

**C9: before & after evaluation
9th national CHAPS Conference**



**Leeds 6th & 7th March 2006
Sigma Research, May 2006**

SUMMARY

- 49% of delegates completed the evaluation and are included here.
- The majority of delegates at C9 were health promoters working in England. Two thirds had attended previous CHAPS conferences.
- The geographic spread and job roles of delegates was very similar to previous CHAPS conferences, as was how they heard about the conference and their motivations for attending.
- 92% of delegates agreed that the organisation of the conference was good.
- 84% of delegates agreed that the range of themes at the conference was good.
- 55% of delegates said their personal aspirations for the conference had been met 'mostly' or 'completely'.
- 79% agreed they had learnt something new - an increase from 71% at C8.
- 65% agreed they had increased their ability to think critically about their own work.
- 68% agreed they had been inspired to try new working practices - an increase from 47% at C8 and 32% at C7.
- 93% of the delegates would recommend the CHAPS conference to others.
- 67% of the delegates agreed that the CHAPS conference was a key event in their calendar.

RETURNS

	C7	C8	C9
Registered delegates	340	368	372
Registered and attended	316	313	349
Attendance rate	93%	85%	94%
Not registered but attended	--	19	6
Total delegates	316	332	355
Survey returns	166	138	173
Response rate	53%	42%	49%

- **Both the number of registrations and the number of attenders was higher in C9 than for C7 or C8.**

Q1. Job roles [not exclusive]

	C7	C8	C9
Health promoter	69%	69%	71%
Researcher	17%	13%	11%
GUM provider	8%	11%	12%
NHS Commissioners / policy maker	9%	5%	5%
News media	2%	2%	2%
Other	19%	29%	23%

- **Among C9 delegates job roles were similar to those for C7 and C8.**

Other roles specified included:

- General manager
- Administrator
- Charity
- Community development worker
- Counsellor
- Drugs worker
- Group worker
- Health advisor
- HIV policy
- HIV support x 2
- HIV voluntary sector
- LGB worker
- Manager
- Manager of Brook
- Mental health worker
- Operations manager
- Outreach worker
- Police
- Policy
- Senior lecturer
- Service manager x 2
- Sexual health counsellor
- Sexual health trainer
- Social worker
- Support worker
- Switchboard
- Therapist
- Youth work/education
- Youth worker x 4

Q2. Areas worked

	C7 [missing n=11]		C8 [missing n=6]		C9 [missing n=14]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK-wide	--	--	--	--	3	2
England	135	87	116	88	159	86
<i>England-wide</i>	3	2	5	4	2	1
<i>London</i>	56	36	41	31	60	39
<i>South England</i>	18	12	29	22	19	12
<i>Midlands & Eastern Eng.</i>	24	16	20	15	30	19
<i>North England</i>	34	22	21	16	24	15
Wales	2	1	2	2	2	1
Scotland	3	2	3	2	5	3
Northern Ireland	1	1	1	1	2	1
Outside UK	14	9	10	8	12	7
<i>Denmark</i>	--	--	2	--	3	--
<i>Belgium</i>	2	--	1	--	2	--
<i>Norway</i>	2	--	1	--	2	--
<i>Finland</i>	1	--	--	--	1	--
<i>Sweden</i>	5	--	4	--	1	--
<i>Switzerland</i>	--	--	--	--	1	--
<i>France</i>	--	--	--	--	1	--
<i>Republic of Ireland</i>	3	--	2	--	--	--
<i>Netherlands</i>	1	--	--	--	--	--

- The geographic spread of areas worked by delegates was very similar in C9 to C7 and C8.

Q3. How delegates heard about C9? [not exclusive]

	C7	C8	C9
previous attender	62%	65%	60%
direct mailing	34%	29%	23%
through a colleague	31%	27%	31%
other	5%	3%	6%

- **How delegates heard about the conference was very similar for C9, C8 and C7.**

Q4. How many previous CHAPS conferences have you been to?

	Frequency	Percent
None	57	33
One	40	23
38777	34	20
38840	24	14
6 or more	18	10
Total	173	100

- **A third of C9 delegates had never been to a CHAPS conference before.**

Q5. Indicate your strongest reasons for attending C9.

First reason scored 3 points, second reason 2 points, third reason 1 point.

Unticked reasons scored 0 points. Respondents who ticked rather than ranked the reasons contributed 1 point to each reason ticked.

	C7		C8		C9	
	Mean score	Rank	Mean Score	Rank	Mean Score	Rank
To learn new things	1.45	1	1.52	1	1.5	1
To meet people working in similar field	0.98	3	0.9	4	0.99	2
I've benefited from previous conferences	1.07	2	1.04	2	0.91	3
Provides a platform for my work	0.81	4	1.01	3	0.57	4
It's Britain's only Gay & Bi men's HIV conference	0.64	5	0.48	5	0.55	5
To feel less isolated in my work	0.28	6	0.18	6	0.20	6
It's free	0.07	9	0.14	7	0.16	7
My manager insisted	0.1	7	0.06	8	0.07	8
It's in [this town]	0.07	8	0.06	9	0.06	9
To meet up with people I've not seen for a while	0.05	10	0.09	10	0.05	10
Other	0.1		0.04		0.09	

- **The most common reason for attending C9 was 'to learn new things'.**
- **The overall ranking of reasons for attendance was very similar across the last three CHAPS conferences.**

Q6. What are you hoping to personally get out of the conference (what would make it a success for you personally)?

41 (24%) respondents did not answer this question at all.

The responses of the other 132 people were usually attributed to one reason for attendance, but some gave multiple reasons and appear in more than one category in the table below. The table below outlines the volume of responses that were categorised into broadly the same themes as preceding CHAPS conferences.

Hopes / Reasons given	C7	C8	C9
New ideas / inspiration	51	42	44
Gain more knowledge (general learning)	54	47	41
Networking	50	36	27
Understanding other agencies / projects	5	4	8
(Learn about) specific topics	15	10	5
Improve my work with Gay men	8	6	5
Raise profile of my organisation / present results of my work	--	7	5
Time for reflection / thinking time	--	--	4
Research findings	14	9	4
Best (good) practice	11	10	2
Policy issues and developments	5	3	2
Other answers	--	--	15

The vast majority of people gave one of three main hopes, aspirations or reasons for attendance:

- to *gain more (general) knowledge*.
- or to get *new ideas or inspiration*.
- *networking*.

Compared to C7 and C8 participants, those attending C9 seemed slightly more likely to favour getting *new ideas or inspiration* as an aspiration over *to gain more (general) knowledge*. Moreover, *networking* was a slightly less common aspiration at C9 than it was in C7 or C8. However, these three inter-connected hopes and aspirations remain paramount in people's reasons for attendance at the CHAPS conference.

The majority of the remaining responses were broadly similar to previous years. Slightly more people cited *understanding other agencies, projects or interventions (including CHAPS)* compared to previous years and slightly less cited desires to learn about specific topics (although criminalisation, sex pigs, outreach and bare-backing were mentioned).

The only new aspiration or reason for attendance that emerged was to provide *time for reflection or thinking time*. While this hope was not particularly common (4 participants) it has not been noted before.

Fifteen people cited other hopes and expectations that did not easily fit with the main categories in the table. These are reported below to demonstrate the very wide range of aspirations, hopes and reasons for attendance.

Some had a range of ambitious expectations and desires in relation to C9:

- Learn new information on prevention methods - Latest innovation & research updates - healthy debate, challenges and reflection on where the sector is going and how we work together.
- Opportunity to take work further through learning and skills development.
- Affirmation of current work. Explore new ways of working / new ideas.
- To become more re-energised in helping people.
- Some new ideas, some reaffirmation of my work.
- Dialogue, improved relations.

Others do not:

- I was not sure. I had no expectations.
- Very open to the process - just being here is an important event.
- Debate.
- Actually get an interesting presentation & debate going.

While some of the responses suggest criticism of CHAPS, THT or prior conferences, these were very much in the minority.

- The impression that the sector is getting over the *shock 'em into being good* approach.
- Current factually correct information.
- More information - less THT focus. More National.

Finally, those involved with the organisation of the conference, hoped that it went well and that others benefited from the learning environment they had created.

- To pass off smoothly and successfully.
- A smoothly run conference, happy delegates, memorable sessions.
- That it runs smoothly and people have a good time and its productive learning environment.

Q7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Q7a. "I would have liked more information about the conference before arriving"

Missing = 1	Frequency	%
Disagree	82	48
Neither	54	32
Agree	36	21
Total	172	100

Q7b. "I would liked more opportunity to influence the content to the conference".

Missing = 2	Frequency	%
Disagree	57	34
Neither	95	56
Agree	19	11
Total	171	100

[if Agree: "How could that have happen?"]

- By asking attendees what subjects they want covered.
- Conference steering committee opened up beyond THT staff maybe including the host city.
- Not easy - but to be involved in planning.
- More awareness about what work is carried out by other services, perhaps through a questionnaire or by the chaps team visiting other services outside of London.
- More conference content on HIV prevention for HIV positive communities.
- More discussion thru web chat very under utilised.
- Increase numbers on panel to reflect diversity.
- It is not easy but would be good to be involved with the planning.
- More information and access to input earlier in the planning process.
- NW representation & consultation on conference / Training.
- More awareness about what work is carried out by other services, perhaps through a questionnaire or having the CHAPS people visiting other services.
- More conference content on HIV prevention for HIV positive community.
- More information and access thru the web chat is very under utilized.
- More information and access to input earlier in the planning process.
- Selection online topics.
- Suggestions of workshops.
- Would love to be more involved in the selection of topics.

Q8. "Are you aware of the on-line C9 Message Board?"

Missing = 1	Frequency	%
No, I have never heard of it	70	41
Yes, and I have used it	26	15
Yes, but I did not use it	76	44

[If aware of the on-line C9 Message Board but have not used it? Why not?]

- Did not feel the need (x 16 people)
- Did not have the opportunity but I think it's a good idea.
- Busy with other work.
- Haven't had enough time.
- No time to access it at work.
- Not enough time.
- Not had great opportunity to prepare at work this year.
- I'm new and innocent. Didn't have time really.
- Because no-one else does and the system is so often faulty.
- Could not access it although I tried to.
- Issues with accessing - internal server error message.
- Website did not appear easy to use.
- Can't log on at work.
- Difficulty with firewall.
- Still waiting for a log in.
- I read it but didn't have anything to contribute.
- The benefits for use are not that apparent.
- I visited the site but it did seem to being used. I had nothing I wanted to use.
- No activity on message board.
- Found it confusing.
- Did not have the confidence.
- Do not like internet message boards.
- Not my thing.
- Poor IT.
- Not computer literate.
- Not sure why.
- Only found out just before the conference.

Q9. "Thinking about my role in Gay and Bisexual men's health promotion over the last year, I would like to have benefited from more skills and knowledge in the area of ..."

53 people did not answer this question at all.

Anything, everything (n=2)

- Many areas.
- Everything.

Lobbying, influencing and understanding policy and law (n=15)

- Providing information to commissioners to secure ongoing funding
- Getting funding for targeted services / Influencing commissioners / handling hostility.
- Advocating for funding from statutory authorities.
- Functioning & influencing the NHS.
- Healthcare policy / DoH Funding.
- Understanding policy.
- Public health policy (new).

- Law on immigrants.
- The law on transmission.
- Law on transmission of HIV.
- Criminalisation of HIV.
- The changing attitude in the law towards HIV transmission and what it means for me as an outreach worker.
- Gay mens sex and the law.
- HIV transmission & prosecution.
- HIV criminalisation and supporting service users understanding.

Planning, funding and executing work (n=4)

- Services & resources available: what's happening in other regions?
- More money for resources.
- Access to funds for positive health promotion work.
- Better ways to interpret MIC.

Partnership working, collaboration (n=6)

- Working in partnership and developing united approach to work.
- Integrating the work of young peoples and STI screening work with LGBT groups.
- Policy making and greater collaborative working.
- How to implement the campaigns, use of resources.
- Other agencies roles within the field.
- Better access to CHAPS campaigns.

Understanding and doing research (n=8)

- What makes a difference / what works.
- Knowing how new interventions are being evaluated.
- About recent research especially on young MSM and HIV+ MSM.
- A review of the CHAPS health promotion literature produced to assess its efficacy.
- What works and how acceptable is my approach as a women to client group.
- More local based research.
- Changes in incidence affecting target groups.
- Research methods and approaches to the broad range of existing services in the UK.

Work using specific METHODS (n=16)

- Developing understanding initiatives via different media (Web, post, direct etc.).
- The internet and IT issues.
- Working on the internet.
- How to use internet in HIV prevention.
- Working with health promotion on the internet.
- Conversation / counselling.
- To know more about counselling.
- More in depth 1-2-1 and group-work.
- In detached work more formal training in general - often left to read around the field ourselves. Could have more training in legal issues.
- Other outreach workers experiences - particularly in the areas of bare-backing and reasons why this seems to be on the increase.
- Approaching men on cruising sites to give information & general cruising hints.
- Outreach work.
- Gay psychology - motivation interviewing techniques.
- Campaign production.
- The variety of structural interventions taking place across the UK.
- Structural interventions.

Work in specific SETTINGS (n=8)

- Working with education and faith.
- Working with challenging organisations: Religion, schools.
- Work in schools / youth related information.
- Effectively engaging and work with HIV schools in HIV.
- Education: how should education (HE) be incorporating Gay mens health promotion?
- Engaging schools with their SRE/ PHSE and helping to educate teachers.
- HIV testing & STIs in a non clinical setting.
- Working with diverse groups in PSEs including doggers.

Working with specific TARGET GROUPS (n=14)

- Work with behavioural bisexually men.
- Engaging African MSM.
- HIV prevention directed at for HIV positive men.
- Better with young Gay / Bi men around HIV issues. Better knowledge about sex practices in saunas, clubs etc and how to advise young men.
- The needs of young people.
- Youth issues.
- Promoting safer sex with less abled clients.
- Supporting MSM with LEQs.
- Bisexual mens perspectives influencing general population.
- How better to reach gay and bisexual men in the semi rural area.
- Current issues surrounding sexual health minority groups.
- Drag queens and their lives.
- Working with hard to reach gay men, approaches and techniques.
- How diversity within gay men population "plays out" particularly ethnicity.

Specific needs / issues (n=27)

- Treatment issues.
- Treatment and living well issues.
- HIV treatment issues.

- Working with mental health issues.
- Mental health needs for poz gm.
- Mental health - HIV meds side effects.
- Drugs and alcohol, mental health.
- Drug and mental issues to make a more holistic approach to HIV.
- Drugs, rough sex.
- More on drug issues and Hep C.
- Crystal meths knowledge.
- Risk reduction and recreational drugs relationship with HIV risk.
- Sexual behaviour influenced by drugs and alcohol.
- STI's (as in info to raise my awareness without having to look it up).
- Syphilis / LGV / PrEP.
- LGV & Chlamydia.
- Community based sexual health services.
- How to address this issue from cross-cultural multi-faith perspectives.
- Home testing kits.
- Sexual health & homophobic bullying matters.
- New prevention technologies.
- Same sex domestic abuse.
- Transgendered.
- Internalised homophobia.
- PEP and positive gay mens issues.
- Legal, drug, psycho/social aspects.
- Reducing the stigma / stereotypes.

Other areas, issues, needs and desires (n=20)

- Setting up a constituted LGBT group.
- Developing the use of volunteers. Where to get extra support.
- How people make assessments of risk in everyday life.
- Masculine identity and oppression of men in general rather than specific HIV info.
- Challenging unsafe sexual behaviour in a supportive way.
- Change management: individual and organisational.
- Working psychologically & working on MSM narratives.
- Sexual practices.
- Challenging risk behaviours in hard to reach groups.
- Providing info to people who are aware of risks to sexual health but not concerned about sexual health.
- Challenging recognised behaviours & encouraging honest reflection.
- How to affect behaviour in positive ways - in relation to destructive behaviour inc drugs /addiction.
- Risk taking behaviour.
- Communication skills and psychological effectiveness in communicating with colleagues and patients.
- Diplomacy.
- How the diversity in our community reflects the diversity on how we think individually.
- Local services for gay men.
- Managing workers & working within NHS framework.
- HIV prevention strategies in health promotion
- Health promotion models that focus on the frames of mind (psychology) of gay & MSM rather than behavioural

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

Q11. Which conference sessions did you attend?

Number of responses =173

Most popular slot in each session are in bold.

Please rate the sessions you attended for overall benefit to you on a scale of 1-to-5 where 1='no benefit' and 5='great benefit'

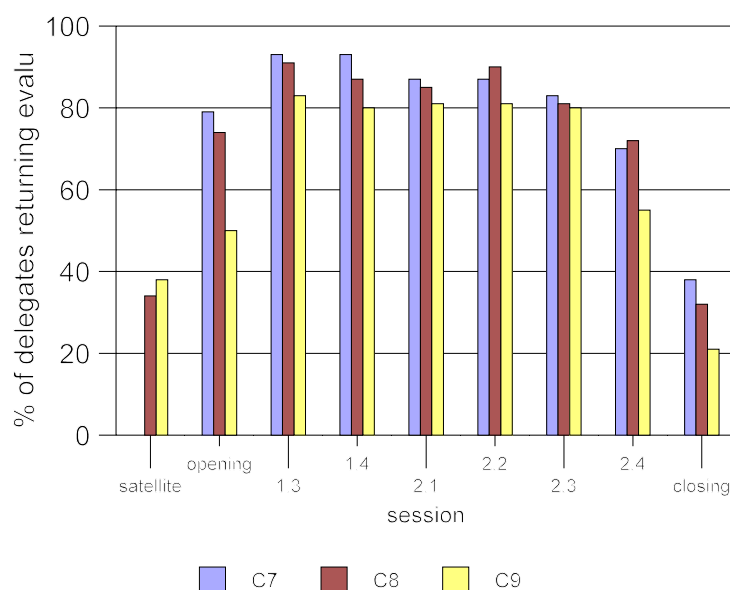
# delegates	Session name	Mean rating
	Monday AM: Pre-conference satellite sessions	
17	Stereotypes and symbolism: concepts of queer	3.8
8	Lifting the Lid: thinking outside the gay box	3.5
4	Better engagement with the Black gay men	3.8
9	Lower education qualifications	2.8
5	Youth Matters	2.2
22	Piggy in the middle: working with sex pigs	3.5
86	Opening plenary	3.0
	Monday PM: Session 1	
13	Homophobic bullying: Interactive workshop	3.6
5	Syphilis infection	3.4
31	Proximity to HIV	3.2
48	Bareback mounting	3.5
26	Internalised homophobia	3.7
20	Criminal prosecution - starter session	4.6
	Monday PM: Session 2	
12	Peer mentoring - interactive workshop	2.9
8	Drug resistance - starter session	3.4
37	PEP: the bigger picture	3.9
33	The new NHS	3.6
25	Drug use coming out of the closet	3.5
24	FasTest	3.9

# delegates	Session name	Mean rating
Tuesday AM: Session 1		
24	Criminal prosecution - interactive workshop	4.5
26	Prevention with men with HIV: psychological perspectives	3.3
18	C2C: clinical services in community settings	3.8
38	How very dare you: shock tactics	4.0
21	What a way to make a living - panel discussion	3.4
13	You've got to have faith - panel discussion	3.8
Tuesday AM: Session 2		
11	Keep young and beautiful - interactive workshop	3.0
22	Using games in groupwork - interactive workshop	4.3
26	Tackling hate crime	3.7
25	Internet surveys	3.5
39	Reaching out - panel discussion	2.9
17	LGV update - starter session	4.4
Tuesday PM: Session 3		
17	Empowering community - interactive workshop	2.8
35	Left in the dark - panel discussion	3.0
25	Gay men with HIV: sex and relationships	3.4
22	BME LGBT perspective on mental health	3.7
24	Are narratives important to gay men's health?	3.6
16	HIV prevalence and incidence: a closer look	4.1
Tuesday PM: Session 4		
12	Drink and drug use in men with HIV - workshop	3.2
25	Prevention in education	4.0
27	Good porn / bad porn - interactive workshop	3.5
22	Online prevention	3.8
10	Rectal microbicides	4.1
36	Closing plenary	3.6

The graph shows the proportion of evaluation respondents who attended a session in each time slot (there were no satellite events in C7).

At C7, 48% of delegates who said they were at the opening plenary were also at the closing plenary. At C8 this figure fell to 43%, and at C9 it fell again to only 33%.

While the pattern of attrition is very similar over the three conferences, C9 appears to have lost more delegates in the mid afternoon of the second day.



Q12a. "The organisation of the conference was good."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	94%	94%	92%
Neither agree nor disagree	5%	5%	7%
Disagree	1%	1%	1%

- **The same high proportion of delegates as in previous years felt the organisation of the conference was good.**

Q12b. "The range of themes in the conference was good."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	83%	82%	84%
Neither agree nor disagree	14%	14%	11%
Disagree	3%	4%	4%

- **The same high proportion of delegates as in previous years felt the range of themes at the conference was good.**

Q13. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements as a consequence of the conference?

Q13a. "I learnt things that were new to me."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	69%	71%	79%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%	21%	16%
Disagree	8%	8%	5%

- **The same high proportion of delegates as in previous years, felt they had learnt something new.**

Q13b. "I have increased my ability to think critically about my own work"

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	66%	64%	65%
Neither agree nor disagree	24%	25%	28%
Disagree	10%	12%	7%

- **The same high proportion of delegates as in previous years, felt that they had increased their ability to think critically about their own work.**

Q13c. "I have been inspired to try new work practices."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	32%	47%	68%
Neither agree nor disagree	53%	43%	24%
Disagree	15%	10%	9%

- **There has been a significant increase across the last three years, in the proportion of delegates inspired to try new working practices.**

Q13d. "I have a better understanding of the needs of my role in the Gay and Bisexual men's health sector."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	48%	59%	49%
Neither agree nor disagree	40%	35%	44%
Disagree	12%	6%	7%

- **There has been no change, over the last three years, in the proportion of delegates gaining insight into the needs of their role.**

Q14. "Looking back at your answer to Question 5, did you get what you were looking for from the conference?"

	% C7	% C8	% C9
Not at all	1	2	3
A little	15	13	12
Somewhat	29	30	30
Mostly	47	41	48
Completely	8	13	7

- **The proportion of delegates achieving their self-defined aims for attendance was similar across the last three CHAPS conferences.**

Q15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Q15a. "I'd recommend the CHAPS conference to other people concerned with health promotion with gay and bisexual men."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	91%	93%	93%
Neither agree nor disagree	5%	5%	6%
Disagree	4%	2%	1%

- **The proportion of delegates that would recommend the CHAPS conference to others was similar across the last three CHAPS conferences.**

Q15b. "The CHAPS conference is now a key event in my calendar."

	C7	C8	C9
Agree	67%	78%	67%
Neither agree nor disagree	29%	16%	26%
Disagree	5%	6%	5%

- **The proportion of delegates that consider the CHAPS conference a key event in their calendar was similar across the last three CHAPS conferences.**

**Q16. Please complete the following sentence in fewer than twenty words :
The main way in which I benefited from this conference was...**

30 people did not answer this question at all.

Meeting others: networking (n=46, selected quotes)

- To network with colleagues and see how our coming challenges are differently solved.
- Networking with people in related fields.
- The ability to network both formally and informally with diversity across sectors.
- Opportunities to network and raise the profile of my organisation.
- Through new and up to date information and great networking opportunities.
- It allowed me to share my experiences and gain insight into other peoples experience of working in the sector.
- Talking to others investing with similar issues. The mixture of challenges and support.
- I enlarged and strengthened my network.
- Catching up with colleagues in the sector.
- Feeling a little less isolated as a sole worker.
- Meeting others who work in sexual health.
- To meet other Gay Men's workers helped me to feel less isolated in my work.
- Meeting people in the field.

- The opportunity to meet other workers in the field to share practice.
- Connecting with other researchers.

Learning (n=32, selected quotes)

- Some valuable learning points.
- Learn more about new approaches to HIV prevention.
- More information about subjects I was a little uncertain [about] and able to talk with people who do the same job.
- Learning from others - learning from frontline providers.
- Exchange of ideas - examples of other peoples work was useful.
- Gaining knowledge about issues that I face in daily work, from reliable sources.
- Bringing myself up to speed on other peoples thinking.
- Learning about new sexual health practices and how to include them in my role.
- Better knowledge of other agencies work.
- Increase my awareness of new thinking and new approaches to Gay Men's sexual health.

Understanding the wider context of my work (n=24, selected quotes)

- To see the perspective nationally and for an experience of when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
- Getting new ideas / Confidence to do my work.
- That I deepened my understanding of HIV prevention with gay and bisexual men.
- Opportunity to see what work is being done in other organisations around the country.
- Through a clearer understanding of the current debates in the sector and future challenges / directions brought about by changes in the NHS.
- Seeing hearing about results which delegates felt strongly about incorporating those attitudes / beliefs into my practice influences.
- Being challenged by listening to others work and reassured about my own work.
- Finding out about different sexual health initiatives around the country.
- It allowed me to share my experiences & gain insight into other peoples experience of working in the sector.
- To realise the diversity of projects / interventions going on.
- That it put the research I'm doing into a broader context and gave ideas for the interpretation of the results.
- Realise how little is done by govt in gay mens health education.
- Getting a greater insight into gay mens HIV prevention work and future services.
- Reviewing the value & range of practices & assumptions.
- To see that the challenges I am presented with are experienced by workers nationally.
- Putting my work into context.
- A chance to ground the work I do and reflect on that within a bigger picture.
- Ideas and inspiration seeing the breadth of work being reflected in the programme.
- It got me thinking about me and the people / communities I work with.
- To confirm the fact that we are doing extremely well for such an under-resourced project.

Specific Sessions (n=18)

- Attending the workshops learning new ways to promote health in the community and meeting lots more people doing similar work.
- Some very good sessions, particularly on Monday.
- Themed presentations.
- Watching people cope with a serious keynote speaker in a frock, bloody marvellous.

- HIV and criminalisation sessions.
- Understanding the law around criminal prosecutions.
- Learning more about criminalisation of HIV, both sessions were fantastic and brilliantly facilitated.
- Learning about the current situation regarding prosecution.
- Learning new things especially about HIV and criminal prosecution.
- The information I gained from discussing the issues around criminal prosecution of HIV and information on PEP.
- That I have a better understanding of law and HIV.

- In the information gained re: men accessing PEP (Catherine Dodds session).
- Learning practical ways to discuss homophobic bullying (ie MESMAC workshops).
- Fastest service
- Specific data on syphilis and LGV.
- By challenging my own assumptions on working with certain groups such as Black Gay Men.
- Networking and therapeutic groupwork techniques from PACE.
- Knowing that I am up to date with current developments in STI promotion and HIV prevention.
- Just knowing that there are different levels of our work practice and there is help for everyone who wants and needs it no matter what class.
- The very interesting and original session on "Faith".

Inspiration (n=7)

- To hear about the success of a project that I led on upon locally and to hear some different points of views about outreach work.
- To update my knowledge on current issues, establish connections with new partners and receive inspiration.
- A professional lift.
- Motivational: new ideas and sharing of information.
- Being inspired by the speakers and other participants to expand and develop my work and feeling that I am more equipped to meet the needs of the gay bisexual and MSM men that I work with.
- To update my knowledge on current issues, establish connections with new partners and receive inspiration.
- Networking opportunities & ideas for future projects.

Self-reflection (n=3)

- Stand back and look at my work / role.
- Having a space to critically evaluate the services my organisation provides.

Q17. What other comments do you have about C9 or this evaluation?

54 people did not answer this question at all.

General: POSITIVE (n=43)

- It was great - a credit to all involved. Great to be outside London too.
- Excellent venue - very well organised and implemented well done!
- It was great to meet so many people passionate in their endeavours.
- As always well planned and extremely useful and interesting.
- Well organised.
- A very good range of subjects - much better than C8.
- Very interesting and perfectly organised.
- This is the first time I have ever enjoyed CHAPS conference - well done.
- Enjoyed my 1st CHAPS experience very much, learned a lot about perceptions and knowledge from others.
- Can't wait for next year.
- Extremely well organised.
- Good conference.
- Fabulous my brain is full.
- Fab yet again, thanks.
- Fantastic conf well done guys.
- Enjoyed it - thank you.
- Very good.
- Thank you very much!
- Thank you.
- Thank you.
- Thanks.
- Excellent conference!
- Excellent.
- Excellent.
- Well done and keep up the good work.
- Just great. Brill finish (Sigma Ford H.)
- Best year in a while. Really enjoyed it thanks.
- Great - many thanks seamless organisation, wonderful venue.
- It gets better each time.
- This is been extremely interesting conference.
- Well worth attending.
- "FAB VIRGIL".
- Looking forward to next year.
- Very Informative.
- Good vibrations overall.
- The event was a huge success .. Newcastle would be great for next year!
- I look forward to C10.
- Fab day.
- Very inclusive and enjoyable - important that many opinions are heard.
- Well done keep up the good work.
- Overall the conference was really good.
- Good work.
- I enjoyed the opportunity to explore broader questions. Could be longer.

Specific: POSITIVE (n=11)

- Rabbi James Barden was a very entertaining and impressive speaker. And he's Gay. Why have we never seen him or heard him before? More please.
- Well done. Ta for work, Gerard. Also Justin's session / BB well presented & thoughtful also honest realistic opinions. Heres to C10.
- This has been such a wonderful growing experience for me. I would like to thank Dr Justin for a fantastic opening session.
- Great improvements on C8 in terms of geographical work. Well done.
- Good to see some sessions which focussed, if only tangentially, on issues around preventing onwards transmission by HIV+ men. Good also to see speakers making reference to the fact that a large number of gay men who are positive are using effective risk reduction strategies.
- It was good to see a greater focus on emotional health emerging through the conference.
- Love the bags.
- Video at lunchtime was very good.
- Excellent networking opportunity, both new and catch-up. This was my first CHAPS conf - very impressed.
- Great networking.
- I get the most out of networking at CHAPS

General content: NEGATIVE (n=7)

- The views were rather London centric. This should be addressed.
- Overall there should be a wider focus from outside London.
- Would still like the panels to contain projects outside London ie outreach but keep on challenging.
- More contributions from other gay mens health projects instead of being so THT oriented.
- Very clique and urban centric not addressed the particular needs / problems of rural / provincial gays and LGBT?
- The range of themes was good but the quality of the workshop delivery was the worst I have been to from the 8 CHAPS conferences attended.
- It was difficult to understand some speakers due to poor delivery and sound quality.

Specific content: NEGATIVE (n=20)

- There needs to be much more focus on Hep C which is fast becoming a major issue and hardly any information to them.
- The porn workshop was a very unsafe space - the facilitator was very "gung ho" and insensitive to the range of perspectives in the room I was a bit shocked at his ineptness.
- I was disappointed that there was nothing around gay men & domestic violence sexual assault & rape which all impact on a persons ability to negotiate safer sex and where there seems to be a general lack of awareness otherwise very good.
- More discussion on cruising sites especially out of major cities.
- The lady from the Armistead Project was highly offensive and inappropriate in her presentation.
- It could use more inclusivity of bisexual men & women & more inclusivity of non-gay health promoters.
- More attendance / representation from BME communities.

- Might have been good to have a local speaker at opening plenary.
- The opening plenary did make me think (but not especially in a constructive way) but it was unfocused and seemed more to be about fluffing the egos of the chair & speaker. The dress distracted & reinforced exactly all the stereotypes the speaker was trying to challenge. Why were the CHAPS partners & their roles not acknowledged? Or the work of the selection panel?
- Plenary speaker was crap - who cares if he wears a fucking dress.
- Opening from THT worker was unforgivable, lazy and precious. The continuous use of the word "fabulous" and "self self self" attitude at best was unpleasant at worst entirely adolescent.
- Gerard's presentations should be vetted they are embarrassing. Justin's dress & Trans stuff was a dull distraction. Stop saying fabulous.
- Opening session not professional by Gerard.
- I felt the opening speaker Gerard McGuigan was poor, inappropriate to discuss Oscars and where he buys his clothes. I felt it reinforced tired stereotypes of gay men's health workers.
- "In" jokes in the opening plenary were inappropriate and showed poor presentation skills.
- Gerard is not an appropriate person to "open" or be conference chair.
- Closing plenary should have thanked Yorkshire Mesmac.
- I feel the chairing of the opening and closing plenaries could have been more dynamic & maybe someone else or a combination of people should do it.
- Plenary speaker was crap - who cares if he wears a fucking dress.
- The opening plenary was very disappointing particularly from the conference chair. Very inappropriate.

Specific COMMENTS ON C9 VENUE (n=18)

- Great venue.
- Great venue.
- Great venue (?Brighton next year).
- I enjoyed the venue and location.
- Great venue well organised.
- The town hall seemed to be a very good, well equipped venue with helpful staff although the catering & toilets were poor.
- Poor ventilation
- It was not in my opinion the best venue for networking as it was very small and noisy.
- There was no seating during lunch breaks and coffee breaks seating would have made it easier to network with new people.
- But the food at lunches was not very good (sorry to moan)! No water in the conference rooms. Facilities / lunch not as good as I'd like (am used to).
- Food awful. Dingy basement didn't help. Overall not keen on the venue not enough loos and they stank.
- Crypt rather small hot & stuffy.
- The crypt was ok for food but not to eat in there as well and nowhere to sit at a table etc.
- Well organised but would welcome somewhere to sit when eating.
- ... some of the workshop rooms were a bit small.
- The Monday evening get together was a big let down though.

- Didn't feel very welcome on arrival.
- The conference venue was poor and not disabled friendly. Also the venue was dirty. The evening entertainment was a let down and the venue too small with rude staff.

ORGANISATION: SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE

- The cost of C9 was probably expensive but I think it should be open to more people. We usually have to draw lots to attend.
- Satellite conf mid year to bring together local organisations.
- Would have been good to have a singular located conference -accommodation centre.
- I feel delegates lost out massively in networking and meeting others in this area without having the conference & accommodation under one roof as in previous years - Def not as good.

SUGGESTIONS: Conference timing (n=7)

- Not starting on a Monday as this means giving up some of the weekend to travel.
- I just wonder if it would be better to have CHAPS on Wednesday and Thursday (would be better for us coming from abroad).
- Held at wrong time of year. Needs to be end of year when work-plans are being decided. It is too late to feed anything from this conference into the work plan for 06/07.
- I would prefer if the conference was spread over 3 days (so many interesting sessions to choose between). And if it was at end of week instead of Monday (More personal energy Wed - Fri, Monday party people are tired).
- Make it longer, possibly 3 days it will be worth it judging by the other delegates comments.
- How about 2.5 days?
- Could be longer?

SUGGESTIONS: Programme (n=16)

- More presentation of research.
- Have presentations available to download from website.
- I know you have to balance all sorts of things to put this conference on but I would like more time, more interactive sessions, and for the conference to be residential (more networking possibilities).
- Well organised. Could have duplicated workshops - There were many I would have liked to have attended.
- Put all presentations / findings online from this and all CHAPS conferences - I couldn't go to all workshops I wanted and if online you can get some benefit & is available in field.
- It is a shame that so many interesting talks were on at the same time.
- Feel the same content could be stretched for two whole days allowing more than 1 1/4 hours for each session which was limiting.
- Increase the number of interactive workshops that fuel networking so that people can get to know each other and their work.
- During sessions could everyone get out from behind their desks?
- Each session should have had fewer options and therefore more sessions over 3 days.
- Well done again it's a shame I missed some talks to attend others.
- Maybe repeated sessions, longer conf so if you miss it once you can go at a different time.

- I did feel that the workshops short - as in some cases like discussion groups. It would take a while to warm up.
- This is a conference on gay and bi mens health. Why do delegates bring lesbian transgender and racism issues into it. More control in workshops needed to stay focussed on what the conference is about.
- Well organised but would like to access references.
- I would like to see a space for workers to discuss some of the personal difficulties in being gay mens health workers.

SUGGESTIONS: Housekeeping (n=4)

- Use our email in the name list.
- Internet provided for in lunch breaks?
- Could a conference report be produced?
- This is the second time I have attended and the first time by myself. It is easy to be excluded and left alone in breaks etc. Having informal activities at lunchtime (such as a graffiti board) would have broken the ice a bit.

SUGGESTIONS: Evaluation (n=2)

- Form should allow more opportunity for suggesting improvement for subsequent conferences (ie. more emphasis on promoting good practice - lets hear what is going well for once).
- This evaluation is too tick-boxy for me - I'll have to send you an email.

Ford Hickson

Ford.Hickson@sigmaresearch.org.uk

Sigma Research

May 2006

[ends]