

## Supporting information for ME062504

### **Policies, Postcards and Prophylactics: a project to catalogue and conserve LHSA's UNESCO-awarded HIV/AIDS collections (1983-2010)**

Additional contextual information regarding the importance of the project collections and their applicability to the RRMH theme 'Combating infectious disease'

LHSA's HIV/AIDS Collections (UNESCO-awarded in 2011) document the measures taken in Edinburgh and the Lothians to prevent the spread of infection from first discovery in the region to 2010. The early papers from the Lothian Regional AIDS Team (GD24) document the data gathering during the beginnings of the medical response in 1984, right up until 1996. The Take Care Campaign (GD22) charts the ground-breaking public awareness campaign during the late 1980s and early 1990s, and the Lothian Health Board (LHB) Papers (Acc 01/012 and Acc 10/015) show its sustained response through policy and public awareness up until 2010.

Throughout this 27-year period, the response to HIV/AIDS in the Lothian region has focused on different means of infection, initially solely on homosexual transmission, but subsequently through blood transfusion, intravenous drug use, and heterosexual transmission as well. The strategies and the groups involved have evolved as the nature of transmission, and likely 'at risk' groups, have been identified. The four collections in this bid which remain uncatalogued comprise material relating to the LHB, LHB Director of Public Health, LHB Take Care Campaign and Crusaid charity papers covering the years 1985 to 2010: a microcosm of the whole LHSA HIV/AIDS Collections. Whilst they remain largely inaccessible, so does part of the story, including the 1987 to 1989 policy responses which went on to inform national policy.

By 1986, it was recognised that "the predicted epidemic nature of the infection in Edinburgh, the uncertainty about routes of transmission, and the potential nature of spread, meant that an 'extra-ordinary response' was required"<sup>1</sup>. Although the first suspected cases of AIDS in Edinburgh did not occur until 1983, news from the USA medical community ensured it was a cause for concern and discussion prior to this date. In October 1982, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Minutes of the Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases (Scottish Branch) show that it was not deemed necessary to implement a co-ordinated screening programme as there were no cases of GRID/AIDS (Gay Related Immune Deficiency/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in Scotland at that time<sup>2</sup>. New evidence in 1983 suggested AIDS could be transferred through blood. By late 1984, HTLV-III antibodies had been found amongst haemophiliacs, and as a result, the first medical group to respond to AIDS in Edinburgh, the Lothian AIDS Advisory Group (LAAG), was set up in late 1984 to advise the LHB. During 1985, Dr John Peutherer, the virologist on the diagnostic group funded by the LHB and a member of LAAG, discovered that the control group (intravenous drug users already identified as having contracted hepatitis B through needle sharing during the early 1980s) had higher rates of HTLV-III antibodies than the patients. After the publication of the McClelland Report, the LHB set up the Lothian Regional AIDS Team to co-ordinate action from local government, charities, the police and health organisations against the AIDS epidemic in 1986, and appointed Dr George Bath as its leader. His papers (GD24) and those of the LHB form the crux of the HIV/AIDS Collections, and document

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<sup>1</sup> Lothian AIDS Advisory Group, Agenda and Minutes 'A Strategy for Management of AIDS in Lothian', 18 December 1986 (GD24/1/175).

<sup>2</sup> Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Minutes of Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases (Scottish Branch), 1 October 1982 quoted in Coyle, H 'A Tale of One City – A History of HIV/AIDS Policy-Making in Edinburgh 1982 - 1994 (PhD, University of Edinburgh, 2008).

the story of the fight against HIV/AIDS in Edinburgh and its surrounds, which did not stop in the 1980s. The combined efforts of a myriad of groups to prevent infection via all methods, e.g. promotion of the safe sex message as the Take Care Campaign progressed into the 1990s, needle exchange services, antenatal screening, testing and contact tracing, are recorded in these collections.

#### Explanation for the funding level requested for conservation treatment of the project collections

A comprehensive survey of the project collections was undertaken by an accredited paper conservator prior to submission of the preliminary bid. This survey included detailed examination of the condition and extent of the project collections. The findings of the survey dictated both the length of the fixed-term post for the proposed Project Conservator and the quantity and type of materials and equipment required for treatment.

#### *Additional information on the funding required for the Project Conservator post*

Estimates of time required are based on extensive experience of case note preservation work previously funded by the RRMH programme, in which it has been established that to undertake basic preventive conservation measures for 1 linear metre of loose sheet material constitutes approximately one week's work.

Given the importance of this UNESCO-awarded material, and increased demand for access as a result of this accolade and cataloguing already undertaken by LHSA, coupled with the poor condition of several of the project collections, some material has been allocated slightly more time to also undertake interventive treatments to stabilise it for future use, for example tear repair. Conversely, collections in good condition, simply requiring transfer to appropriate long-term storage materials to ensure their preservation, are allocated less time. The table below summarises the findings of the survey in relation to time required for treatment.

	Description	Reference	Time required (days)
1	NHS Lothian HIV/AIDS	LHB45 (Acc 01/012; Acc 10/004; Acc 10/015)	25
2	Dr Helen Zealley, Director of Public Health	GD25 (Acc 00/49; Acc 01/52)	75
3	Lothian Take Care Campaign	GD22	35
4	Crusaid	GD21	1
5	Lothian Regional AIDS Team	GD24	77
6	David Taylor, Lothian Regional Council Co-ordinator for HIV/AIDS	GD35	2
7	Waverley Care Trust	GD36	In 6 above
8	Edinburgh Drug Action Team	GD37	In 6 above
9	Save the Children	GD1/12	In 6 above
10	RIE Social Work Department	GD1/85	In 6 above
11	HIV/AIDS awareness postcards	GD1/96	In 6 above
12	HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Pamphlets	GD1/135	In 6 above
13	Supplementary work, e.g. staff induction, documentation	Not applicable	5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>220 days</b>

There are 44 working weeks (220 days) available in 12 months. The level of prior qualification and experience required, and autonomy within the project for important decisions relating to historically significant material, is commensurate with a UE06 Project Conservator post, at a cost of £32,435.

*Additional information on the funding required for materials and equipment*

Through detailed examination of the project collections, a list of materials and equipment required to support their treatment and storage needs was compiled. This has primarily focused on folders and boxes (i.e. secondary protection) to ensure that the collection items have the necessary long-term protection and can be accessed easily and safely now and in the future.

The need for high specification storage material has been dictated by two factors: 1. significance of the collections and 2. conformity with a preservation methodology approved and employed in five previous RRMH projects to treat twentieth-century patient case notes. As a result, this forms the majority of the funding request for materials and equipment to treat and preserve the project collections.

The table below summarises the survey findings, and breaks down the total funding bid of £10,877 into its component parts (figures accurate 2012).

	Item	Quantity	Cost (£)
Materials for storage (with additional explanation as appropriate)	Folders (for loose sheet material, each folder filled to capacity)	9,500	5,947.50
	Boxes	333	1,897.20
	Polypockets for 35mm slides	25 sheets	12.00
	Box for 35mm slide pockets	1	9.80
	Melinex sleeves (small)	50	16.00
	Melinex sleeves (medium)	50	22.00
	Larger format manilla paper (bespoke storage for outsize items)	1 roll	61.70
	Smaller format manilla paper (bespoke storage for outsize items)	2 packets of 50 sheets	114.00
	Larger format box board (bespoke storage for outsize items)	1 packet of 20 sheets	66.00
	Evacon adhesive	1	9.35
	Labels	1 packet (of 1000)	30.00
	Containers for film stock	2	16.00
	Acid-free tissue	1 packet (500 sheets)	20.00
	Archive tying tape	1 roll	5.99
Materials for conservation (and application)	Chemical sponge (surface cleaning)	1 *	5.10
	Capillary matting (humidification and pressing)	1 roll	7.07
	Sympatex (humidification and pressing)	1 roll	156.80
	Blotter (humidification and pressing)	1 packet	210.60
	Remay (humidification and pressing)	1 roll	157.60
	Bondina (humidification and pressing, tear repair)	1 roll	28.60
	Japanese paper (tear repair)	Sheets of two different weights	37.31
	Wheat starch paste (tear repair)	1 packet	5.29
Equipment **	Cutting mat	1	65.22
	Knife and replacement blades	1	6.10
	Scalpel and replacement blades	1	12.35
	Microspatula (small)	1	3.10
	Microspatula (large)	1	3.50

	Delivery charges	N/A	138.00
		<b>Sub-total</b>	9,064.18
		<b>VAT</b>	1,812.84
		<b>Total (rounded down)</b>	10,877.00

\* To be supplemented by LHSA reserves if necessary.

\*\* Other equipment needed for conservation treatment is available in the Conservation Studio in which the Project Conservator would be based.

#### Additional contextual information on the non-paper-based materials in the project collections

The majority of the project collections are paper-based and in loose sheet format. There are, however, a small number of other material types found: textiles (e.g. campaign t-shirts and bags), 3½" floppy discs, photographic material, bound volumes, and rubber and latex items (e.g. condoms and campaign balloons).

LHSA has extensive experience of preserving material of these varying types and formats through its work in relation to other collections held. With the exception of the rubber/latex items and the 3½" floppy discs, this non-paper material is in generally good condition and requires suitable re-housing only in order to ensure its long-term stability. The appropriate storage materials necessary for this work have been included in the bid, as has time within the Project Conservator's workplan.

The rubber/latex items are often found in poorer condition, thought to be the result of a loss of plasticiser. This damage is irreversible and, as a result, conservation intervention must concentrate on stabilising the material through appropriate storage to arrest further deterioration. Again, material and time for this has been accommodated in the project application.

The 3½" floppy discs are at risk of obsolescence, and will be managed in accordance with LHSA's policy regarding this material. The content will be extracted and re-formatted, and the originals stored appropriately to prolong their useable life as far as possible. This work will be supervised by the LHSA Archivist named in Q18 of the project bid.