

Health and Care Leaders Network Meeting

Thursday 3 September 2020 | 10:00 - 11:30 | Virtual Meeting

1. Health & Care system updates - Pip Goff, Forum Central

Session began with an update on some of the key work Forum Central is involved with at the current time (some background information was shared in advance which you can view [here](#)):

- We've been working with members around establishing **safe working practices** for the people you support and work with, as well as workforce and volunteers
- There have been huge challenges around adapting to **digital** and remote working and responding to shifts and guidance, on top of usual challenges
- Addressing **Inequalities** has been key, including responding around Black Lives Matter, making sure we're making time to think about what we can do differently. We're making sure we're thinking about racism and diversity - LOPF is running an anti-racism training session this month. There's plenty to engage with around older people, including loneliness which is a huge issue and is at the heart of the inequalities work
- We're pleased to be doing work around the first joint **[LCH Third Sector Strategy](#)** and a **launch workshop** will be held on 15th September
- A second **Third Sector resilience** survey is [currently underway](#)
- We've been trying to make sure we're nurturing and supporting people in the sector. **The Summer Time Out programme** which ran throughout August aimed to support Third Sector workers and volunteers and encourage people to look after themselves
- We continue to provide information around areas including **volunteering, shielding** and **system reset and recovery** – hopefully people find this information useful, please continue to share feedback on what is or isn't helpful for you and your work
- We're working with the CCG on its **Shaping our Future** programme, to put the Third Sector at the heart of the shift away from commissioning to population and partnership approaches, developing pathways/outcomes for people. Francesca Wood (consultant for Forum Central) is leading the work, and will be coming back with a consultation paper next time.
- We are work with Public Health, VA-L, Healthwatch and LCF to develop the Third Sector element of the city **prevention and outbreak plan** – Leeds has seen the value of communities and trusted networks to outbreak planning and ensuring messages go out in ways people can access/hear

- **World Suicide Awareness Day** takes place on 10 September, which is an opportunity to highlight and promote positive messages and ensure we're doing what we can to connect people and make them aware of what's out there
- A vast array of work is also taking place across the Older People's, Learning Disability, Mental Health & Physical & Sensory Impairment specialisms

Pip also emphasised the work that is being done to represent you, our member organisations, at a **West Yorkshire & Harrogate** level, ensuring the Third Sector has a voice. There's a strong commitment to long-term funding of the sector and recognition of the value it brings in terms of addressing health inequalities. Additional funding has recently been secured at this level to support a number of organisations in Leeds around work to address these inequalities. We're doing everything we can to support you to ensure that the things that matter to you are being heard across the system.

2. Working together with LCC Adults & Health - Caroline Baria

Caroline gave an engaging overview of current priorities for Adults & Health. She provided some context to the discussion by outlining the financial difficulties faced by Leeds City Council. Although there are reserves to cover the current year, it's not certain that they'll be able to achieve a balanced budget in the next financial year. Central Government has allocated some funding to local authorities, but this is nowhere near the amount that has had to be spent to support communities through Covid, leaving a funding gap for the 2021/22 financial year of £139m.

LCC is in the process of looking at a range of ways to meet this shortfall in order to find significant savings. A series of options is being presented to Elected Members, with service reviews underway across the whole of the council. Around £30m of savings will be taken to the Executive Board in September and October.

There are huge amounts of work happening, mostly between LCC, the CCG and Third Sector organisations, making sure everything we do is done in a connected, joined up way – Caroline noted they absolutely see the critical, significant and sizeable role that Third Sector organisations and communities play in the successful delivery of Health & Care across Leeds.

In relation to Covid and the restart of Health and Care services, the Council is part of the STaR work that's happening through the NHS. A lot of services which ceased at the height of pandemic are now gradually beginning to reopen. An increasing number of people are receiving home care and less through care homes. This is anticipated to build up over the winter period as we see an increase in levels of need.

They have also been supporting care homes during Covid, working hand in hand with Healthwatch and Carers Leeds around reopening to visitors whilst keeping residents safe. As numbers of cases are rising in Leeds, mostly within the 18-30 age group, there is a worry that connectivity through families will see Covid transmitting to people who are more vulnerable. It's important to balance this with the wellbeing of residents and the need to see their families.

There are some really exciting things happening in relation to Home Care. An 18-month pilot began this week, alongside two partners, Be Caring and Springfield care services. The approach builds on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), focusing on what our communities and neighbourhoods offer by way of support for people to prevent isolation, and to help people to live a good life. There's a desire to move towards supporting people's mental wellbeing as well as physical health, and linking with Local Care Partnerships (LCPs) to deliver much more integrated, multi-disciplinary support to individuals. The pilot aims to uncover where this type of care delivers better outcomes for older people, and how that can be rolled out across home care provisions.

There has been a lot of good work in developing the ABCD approach within community organisations. Caroline noted a need to link commissioned services with those developed by communities. How can communities inform and shape commissioned statutory services? How can we provide day time activities that are different to traditional commissioned day services? The Council is beginning to think through how we get our communities to drive/determine/shape its commissioning intentions and development.

In terms of Winter Planning, LCC is looking at the 'home first' approach, together with the CCG and as directed through NHS England. That can't be done without the support of Third Sector organisations. How can we get people back home or into the community or into rehabilitative services that support and help them to recuperate out of the hospital setting so they can return home, rather than finding a care home placement straight away? Covid has brought to life how important it is that we do our best to get people home first, and funding is being moved away from care in a setting to in people's own homes.

Pip thanked Caroline for such an honest, open and wide ranging overview. It's heartening to see that people at the Local Authority are engaging with the same agenda and the desire to make things more personalised, particularly around home care.

Q&A

Will the £30m proposals going to Elected Members have an impact for voluntary sector organisations?

- Given the very difficult financial position that the Council is in, we've had to look at all of our commissioned services, including discretionary services. That said, there is clear commitment from Elected Members who want to continue their focus and priorities on addressing inequalities –so we certainly don't want to reduce those services for communities that are most disadvantaged, and areas that are most deprived in Leeds*
- Is there anything the voluntary sector can do to support LCC to receive more funding?*
 - Absolutely, more support will be needed particularly in the short term as a shortfall in income has been felt due to the close in leisure centres, for example. Everything and anything organisations can do to lobby Government to say that local authority funding*

needs to be directed to support deprived communities, and what's available targeted at those communities, is really helpful.

· Kerry added that there's certainly an enthusiasm to keep this on the agenda and to think about how the Third Sector is contributing. Rob Webster spoke at the end of the West Yorkshire & Harrogate Board about how important the Third Sector is and is an integral part of the Partnership. The voice of the Third Sector is as strong as it's ever been.

· Good to hear service reviews are going on – the earlier the sector can get involved to work alongside statutory sector partners, the better. If there is an opportunity to get involved in each of specific service reviews in advance of coming to conclusions about what would be consulted upon, that would be great.

· Day services review and respite/accommodation review has to some extent been informed by talking to organisations delivering services. We're in the early stages of what ABCD looks like from a statutory services perspective – it should be organisations that are already part of the community telling us how commissioning can be enhanced and led by ABCD approaches, rather than the other way around. Need time to get there, will pick this up with Pip.

3. Winter Planning - Iain Anderson, Age UK

Age UK is involved in the winter planning process on a yearly basis, primarily because of its Hospital to Home service commissioned by LCH and the CCG to give support to people being discharged from hospital. This year, the context is very different due to the impact of Covid, which presents inevitable challenges, and also provides opportunities to change the way the system responds to and includes the Third Sector more actively within its response to pressures on the Health & Care system.

Iain gave an update on the process so far, which began in July. The following challenges and opportunities were identified, with the primary focus being to reduce pressure and demand in acute care settings. [This paper](#) summarises the outcomes of the planning workshops.

Challenges:

- Resilience of workforce
- Making sure capacity is maximised and people/resources are flexed accordingly
- Responding to changing guidance
- Likelihood of local lockdown
- Financial sustainability of the system, particularly resilience of smaller, independent organisations

Opportunities:

- Move towards more technological responses to healthcare

- Appetite for change – organisations have responded quickly to demands and pressures, and some innovative and collaborative ways of working shown by the Third Sector should be taken forward.
- Hospitals across Leeds very quickly shifted to people receiving treatment in own homes/communities, demonstrating that that can be done, and so can be replicated

Forum Central has produced [this narrative response](#) to what the Third Sector can and will contribute over the winter period. The wider message to the system is that the way in which the Sector has worked collaboratively should be replicated through the winter period, including through the community hubs and Neighbourhood Networks, which are resources that can facilitate support work to reduce demand on healthcare. There are benefits in terms of being able to address health inequalities, the breadth & experience the Third Sector brings, the different point of view and alternative approach to resolving challenges.

A citywide winter plan is now being put together, which we will share and will continue to build on. There's a degree of confidence that forecasts will be reasonably accurate, so we need to be ready for and able to respond to the challenges the winter is likely to bring.

- Do we have any idea how we're going to respond to the seasonal flu - will it be different to last year? If so, is there an expectation that the voluntary sector will get involved?
 - Through links with Primary Care Networks and Local Care Partnerships, there have been discussions around setting up drive through flu vaccination centres which the voluntary sector could assist with. Also looking at increasing take up while managing provision in a Covid-secure way.
 - Pip added discussions have also been happening around building provision, for example looking at using the leisure centre in Armley for vaccinations as a good social distancing venue. Ailsa noted that Opal have agreed to have a conversation to try to facilitate a flu vaccine clinic in their re-opened space.

ACTION: Forum Central to come back with a clear update on flu season planning and the potential involvement of Third Sector organisations.

Other comments

- Tina (People Matters) has been collaborating with Rachel Koivunen (People in Action) , the CCG and Karen Fenton (Forum Central), around upskilling support workers either through access to existing or training in development
 - Karen added this stemmed from a conversation with Nina Davis from LCH who is working on integrated long-term health conditions training and developments. The conversation is ongoing and a pilot scheme involving People in Action & People Matters has been suggested.