

Communities of Interest Virtual Session Notes
Friday 11th December 2020
10.30am | via Zoom

Attendees

- **Stacey Taylor** – Forum Central
- **Annette Morris** - VAL
- **Anna Chippindale** – Healthwatch Leeds
- **Amber Wilson** – Basis
- **Chris Bridle** - CCG
- **Daisy Morgan** – Forum Central
- **Delvina Saunders** - LCC
- **Errol Murray** – Leeds Dads
- **Jay Anderson** – Leeds Faith Forum
- **Jenn Bravo** – Turning Lives Around
- **Emily Turner** – Women’s Lives Leeds
- **Gabby Voinea** – Forum Central
- **Marie Hadel** – Leeds Community Healthcare
- **Owen Walker** – Leeds Autism AIM
- **Rachel Moore** – Carers Leeds
- **Toshali Bhatia** – Health For All
- **Sam Powell** – LCC
- **Sarah Bronson** – Leeds Academic Health Partnership
- **Simon Phillips** – Leeds Faiths Forum
- **Sophie Peel** - Hamara
- **Victoria Silver** – Advonet
- **Wendy Cork** - Advonet

Wendy Cork – Advonet

Advonet gave an overview talk on supporting our communities to maintain rights during this period including a brief overview on the national picture with human rights and what has changed or not changed with legislation that may impact your communities.

We asked what area people may want more information on in a future talk or resources to support their communities to understand and maintain rights.

Covid updates

Generally things are going the right direction and numbers are decreasing in Leeds but also some of the edges and borders there are still some areas of concern. Public health are focusing on some areas with local outbreaks.

While still challenging the system appears to be coping well.

“Test and Trace” will now be termed “Connect and Support”

For those people identified by the system who may not engage for a various number of reasons to the national support lines/calls, this work will be done on a more local level from the 30th November and we are exploring how the 3rd sector can support with this.

Introductions/check ins

- **Women - Emily (WLL)**

Women concerned about the vaccine but more work underway to understand this more.

- **Healthwatch - Anna (HW)**

“Being Black and Being Me”

Anna shared some information about a project which involved creating a video with young people and black lives matters [here](#)

Working with public health to develop some top tips for young people.

Responses from young people and culturally diverse communities are low on the survey – please share with your communities, please encourage your communities to get involved in the survey:

When the vaccine is ready - will you want one? @HWLeeds want to know your thoughts on the #CovidVaccine take part in the short survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/covid19vax>

- **Faith communities - Jay (LFF)**

The Leeds Faith covenant is now live for views and comments, and the end date is 4th January to have your say.

Talks underway with the faith sector and LCC around using faith sector buildings for vaccine sites.

- **People with complex needs involved in sex workers - Amber, Basis**

Increase in referrals since schools have reopened and now reaching capacity but please do still refer and these will be assessed by risk., Basis is now working with people longer than usual due to reduced opportunities to onward signpost people to other services, some services are not running due to COVID-19

- **Men - Erol - Leeds Dads**

Dads have little trust in taking the vaccine, a bigger piece of work needed to increase confidence.

- **Homeless people / Drug alcohol - Jenn Bravo , TLA**

Had an outbreak on one of the schemes and work underway to deal with this, will share any learning from this. When are staff likely to be able to have the vaccine? Staffing is an issue due to absence when isolating. Staff morale is low.

- **Cultural Diversity / Communities - Sophie, Hamara**

Really busy period with the food hubs and working with over 20 partners along with the food bank parcels, remaining open during the Christmas period and emergency food parcel.

Patient Ambassadors in south and east – this role is slightly changing and will be supporting GP practices in telephoning people who will be receiving the vaccine, they are expecting some difficult conversations also.

- **Communities - Toshal (HFA)**

Providing winter support packs for BME older people, sharing key messages. Communities centres are running where possible to provide a space for breastfeeding support groups.

- **People with a learning disability and/or Autism - Owen:**

Increase in referrals with complex needs. Conversations around the vaccine can be difficult and asked if some training could be made available around difficult conversations so people feel more equipped to deal with these?

Some people have concerns about using needles, although sure that vaccine staff are aware of this but would be good to have some clarity to reassure service users.

- **Carers - Rachel, Carers Leeds:**

Working with LCC and Care homes to provide a letter for all families with the new government guidance. PPE will be available free for those families visiting care homes and more information can be found [here](#)

Launched digital project and have digital champions along with training and devices for carers, more information can be found [here](#)

Increase in calls around the vaccine with questions or concerns

- **Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers - Sam:**

A new testing and self-isolating infographic is available to support the connect and support service to help people understand the guidance and is available in 12 languages (this is now being redesigned due to change in government guidelines and will be shared once available)

MAP – lots of concerns around the vaccine, leaders also have questions.

Destitute asylum agenda is where people do not have a status in the UK, during the 1st lockdown there was a policy “everyone in” where everyone would be housed. Unfortunately, during the 2nd lockdown this national policy was not in place so locally: funding has been made available to provide temporary accommodation.

EU citizens are being encouraged to register for the settlement scheme if they have not done so already. There will be a 6-month grace period which ends in June 2021. The EU support service is still running at Merriam House but you need to make an appointment. <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/brexit/settling-in-the-uk>

Challenges for people coming into the country and moving on due to lockdown, people are being housed in hotels temporary until more suitable accommodation can be offered. Support is available for physical and wellbeing activities.

- **Leeds Academic Health Partnership - Sarah Bronson**

Supporting LCC around the roll out of the vaccine, working with other WY partners to ensure health inequalities are not exacerbated.

- **Cultural Diversity - Annette Morris (VAL)**

Concerns in the culturally diverse communities are the vaccine, VAL are promoting COVID-19 messages and updates on the vaccines.

Digital poverty – some communities are at risk of this and working with organisations to look at what is needed from the digital agenda and how communities can be supported better.

Issues affecting are: food poverty and mental health

New group for women at risk of domestic violence, there is a leaflet called “ Time Out”

- **Physical and Sensory Impairment - Stacey for Karen Fenton (FC)**

There is a video on YouTube from a young lady who has shared her experience of trying to find a job during covid, you can find it here

International Day of Disabled People – mental health, social isolation, employment, hate crime and loneliness concerns came up as areas of concern. Conversations around intersectionality and the levels of discrimination and barriers that a person faces for examples those living

with a long-term condition, ethnic minority, neurodivergent/learning disabled, physically and/or sensory impaired and identify as lgbtq+

- **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People - Stacey (FC)**

At the routes to support meeting, it was discussed around capacity, pressure points and struggling to meet demands or staffing issues that are experienced from COI. Forum Central are developing a feedback section on the website to enable COI to feedback.

COI grants – so far around 70 grants have been allocated to the young people, culturally diverse communities, older people and faith communities.

The next steps are to focus and work with organisations that work with people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

Happy Festive Period, and massive thanks or everything you have done / we have achieved together and a Communities of Interest Network in 2020!

Next meeting 12th January at 10.30am

Update on vaccine