



**Physical and Sensory Impairment
Information and Strategy Session
Weds 10.15.10 | 10am till 11.30am
Via Zoom**

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Karen Fenton	Forum Central (Chair)
Karl Proud	BID
Debanni Ghosh	ABA
Paedar O'Dea	LDPO
Andrew Barnes	Deaf Blind UK
Darren Meade	Leeds Cancer Awareness Project
Daisy Morgan	Forum Central
Bronia Angove	Purple Patch Arts
Bairbre McKendrick	LCC
Iris Berkeley	LCC
Wendy Cork	The Advonet Group
Karl Witty	Forum Central

Forum Central News and Strategic Updates

Forum Central Team Updates & ongoing recruitment

- We welcomed Daisy Morgan to the team permanently as Member Support Officer. Daisy has been providing vital support to the team and our members since March in a temporary admin position, is a real asset to our team and is now permanently here to support members with any queries you may have. You can contact Daisy via: hello@forumcentral.org.uk
- Karen Fenton has recently been appointed the Volition Operations Manager role, which she took up on the 12th October. Recruitment will be taking place for the MH and PSI development work soon, alongside other opportunities, details when finalised can be found on our website
- Two further important roles of: Third Sector Outbreak Plan Coordinator and Advocacy and Representatives Relationship Officer have also recently been recruited into and we look forward to new people joining the team in the coming months.

International Day of People with Disabilities

- The planning group continues to meet monthly in the lead up to December.
- We are planning an exciting, co-produced virtual celebration including a variety of activities, discussions, performances, an art exhibition and films, which will take place over the course of the week surrounding 3rd Dec 2020.
- After putting out an advert for expressions of interest for project/event management we have decided to team up with William Merritt Disabled Living Centre

to provide this. They have an excellent in-house marketing team who will be a real benefit to bringing the celebrations together. An intro email will be circulated shortly!

- Network members are encouraged to share ideas for events, films, pre-recorded content, discussion etc that you would like to lead on as part of the celebration.
- We will be sending out a proposals form ASAP to capture your event ideas and encourage members to get involved and hold an event as part of the celebrations. In return you will receive the support of the planning group and project management, promotion, use of platforms (zoom, YouTube etc)

Communities of Interest

- We continue meet every 2 weeks and bring together the 22 communities of interest link and supporting organisations to discuss ongoing messages relating to coronavirus and wider health and wellbeing and obtain feedback about issues and resiliences experienced by communities to inform decision makers and help develop system changes and a response that is suitable to the needs of individuals and communities of Leeds.
- To find out more <https://forumcentral.org.uk/communities-of-interest/>
- Please continue to feed in your insight via hello@forumcentral.org.uk or by speaking to Karen or Daisy directly

Emerging Mental Health Needs Report

- Thank you to everyone who has fed into the Communities of Interest network and or completed the emerging mental health survey which was circulated in the summer. We have finalised a report which is attached to this email and will be presented alongside data from the CCG, Primary Care, Public Health and others across the System to the Mental Health Partnership Board in November and to the Better Lives Board in late October 2020.

Member intros, updates & Communities of interest insight

During conversations it has to be noted with great enthusiasm the amount of examples of partnership working amongst members and wider community groups to pull together and support each other and people during these times.

Leeds Cancer Awareness

Moved everything online. They have a group of volunteers who help share messages once a week.

Just released a [programme of online training sessions](#) which are free and open to all. Keen to attend other groups virtual meetings, team meetings etc, to share messages about signs and Symptoms. Please contact: Darren.meade@uni.uk.net

Purple Patch Arts

Have been engaging with their members in really creative ways including online weekly zoom discos, creative activities and also posting out activities to people too. Spent a lot of time supporting people to use technology and sourcing equipment. Still have a need here for more laptops/ipads etc for people who they work with

Association of Blind Asians

Started first online classes in march, continuing to run these 2-3 times a week and looking to extend. The first 2-3 months were extensively busy as many service users are elderly, with no access to food. Worked with other agencies to provide culturally appropriate food and deliver cooked meals in bulk. Also doing regular welfare calls, running live cooking sessions, assisting tech online, and has found the digital world has given lots of opportunities to connect with other organisations locally and nationally.

Concerns around people not going for eye tests or collecting prescriptions, not taking drops for glaucoma, deteriorating eyesight.

Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service

Are slowly moving away from digital. Finding that a number of people were missing out, particularly deaf community. Opened up the office since July- all appointment based and each person gets 1 hour, with time between appointments for covid-safe turn around/clean.

Running regular support groups online, some finding they are now not achieving that they initially did, due to long term isolation/need to be digital. Many struggle with lip reading using tech. So doing a mix of both to cater to the needs of clients.

The Advonet Group

Delivering a wide range of services for people. Have created an autism online support, corona toolkit which is being used nationally and a mental health toolkit. Alongside peer support, advocacy and self advocacy. Having a self advocacy event on the 28th October. Con and peer support- self advocacy event on 28th Oct - resources and adapting those for the groups they work with. looking at the workshops and training and BAME, Migrants and refugees and MH and other. IMCA - Care Home issues. Seeing issues regularly particularly with those who already had big health inequalities, such as autistic people and

their carers, refugees and migrants, BAME, people with Senior Mental Illness, Learning disabilities..

Deafblind UK

Delivered 10K + wellbeing calls made in the last 6 months and ongoing. Planning to increase these again and frequency now due to pockets of local restrictions .as well as support for shopping, to medical appointments etc.. still happening, increasing due to pockets of lockdown. for shopping, hospital appointments etc. Have been busy converting social groups onto other media forms - such as telephone, video call and BLS social groups. Identified that there's further need for tech support and training, rather than lack of equipment necessarily.

Leeds Disabled People's Organisation

Running a number of online social activities, but finding take up slow and struggling to engage with people, in particular younger people and the student population. Asked the network for support with this and a number of colleagues came forward with suggestions

Action: Karen to link LDPO, LHSS, Advonet and Mindwell for further discussions

Bairbre McKendrick, Access Officer for Leeds City Council - Update on Leeds City Planning Developments and Ongoing Consultations

A slideshow of this element of the meeting can be found [here](#).

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the Inclusive Design Access Group or speaking to Bairbre about how they/they people they work with can feed into ongoing consultations around city centre planning and development please contact: bairbre.McKendrick@leeds.gov.uk. In

particular they identified wanting to work with more faith groups and older people

Members feedback was to ensure that Connecting Leeds and LCC planning teams give as much notice as possible, as we are often given very/too short notice when wanting to consult with the people we work with.

Action - Baibre to send a summary of the street charter work to circulate to the network for updates.

Karl Witty, Presentation on Local Care Partnerships (LCP's)

Please [see here](#) for slides from Karls presentation and you are encouraged to get in touch with Karl if you are interested in finding out more about LCP's and how your organisation can get involved: karl.witty@forumcentral.org.uk.

Next Network Meeting 16th Dec 1-2.30pm (via Zoom)

Please email hello@forumcentral.org.uk to confirm your attendance