



HIV Engagement (HIVE) Project

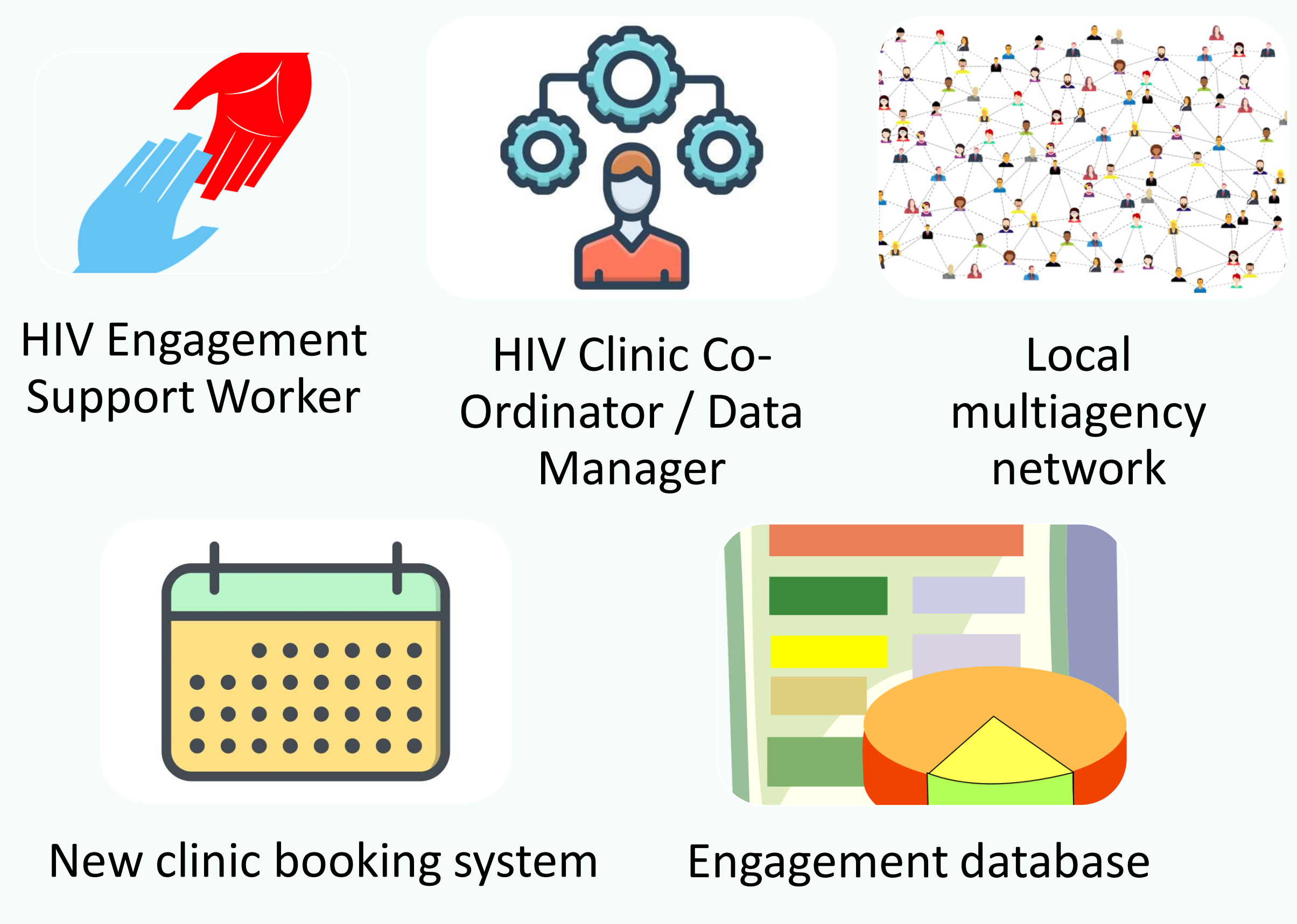
Not Lost: A new approach to accessible HIV care

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Introduction

- Retention in care is a critical step in the HIV care cascade; UK data shows there are more people with diagnosed HIV but not in HIV care, than remain undiagnosed.
- The HIV Engagement (HIVE) project was launched in Cardiff in 2023 to meet our obligation to stop HIV transmissions by 2030. A core objective of the project was to pilot a new re-engagement model to reach those not served by existing services.

Description



- The new service model commenced on 1st January 2024.
- The HIVE engagement support worker provides individualised support, working flexibly as a single point of contact for service users and other supporting agencies; they are supported by our HIV clinic co-ordinator/data manager.
- People are now able to book appointments nearer the time with increased flexibility and there is allocated capacity for walk-in attenders.
- Bespoke care pathways can be arranged around the competing priorities which impact on HIV care.
- Engagement data is collected to monitor individuals and evaluate the impact of interventions. Levels of engagement across the cohort are assessed and updated quarterly.

Lessons Learned

	Number of individuals (% of cohort)		
	Aug 2023	Mar 2024	Sep 2024
Not in care*	17/659 (2.6%)	32/672 (4.8%)	8/682 (1.2%)
Intermittent engagement**	112/659 (17%)	109/672 (16.2%)	50/682 (7.3%)
Walk-in attendances***	7/659 (1.1%)	8/672 (1.2%)	5/682 (0.7%)
Total	136/659 (20.6%)	149/672 (22.2%)	63/682 (9.2%)

* No attendance in previous 12 months
** ≥ 3 missed appointments in previous 12 months
*** Only unscheduled attendances in previous 12 months

This project received funding from Gilead's Need to Find Grant Scheme.

- Of those not in care, 59% had a detectable HIV viral load at last attendance compared to 15% of those with intermittent engagement.
- We saw an initial rise in the number of people *not in care* due to increased case-finding capacity within the new model; the longest time not in care was 5 years.
- Subsequently there has been a reduction in the number and proportion of people in all 3 re-engagement categories to below baseline levels.

Recommendations

- Ongoing data collection is needed to demonstrate consistent improvement.
- This new model will become standard of care in Cardiff and Vale and further findings will be reported at 12 months.
- Welsh HIV services require systematic engagement data and sustainable re-engagement programmes to meet 2030 elimination goals.