**About Positively UK**

Positively UK provides peer-led support, advocacy and information to everyone living with HIV to effectively manage any aspect of their diagnosis, care and life with HIV. We believe that people living with HIV are best placed to advocate for their own needs. Working in partnership with the NHS, our peer work is integrated at clinics across London; 90% of our staff are living with HIV.

We run a range of specialised peer-led support services for women, heterosexual people, gay men, young people, and those ageing with HIV. We host events and workshops for recently diagnosed people – those who are planning parenthood or currently pregnant, including talks with activists, clinicians and life coaches with the purpose of supporting people and help them meet peers and form meaningful friendships. We offer OCN accredited training to people with HIV to deliver efficient peer support and collaborate with clinics and voluntary organisations around the UK to establish peer support programmes.

**Positive Futures Youth Project**

Positive Futures is an expansion of the 2011 Positively UK Positive Transitions programme, where peer-support sessions from a trained youth worker were delivered at an HIV youth clinic in London, for a period of 5 years. A survey of their patients showed that the number of people who reported benefiting from attending the clinic and the impact it had on their health, had increased from 68% to 81%, with the presence of peer-support workers identified as one of the main reasons. At the time, two other HIV youth clinics in London were very keen to adopt similar model with integrating peer-support services into the care pathway.

Positive Futures started in October 2017, and aims to deliver peer-support services to young people living with HIV, aged 16 to 24 years old, over a period of 5 years, in clinic and groups, workshops and residential within the community. Participating clinics, dedicated to youth, are all based in London and include the 900 Clinic at St Mary’s hospital, the Caldecot Centre at King’s College hospital, the TEAM Clinic at Mortimer Market (UCLH), and those at St Georges and Guys & St Thomas’ hospital. The project is run by two full time youth peer coordinators who are part of a team of experienced caseworkers.

With Positive Futures, young people have an opportunity to gain confidence and self-esteem, develop and strengthen relationships with their peers, and overcome issues associated with HIV. Ultimately, young people will experience better self-care and well-being, better educational attainment and clearer aspirations for the future. In addition, the project team anticipates that those involved in delivering peer-support will acquire considerable mentoring and communication skills, that are strong assets when applying for educational and training opportunities, potentially leading to employment.