members, we were also able to maintain contact with homeworkers and expand our digital reach. Condom delivery continued as well as safe home visits offering safer sex advice and information. We were able to offer support to several vulnerable females delivering much needed food, clothes and home supplies.

The worker joint worked with the police, women's refuges and housing providers to re-locate and get to safety several sex working women who were being exploited and/or a victim of sexual abuse, an important piece of work that had a huge long-term impact.



LGBTQ+ GROUP SUPPORT

The group offer was one of the first things changed solely to online remote access, the facilitator supported access to digital access and as well as online groups offered a daily chat facility.

The focus has remained around the Five Ways to Wellbeing throughout the year, group membership increased throughout the pandemic, triages were completed over the phone and many highlighted isolation and a lack of connection the reasons for joining the group or re-connecting with the group offer.

We have recognised IDAHOBIT and Pride month and focused special groups around the events. Several group members enjoyed the Virtual Pride event that was held in place of this year's

outdoor event. The event was enjoyed at home in safety and several of the group members dressed up and took part.

Mental health and wellbeing ideas and exercises were promoted and taken up. The group facilitator encouraged exercise during the isolation restrictions to promote both physical and mental wellbeing. Several members started cycling, whilst others shared their walks with the group.

Group members shared photos of activities such as growing seeds, baking and time with their pets. Signposting was offered and links with Corona Kindness and food banks where appropriate.

HEP C SUPPORT

The Hep C worker was unable to complete normal outreach and screening activity throughout the year, he was able to deliver Hep C medication to patients who had already started prior to lockdown, to ensure everyone that started their medication, completed the course.

The worker kept regular contact by phoning all patients that had tested positive for Hep C prior to lockdown on a regular basis to keep them updated and informed of any developments.

The worker supported the Horizon outreach team by collecting and delivering prescriptions, safe storage boxes, food parcels and needle exchange paraphernalia.

Later in the year the worker was able to lead on the multi-agency Health Bus, providing advice and information about Hepatitis C and informing of the services available post-covid19. Also smoking cessation sign posting and referring people into drug and alcohol services for phone assessments.

The worker also supported the Sexual health service, attending at popular areas where people meet for sexual encounters and delivering harm reduction advice and condoms and lube when we were able to re-open.

CHANGING FUTURES – EMPLOYABILITY

The Project welcomed two new transformational coaches in 2020 following the departure of our former long-standing coach. An induction period was needed as well as training, this partnered with the pandemic and many employment services offering limited support meant we had a period with little project activity throughout the first two quarters.

The new coaches have worked tirelessly to offer interventions via digital platforms and safe walk and talks to recruit new participants and have saw the rewards of their hard work towards the end of year managing to get some very positive results with their new recruits.

The project is aimed at those most of risk from the labor market, therefore many come with

complex barriers to work such as long-term health conditions.

The coaches have been able to support 10 individuals into education and training and 7 into full time employment which without doubt will have a long-standing positive impact on their lives. One lady with multiple health issues was also supported into a new and modified home with long term care put into place for her by the coach.

A challenging first year for the coaches, despite this we remain positive the project will continue to thrive whilst getting used to the new normal way of working.

Project ADDER was introduced at the very start of the Pandemic, with the target group being heroin and crack users with multiple disadvantages such as homelessness, the team got straight into action supporting the homeless risk management plan for Blackpool. This resulted in many of those identified as suitable for the ADDER project being in dispersed accommodation, this helped very early on with engagement onto the project.

Ren-UK currently employ 3 outreach workers on the project which consists of police, probation, health nurses, prescribing nurses, recovery workers, mental health therapists and Lived Experience Team Peers. Ren-UK also act as the lead organisation providing management support and working closely with Public Health Blackpool to ensure the 3-year project meets its aims and outcomes.

Early successes have been reducing street homelessness for this group, improving health outcomes, increasing numbers in treatment and with recovery plans, increasing connection and peer support as well as meaningful activities.

System Change across Blackpool amongst other services that may work with Multi Disadvantaged individuals is a priority for the ADDER stakeholder group, early Trauma Informed Training delivery has proved successful with many services taking it up for their teams and committing to a different approach.

Housing and Horizon prescribing pathways are constantly being reviewed as a result of ADDER work, information sharing and joint working with the police and probation has much improved and is providing some excellent outcomes for those deemed victims of crime rather than perpetrators.



OUR IMPACT MEASURED

COVID RESPONSE

77 Online Groups Offered throughout the year

193 Food Parcels Delivered

1015 substitute medication deliveries to drug and alcohol users

22 Individuals supported with HIV medication delivery

81 Individuals living with HIV supported

2156 digital support contacts with the LGBTQ+ community

322700 Needles distributed across Blackpool

HARM REDUCTION – OUR CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING DRUG RELATED DEATHS AND BBV TRANSMISSION

612 referrals to other services

210 Take Home Nalaxone distributed

IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES

3,624 Postal Condoms delivered

47 Multi Disadvantaged Individuals Supported through ADDER

ENGAGING NEW PEOPLE INTO SUPPORT AND IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

59 New People engaged with Hep C Support

47 Sex Workers given one to one support

DIGITAL REACH

NUMBER OF
SOCIAL MEDIA
POSTS

948

NUMBER OF
SIGNIFICANT
NETREACH
CONTACTS

21

NUMBER OF PEOPLE
FINDING US ON
GOOGLE

3016

NUMBER OF HIV
TESTS INITIATED
AS A RESULT OF AN
ONLINE CONTACT

27

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

1220

NUMBER OF
POSTAL CONDOMS
DISTRIBUTED ACROSS
LANCASHIRE AND
BLACKPOOL

4563

LIKES ON
FACEBOOK

2239

DIGITAL ACTIVITY

HIV support and testing services, LGB and T support, group work and community development, sexual health and drugs and alcohol assertive outreach services, sex worker support, full drugs and alcohol harm reduction service including, Take Home Naloxone, BBV and STI screening, Needle exchange, Hep C support and peer led buddying system. Volunteering and counselling service and Training school.

Throughout the year the website has continued to be refreshed and updated in accordance with any changing service provisions. We continue to have the pop up holding page on the website; that addresses any changes to service and plans that the organisation has in place to keep all projects COVID Secure. This has been updated in line with changes in policy and guidance from Government.

The postal condom scheme continues to be a success and is now managed by the Renaissance Admin Worker. Throughout the year the provision has increased in uptake of new members. We feel the significant increase is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and additional promotion of the service across Lancashire and Blackpool, where clients at risk can access the postal condom scheme from the safety of their home.

This year the service has advertised 14 positions online ranging from, Sexual Health Outreach, Transformational Coaches, Administrators to ADDER Enhanced Keyworkers. The NetReach coordinator has utilised Indeed and Facebook to advertise the vacancies, as well as the organisation website.

Over 200 individuals have applied online, however we have seen a drop in the number applying later in the year therefore have streamlined our recruitment process and application package.

Digital support was given to the Virtual Pride Blackpool event this year in June. The live stream was facilitated on the day and we ran the fundraising page and streaming platform YouTube. Social posts were shared before, during and after the event and through the organisations Virgin Money Giving platform.

£3,291.25 was raised to support the charity and specifically the LGBTQ+ project and Blackpool HIV hardship fund. As additional costs have been incurred during the pandemic to support clients digitally and in other ways; this was a welcome addition to non-restricted funds which has helped to support LGBTQ+ and those living with and affected by HIV in Blackpool, who are most detrimentally impacted by the current pandemic.

Other digital interventions this year include a "Watch Along" hosted by HORIZON LGBTQ+ on Facebook for the showing of the short film "Sequins".

Interactive social posts to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia and support for the Black Out Tuesday Movement to raise awareness of the Black Lives Matter campaign.

TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

Regular Training Opportunities were given, Managers and Staff completed 36 training opportunities in the year. A snapshot provided below.

Regular Supervision and 360 Appraisals were given to all staff members. Additionally counselling and clinical supervision is offered

Online Team Days held. Covid-19 Risk assessments completed, PPE and other safe working equipment provided.

**HEALTH
AND
WELLBEING**

We have regularly reviewed our Policies and Procedures

We were committed to our 'Time to Change' action plan which we completed in the year and have decided to continue with regular staff events

**Child Sexual
Exploitation**

**Covid-19:
Psychological First
Aid Public Health
England**

**Skills for Health
Coronavirus training
for front line staff**

**Level 1 Needle and
Syringe Programme
Practitioner
Assessment**

**Harmful Sexual
Behaviour**

**Level 4 BTEC and
NVQ Management
Qualification**

**Fundamentals of
Health and Safety
in the Workplace**

**Let's Talk
about Suicide**

**Information
Governance
and Level 3
Safeguarding Adults**

DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

Service Developments 2020/21

- Full Business Continuity plan reviewed and Covid-19 Risk management plan implemented
- Full review of all Projects and diversification of delivery
- Digital offer expanded across all services
- ADDER Funding and Project Delivery Start
- Implementation of Drug Related Death Action Plan and Homeless Risk Management plan
- 3 Year Charity Strategy presented
- HIV and Sexual Health Outreach contract secured with new partner Brook in Blackburn with Darwen
- New KPI and Report templates developed and presented by Service Managers
- Secured various COVID emergency funding streams to purchase work at home ad IT equipment as well as refurbishment of the Big Sexy Bus which is now a covid secure facility.

Future Plans 2021/22

- Renovation, Re-decoration and Upkeep of Building
- Review Vehicular Fleet effectiveness and cost analysis
- Start delivery of Lancashire wide PrEP Marketing Campaign and support service in partnership with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals.
- Explore funding opportunities for expansion of LGBTQ+ Support service, all encompassing Health and Wellbeing/Navigator Service.
- Review Management and Staffing Structure with the introduction of new roles such as Quality Officer, Admin and Finance Support.
- Implementation of Phase 3 Funding for 'Building Better Opportunities, Changing Futures'.
- Play an active part in Blackpool System Change for Multiple Disadvantaged Individuals.
- Re-introduction of HIV Prevention England Campaign as Local Activation Partner.
- Continued Review of all Projects, with priority given to LGBTQ+ Groups, Sex worker and Hep C support.
- Sign up to 'Trauma Informed Workplace' Quality Mark.
- Continue with the 3-year Strategy Action Plan ensuring this is a working plan and actions are being completed, this includes how we continue to achieve our overarching values and behaviours.
- Ensure sustainability and funding of all projects ongoing.
- With the introduction of a Quality Officer, we will re-visit our Branding, review all Policies and Procedures, Training Framework and Marketing/Communications plan.
- With additional admin and finance support we will be able to more closely monitor budgets and spend as well as ensuring sustainability by investing in the staff and building and building up reserves..

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total (£) 31/03/21	Total (£) 31/03/20
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	6,315	-	6,315	17,087
Charitable activities				
Provision of services	34,468	896,304	903,772	884,930
Other trading activities	16,951	-	16,951	59,799
Other income	930	-	930	-
TOTAL INCOME	58,664	896,304	954,968	961,816
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities				
Support Costs	12,005	-	12,005	16,527
Governance Costs	6,000	-	6,000	6,888
Provision of Services	12,566	744,386	756,952	834,388
Management and Administration	25,463	64,487	89,950	151,909
Total	56,034	808,873	864,907	1,009,712
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	2,630	87,431	90,061	(47,896)
Transfers between funds	87,431	(87,431)	-	-
Net movement in funds	90,061	-	90,061	47,896
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total Funds Brought Forward	336,231	-	336,231	384,127
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	426,292	-	426,292	336,231

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

This summary of the financial results for the year may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full accounts, the Auditor's Report on those accounts and the Trustees' Annual Report should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from the registered office of the charity at 102 Dickson Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 2BU

WITH THANKS TO

Our achievements, impact and continued success have been made possible thanks to our many partners and funders we worked with in the year.

Funders

- AVIVA Community Fund
- Big Lottery – Awards for All
- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Children in Need
- Fylde and Wyre CCG
- Gilead Sciences
- HIV Prevention England
- Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Preston City Council
- Public Health Blackpool
- Selnet – Changing Futures

Partners

- 3D Environmental
- Ashley Foundation
- Baldwins Accountants
- Blackpool Bid
- Blackpool Coach Design
- Blackpool Fire and Rescue
- Blackpool Housing
- Blackpool Police
- Blackpool Pride
- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
- Comfort Zone
- Connect
- Delphi Medical
- Disability Equality North West
- Fulfilling Lives
- Fylde Coast Women's Aid
- Get The Message Media
- Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
- Lancashire LGBTQ+
- Morecambe Bay Trust
- National Ugly Mugs
- North West Ambulance Service
- Northern Rail
- Pilotlight
- Plungington Community Centre
- Serco
- Streetlife
- Terrence Higgins Trust
- The ARC
- The Council for Voluntary Service
- The Well
- UCLan
- Unity Reform Church
- Vincent House
- IT Services
- W Dennis

AND OUR AMAZING TEAM

We would like to offer thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers who are integral to the service, and to our council of management for their time and dedication.

Our operational team members always put in the extra mile for the service which attributes to our excellent reputation within the community and with our partners and funders.

With thanks to our Council of Management 2020/21

- **Lianne Edwards (Chair)**
- **Ian Ashton**
- **Mark Jones**
- **Pam Isherwood**
- **Philip Curwen**
- **Joni Singleton**
- **Yvonne Bairstow**