



Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board

Newsletter

September 2020



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Introduction – Councillor Asghar Khan and Peoples Parliament representative

Welcome to the Partnership Board newsletter. This newsletter replaces the Being Well meeting planned for 22nd September.

We are so pleased that such great work has continued on the Being Me Strategy themes despite the restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus.

Colleagues are looking into hosting a zoom Partnership Board meeting for December 2020. It will be great to see those who can attend. We look forward to when we can have face to face meetings again.

This newsletter includes some updates and information we hope will be useful.



Message from Aidan Smith, Head of Service

We hope you are all keeping well. It is a shame we cannot meet in person this month. It is great that people have learnt to keep in touch digitally, we know this isn't easy for everyone.

It has been wonderful to see videos and photos and hear about people enjoying some really great virtual and distanced activities. Thank you to everyone for providing such a varied range of alternative activities.

Over the last few months, people have worked really hard to prevent the spread of coronavirus. For a while, the rate of infection went down. Now that





the rate is going up again, we have to be extra careful.

The good news is that more people are now going for testing.

Organisations have done a great job of producing information about the changing coronavirus rules. Thank you to all those involved.



Messages from Elected Members

Cllr Kevin Ritchie, Councillor for Bramley & Stanningley Ward and Disability Champion

I would just like to put on record my thanks in particular to two organisations namely Leep1 & Pyramid of Arts for reacting quickly and finding other ways to deliver support and services.

I've "attended" some of the events and they are doing a grand job.



FACEBOOK

Leep1 have a very active Facebook group where members are supporting and entertaining each other and learning together.

The Pyramid of Arts team are experimenting using video conferencing, Zoom in particular. They have a group meeting every Tuesday morning at 10.30 am to explore how to engage with the group members on a one-one basis. Contact Julie Shackleton julie@pyramid.org.uk for more info.



Cllr Bithell also responded to the urgent call to get some facemasks made for the community. These have now been distributed.



Message from: Cllr Hannah Bithell, Cllr Sandy Lay and Cllr Asghar Khan

We echo Cllr Ritchie with our thanks for the work that has been done by everyone at Leep1 and Pyramid of Arts and are really looking forward to seeing everyone in real life as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, keep safe and get in touch if there is anything you need.

learningdisabilitypartnershipboard@leeds.gov.uk



Carers Reference Group

During the coronavirus lockdown, carers have been phoning their loved ones and each other. The network of peer support has been very important to them. A carer said she was also pleased to receive a wellbeing call from the Council.

Carers held a Skype meeting in May. Those able to join in said it was good to see everyone. Concern was raised about people unable to use IT. Carers wanted to know how services will ensure everyone gets the important information and help they need, if they cannot use IT. The reference group is arranging training around the use of technology.

Carer, Ann Seaton, celebrated her 90th birthday on 3rd September. Happy birthday Ann!



Learning Disability Peoples Parliament

Over 50 people joined the Peoples Parliament zoom meetings on 16th June. There were lots of interesting updates and even a sing-a-long. Councillor Khan thanked everyone for following the



rules and helping keep Leeds safe. Afterwards, members said it was great to see everyone. The notes from this meeting are on [Through the Maze](#)

On 8th September, the Peoples Parliament held another Zoom meeting. Guest speakers included Julie Royle-Evatt and Dr Alexandra Grove. Notes from this meeting will be on Through the Maze later.



The University of Worcester have contacted Cath Roff, Director Adults & Health. They are working on a project about leadership and want to interview people with lived experience of learning disabilities. The Peoples Parliament are helping with this.

The next People's Parliament meeting is 24th November.

**being
connected
transport**



Being Connected – Travel

Funding for a 'specialist travel trainer' post has been approved and will be advertised in the near future.

The travel ambassadors have been reviewing changes to 'the core bus network' proposed by West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

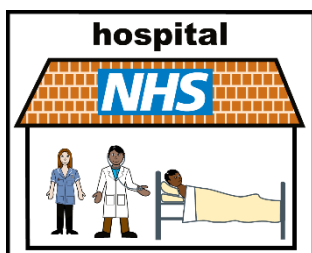
The ambassadors gave feedback on proposed changes to Garforth Train station with Network Rail.

All adult travel training has stopped due to coronavirus. A travel training 're-launch' is planned for late September 2020.

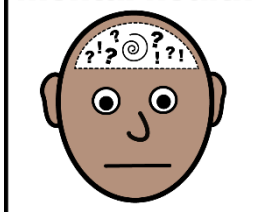


A video has been made for people wanting to start travelling independently again. It includes how bus travel will look. <https://youtu.be/xMRzxxADTVE>

being well



mental health



Being Well

Coronavirus - If someone thinks they may have coronavirus, they must telephone 119 to book a test. Testing is free.

For information about coronavirus symptoms, go to: <https://www.getcheckedoutleeds.nhs.uk/get-checked-out-nhs-england/>

To watch a video about coronavirus testing go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Qia-HW-LcA>

If a person with a learning disabilities has to go to hospital the Learning Disability and Autism Team can help make the visit easier

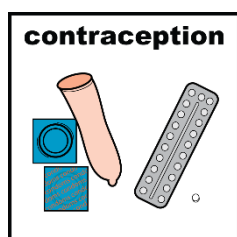
- Telephone: 0113 2066836
- Email: leedsth-tr.ldautism@nhs.net

The NHS are worried that people are not going to their doctors and dentists during coronavirus. Everyone should still contact them if they are not well.

Annual health checks – If someone feels they should have had their health check by now, they must telephone their GP to arrange it. The GP will send a booklet to help them prepare for it. This video is about health checks <https://youtu.be/reLqzDtRIGs>

Flu vaccination – people who have a learning disability can get the flu vaccination to help them stay well. They can get this from their GP or Pharmacist.

Mental wellbeing – if someone needs help for their mental health, they can speak to their GP or visit <https://www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/> to see who can help. Healthwatch are doing surveys about people's



mental health during lockdown. Their latest report includes examples of what has helped people. It is good that these things are recorded as they will help shape planning in the future.

<https://healthwatchleeds.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/How-does-it-feel-for-me-during-Coronavirus-19.pdf>

Living in Leeds – the Academic Health Partnership are working on a project to get Leeds ready in case anyone wants to do research about the people who live here. The Health Task Group has offered to help them understand how to engage with people who have a learning disability.

Contraception – Alison shared information about a survey on women with learning disabilities and contraception. Victoria will share more information later.

Next Meetings –
11th December 2020
5th March 2021

**being
connected
employment**



Being Connected – Employment

The Employment Task Group meeting in March was cancelled due to coronavirus.

Over August the Council, Forum Central, Aspire and Lighthouse Futures Trust worked on a draft employment action statement and sent it out to task group members for comments.

An employment task group meeting is planned for early October to work through the action statement, make any changes and get a sign off from members.



Leep 1 are working on a pilot programme with the Council. They are looking to employ three Café Leep trainees within school kitchens. They will work closely to ensure the pilot is a success for all involved in the process. Work will start when schools feel ready, especially under the new restrictions.

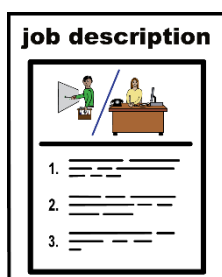


Connect in the North has begun work on an employability website for people with learning disabilities, employers and carers. A website brief and site map have been produced. People with learning disabilities will help develop the site.



Leep 1 has got some funding to employ more staff in order to get more members back to the physical space.

People Matters have received over £175,000 from The Henry Smith Foundation to provide employment support for people with learning disabilities. This will build on work previously started with the support of Leeds City College and Leeds Community Foundation. The grant will focus on the provision of job clubs, job coaching and employer/employment matching services. People Matters hope to start delivery in October.



Care Management have approval for a 'Specialist Travel Trainer' position within the adult learning disability team. The position will be 15 hours per week and is for people with 'lived experience' of a learning disability.

Forum Central are looking at employing a person with lived experience of a learning disability to co-lead on the employment task group.



Despite the coronavirus restrictions and the challenges of digital inclusion, organisations like Royal Mencap, Lighthouse Futures Trust, People Matters, Leep 1 and others, have all been delivering online employability programmes through this period.



Being Connected – Being Social

Coronavirus has made people find new ways of socialising.

Organisations are running extra activities online.

As some of the coronavirus rules have been lifted, some people have met up with people they had been seeing online. This shows how online activities have helped to improve people's social lives.

Training on how to set up zoom meetings has enabled people to set up their own meetings with friends.

When things have not gone well with accessing online sessions, staff have been able offer support.

Here is a link to activities available [Through the Maze - activities](#)



Cathy Wintersgill retired on 14th September. Cathy has been on the board for 17 years. Thank you to Cathy for all her hard work in supporting the Learning Disability Partnership Board, we wish you all the best for the future.

Sarah Wheatley will take over the role of Being Social Lead.

being safe



Being Safe

Funding has been secured to do more digital inclusion work around online safety and social media.

The digital inclusion work will be working closely with Purple Patch, 100% Digital Leeds, working within Aspire bases as a pilot.

This work will be discussed further at the September 'Being Safe' meeting.

Services such as the Police and Trading Standards have made lots of easy read guides about coronavirus scams and how the Police are working to keep people safe.

There is more information about this on [Through the Maze](#).



Leeds Learning Disability Week 2020

Even though many events had to be cancelled, those that went ahead were a great success.

People in Action and Leep1 hosted the Leeds Talent Show [Leeds Talent Lockdown Special 2020](#)

Aspire CBS supported people to do The Big Walk. People walked around their garden or community. In total, they completed 932.3 miles!

Visit the Leeds Learning Disability Week Facebook page for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/leedsldweek/>



Partnership Board Members

Councillor Asghar Khan has agreed to Co-Chair until he becomes Lord Mayor of Leeds next year.

The Peoples Parliament representatives will continue to take up the other Co-Chair role.

Louise Mills is retiring in December. She has worked for the council for 32 years.



Thank you to Louise for all her hard work in supporting the Learning Disability Partnership Board, we wish you all the best for the future.

All Partnership Board enquiries to now be emailed to: learningdisabilitypartnershipboard@leeds.gov.uk

December 2020

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

Date of next meeting

15th December 2020 – we are looking into holding a zoom meeting, but if this is not possible, we will circulate a new newsletter.