

Dear Communities of Interest network,

As always, this week's email includes a number of updates and resources for you to use and share with the other organisations you work with. [This page](#) provides the latest advice and guidance from the Leeds Public Health team, and signposts you to the relevant local services and resources.

Please forward this email to anyone who you think would benefit from these updates. Anyone who doesn't currently receive these emails, but would like to in future weeks, can subscribe by emailing [communities@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:communities@forumcentral.org.uk). Thank you as always for your support with sharing these important messages.

### **Communities of Interest Zoom Session - 11th December**

Thank you to everyone for joining our first session of 2021 last week. Notes are available [here](#) and the [flashcard](#)

We would like to stress the need for extra caution due to higher infection of new covid strain message – please [see here](#) for more details

### **Vaccines and testing.**

Forum Central has been working to ensure parity of frontline Third Sector workers for both vaccines and testing. NHSE has asked local areas to begin to put processes in place to offer a Covid-19 vaccine to frontline social care staff who directly work with people clinically vulnerable to COVID19 and who need care and support.

The supply of the vaccine is limited at the moment, but we will be able to start offering slots for all eligible health and care social care workers through one of two staff vaccination sites. This is an ongoing programme and vaccination slots will be made available over the coming weeks for priority front-line staff. It is important that you wait to be invited for your vaccine either through the staff vaccination route if you are eligible or to be contacted by your local Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccine site.

Over the next few days we will share with you further details of the prioritisation criteria to help you identify the most vulnerable and at risk staff and details of how to book the vaccine jabs using the online staff booking system.

Staff working in client-facing roles can and should continue to work with people in the community even though they have not yet been vaccinated and where it is safe to do so – continuing to adhere to safe working guidelines to minimise the risk of infection.

We will be sharing details of how to access this as soon as we have it, but in the meantime it would be helpful if you begin to collate names and contact details for your frontline workers to be put forward. Information about the vaccine can be found on the Leeds CCG pages [here](#) and you may find this [FAQ guide](#) for patients useful to share with your teams.

### **Clinically extremely vulnerable/shielding**

The new shielding guidance for CEV and the routes to support document which can be [found here](#)

### **Social Care Community Forum for Race Equality**

The first Community Forum meeting for 2021:- Thursday, 21st January 2021 at 5:30pm-7:30pm.

- Councillor Rebecca Charlwood, Executive Board Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults & Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, will be opening the meeting and hopefully we will all as we do make all welcome.

Our agenda is packed as always:

- Becky Barwick, Head of Strategic Development from NHS Leeds CCG will be talking about People Living with Frailty and Health Inequalities
- Cath Roff will be providing an update on The Listening Project (which is looking at access to adult social care for Asian/African communities)

This is a great opportunity to speak directly to the NHS Leeds CCG and Leeds City Council about issues that matter to you who are key partners with us. Here is a [link to register](#) your attendance

### HealthWatch Updates

Covid has affected people's mental health in lots of ways. Healthwatch Leeds are working with those who plan and run mental health services in Leeds to find out how it's affecting you and how it has been to access services during this pandemic. They'd be grateful if you could take 5-10 minutes to answer these questions. Please [click here](#) to access the survey

Healthwatch Leeds is working with Leeds City Council and Public Health to find better ways to support individuals and their carers to understand the health information they receive about their care and treatment. Healthwatch is holding two focus groups via zoom on Wednesday 3rd February 11-12.30pm and Thursday 4th February 1pm-2.30pm. We would appreciate it if you could identify any service users/ community members who would be willing to share their experiences. Please forward the details to Parveen who will get in touch with anyone who may be interested [parveen@healthwatchleeds.co.uk](mailto:parveen@healthwatchleeds.co.uk). They will try to overcome any communication barriers such as language or digital.

A short video with information about vaccines for people with a learning disability and autistic people - [click here](#) to view

### Keeping Safe in Your Home During Coronavirus

With the arrival of winter and an increased number of cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), it is more important than ever that we all take steps to reduce the spread of infection in the community and in our own families and households to keep well, save lives and support the NHS. A booklet which can be [found here](#) has been designed to support people who live in multiple occupancy/multigenerational houses and provides information and guidance on:

- **How you, and those you share a house with, can aim to stay safe at home, including the steps you should take if someone tests positive for coronavirus or displays symptoms.**
- **Support available if you, or someone you live with, has to isolate**
- **Details of services that can help during this time**

Many thanks  
Forum Central team

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