

Practical support & care for those living with HIV and AIDS / Cleveland AIDS Support, giving practical support to those living with HIV infections.

Contributors

Children with AIDS Charity

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Practical Support & Care

for those
living with
HIV and AIDS

CLEVELAND

AIDS
SUPPORT

*Giving practical support to
those living with HIV infections*

Befriending • listening • transport • DIY
shopping • laundry • childminding etc.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

CLEVELAND AIDS SUPPORT (CAS), is a registered charity, which endeavours to:

- Educate
- Inform
- Advise
- Train

on issues around HIV and Aids.

CAS works with members of the public and other voluntary and statutory organisations, but most importantly provides practical support and care to those in the community living with HIV infections, including Aids, and to their friends and family network.

CAS offers practical help and support, which includes, shopping, laundry, childminding, DIY etc., as well as providing emotional support and befriending.

CAS arose from the realisation that there was a gap to be filled in this area and that there was a need for services of a practical nature to be provided - services that the statutory agencies are unable to offer.

CAS serves Cleveland county and its immediate environs, which includes Hartlepool and both North and South Tees Health Authority districts, and we welcome volunteers and service-users from all parts of the region.



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

OUR volunteers are involved in all aspects of service provision, mainly practical support but are also given an opportunity to fund-raise and take part in public awareness/HIV prevention initiatives with CAS and other agencies.

After selection procedures, volunteers take part in an eight week induction course, exploring subjects including basic medical information, aspects of confidentiality, sexual orientation, living with HIV/Aids, grief and loss, the role of a volunteer and boundaries of befriending. After successful completion of the initial training course, we provide our volunteers with monthly, ongoing training sessions, often in areas identified by the volunteers themselves.

Our education ethos is based on the belief that information isn't enough - education and training has to be on a personal level, hence all of our training is experiential, developing the use of interpersonal skills.

Volunteers are made fully aware of what is expected of them and are given clearly defined job descriptions, to ensure that expectations are not exceeded. CAS in return offers full support and one-to-one supervision. We also have access to a network of qualified counsellors and psychotherapists to provide both volunteers and clients with professional support and counselling.

Volunteers work together in small groups, usually in a ratio of three volunteers to one client, which means volunteers can rely on support, emotional and otherwise, from each other, and that we as a service provider can offer regular and more constant care than would be the case in a one volunteer to one client situation.

Volunteers are also fully insured and are paid out-of-pocket expenses.

ORGANISATION & ADMINISTRATION

SERVICE users are referred by many agencies including Social Services, Drugs Advisory Units, local Health Authorities and the Probation Service. We work closely with these agencies to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of service provision. We believe good communication is essential.

Day-to-day running is undertaken by our co-ordinator, who is based in Middlesbrough and services are co-ordinated centrally from there. The co-ordinator is CAS's only paid member of staff and liaises between referral agencies, volunteers and clients, and also organises volunteer recruitment, fund-raising etc.

The work of CAS is overseen by an Executive Committee, members of which are drawn from voluntary and statutory bodies, pooling a wealth of valuable knowledge, experience and resources, helping us to provide a high quality, community based, client-centred service, in what is a growing field of health care and service provision.

Cleveland Aids Support aims to be an Equal Opportunities Organisation.

For further information regarding client referrals, becoming a volunteer, or any other information about the work of CAS, please contact:

Michael Robson
Co-ordinator
Cleveland Aids Support
47 Princes Road
Middlesbrough
Cleveland TS1 4BG

Tel: (0642) 254598

(answerphone when office unattended)

PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND CARE

Services for those living with HIV and AIDS

EXAMPLES of the many different, practical ways we can help include:

- befriending
- advice
- listening
- transport
- shopping
- laundry
- childminding
- DIY

— *and other practical help*

Services for supporters

OUR support for other professionals, volunteers and carers in the community includes:

- Information
- Education
- On-going advice
- Training
- Full back-up support
- Teamwork

Registered Charity 1000581

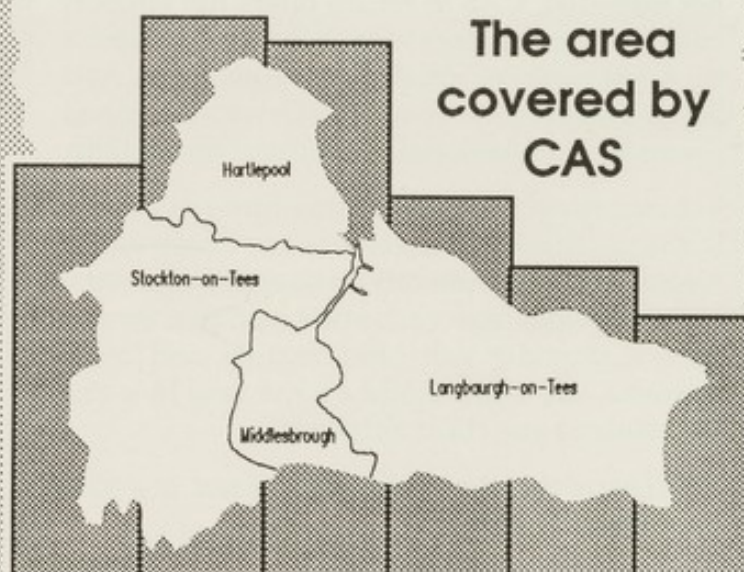
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