

**Communities of Interest Virtual Session Notes**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
**10am to 11.30am**

**Attendees**

- **Ann Crossland** – Young Lives Leeds
- **Ali Kaye** - LOPF
- **Amber Wilson** – Basis
- **Abigail Olaleye** - VAL
- **Chris Bridle** – CCG
- **Catriona** – Basis
- **Charis Green** – Leeds Society for Deaf & Blind People
- **Charlotte James** – Leeds Gate
- **Daisy Morgan** – Forum Central
- **Damian** – Forum Central
- **Errol Murray** – Leeds Dads
- **Emily Turner** – Women’s Lives Leeds
- **Gabby Voinea** – Forum Central
- **Jane Li** – Home Share
- **Jagdeep Passan** – Leeds Involving People
- **Jen Bravo** – Turning Lives Around
- **Karl Witty** – Forum Central
- **Marie Hadel** – Leeds Community Healthcare
- **Nicola Bowles** – Leeds Gate
- **Pip Goff** – Forum Central
- **Rachel Moore** – Carers Leeds
- **Rachael Loftus** -
- **Sam Powell** – LCC
- **Simon Phillips** – Leeds Faiths Forum
- **Sophie Peel** – Hamara
- **Stacey Taylor** – Forum Central
- **Stuart** – Healthwatch Leeds
- **Thomas Gaffney** – Leeds gate
- **Wendy Cork** - Advonet

**Recap from last meeting**

More complex referrals, reduction in services to signpost onto and therefore supporting people longer.

Free PPE for families visiting care homes – Carer Leeds provided a link

More work needed to understand the views/concerns around the vaccine.

The national policy of “all in” was not a priority but Leeds took a local approach and offered tempera accommodation along with physical and mental activities/support.

Wendy at Advonet did a presentation and an introduction to human rights and the audio recording can be [found here](#).

### **COVID-19/updates Pip Goff**

The city is working really well through a challenging situation but with positive steps and System partnerships working together to have positive solutions. The current infection rate is slightly decreased over the last few days but too early to see this a trend and we still need to be vigilant 5% cases are the new variant.

**Latest Covid position:** Locally in Leeds, we continue to see small reductions in the rates, but emphasise that it is still too early to call this a trend. We also know that the impact on the NHS is still to follow through and potentially higher death rates, so please stick to the advice to stay at home where you can.

- The overall case rate 322.8 per 100,000, a 2% reduction in last 7 days. The 60+ is at 243.6, an increase of 16% in last 7 days. Positivity is down to 11.6% but this is still high. The latest ranking for Leeds is 269<sup>th</sup> out of 339, with the highest rate nationally now at 1510 per 100,000.
- The latest ward range is from 205.8-488.1, with five wards showing a statistically significant increase and three with statistically significant decreases. The current spread is 8 wards above 400; 14 wards above 300; and 11 wards above 200
- The highest figures are in young adults, in the 16-25 year olds.
- Latest estimates for the new variant is that it is now the dominant strain, so as expected it has risen significantly. As you know, this doesn't change our strategy or our advice to the public, so please keep up the stay safe messaging.
- We have 21 care homes in Leeds with positive cases and 7 workplaces with outbreaks. We have 42 bubbles/year groups that have been collapsed.
- Tragically, the total Covid related deaths registered in Leeds is 1,237 so far: 1,204 (97%) were Leeds residents, 778 (63%) were in hospitals, 369 (30%) were in care homes, 33 (3%) in a hospice, and 57 (4%) in their own home. To date, 20% of all deaths registered have been Covid-related.

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

**Vaccine** – ensuring the parity of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector staff, the process are being developed to create a booking system so that 3<sup>rd</sup> sector front line staff are in line with priority on 3<sup>rd</sup> sector staff who are providing personal care. There will be a whole batch of vaccine slots released at once and a fair system.

PCN's are receiving batches of vaccinations and although the priority is over 80's the population of the PCN may vary so the roll out might look different in different areas.

**Connect and support** – the door knocking and follow ups from the Better Together Project is happening/ongoing and being developed. Initially this was being done by local authority, but it has been recognised that by using local and trusted 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations that people respond better but also they can be given information or signposted by that local knowledge.

The take up of self isolation payment is about 50% so we need to ensure that people know about this.

**LFT** – We have a couple of organisations getting involved in the pilot of testing this, the mechanics are still being developed and we will share with you once we have further information. While not a perfect system it has the potential to pick up those who are asymptomatic.

## **Introductions/check ins**

### **Jen Bravo ( TLA)**

People feeling that the Covid is a hoax and managing those conversations.

### **Steve Taylor (Carers Leeds)**

Continue to be open for business but slight drop in people contacting them, which is a little concerning, people feeling loss of control, more potentially isolated, fatigue and burn out, conflicting information and how to understand it. Digital inclusion and how to get people involved, has some devices and support available. In March/April the paper newsletter will go out to 11,000 last years newsletter saw an increase in calls to the phone lines.

### **Abigail OI VAL**

Project worker at the BME HUB

The vaccination is a priority and happy to support and link in with other organisations as a sounding board or to get messages out with the network.

### **Ali Kaye ( LOPF)**

The neighbour hood networks have been really busy since lockdowns and supporting communities with activities and packs, working with their members to coordinate vaccine efforts.

Leeds COVID-19 Outbreak Grants – the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of OP grants will be launched on 13<sup>th</sup>, focusing on older isolated men and culturally diverse communities. For more information please see here.

### **Catriona (BASIS)**

From the YP projects, some YP are still in school but some are home schooling, increase in mental health issues and BASIS are able to do essential face to face visits where necessary.

Adults – Mental health and isolation is an issue, providing essential food packs, essential visits are going ahead where necessary. Concerns around the vaccine and myths, stories around people dressing up in uniforms and offering the vaccine and charging them money. BASIS will be doing some myth busting and raising awareness around the frauds.

Universal credit will be decreased in March for lots of people.

### **Charis Green L**

Communication needs to be accessible, lack of understanding around the facts and myths, some work underway to combat this but unfortunately the centre has needed to close. Continuing with medical support and interpreters, working with the hospitals and raising awareness of the clear face masks for those who lip read.

### **Chris Bridle ( CCG)**

Managing engagement with people who are digitally excluded, work on community mental health services, responding to numerous enquiries on phone lines around the vaccine which is causing strains on GP practices.

### **Damian (Men's Health Unlocked)**

Digital exclusion is an issue. The first men's health network meeting held in January 2021, very well attended with over 50 people/organisations joining. Some key themes/issues raised at this meeting was digital exclusion. Men from minority ethnic communities are saying they are feeling very low in mood, isolated, lethargic and just not quite sure what to do with themselves. The need for peer support in these times and the lack of PS groups available. There is a lack of services available generally for this community.

### **Emily (WLL)**

Slight shift in attitudes towards the vaccination and possibly more likely to have it now that the AZ vaccine is available, also that the numbers of cases are rising along with the new variant, the risk of the vaccine is now less than the virus itself but ongoing work to understand this. The 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown and face masks are an issue and work underway where and when to use the face masks with guidance.

### **Jagdeep (LIP)**

BME members are still resisting the vaccine and this mainly due to the myths ie there is a microchip in it, this is from all walks of life from nursing staff to local communities. Digital exclusion being considered.

Meeting – take from chat

### **Jane ( Homestart)**

Open for referrals and very busy with referrals, supporting families is now virtual or telephone. Risk assessments in place and are able to do doorstep visits.

Isolation is an issue and for single parents their children being off school.

Worries over the vaccine.

### **Nicola Bowles ( Leeds Gate)**

Worries about the myths and not wanting to accept the vaccine, LG are doing a piece of work probably an animated video to give information around the vaccine and dispelling myths. Will be giving out laptops/devices to help with digital exclusion.

### **Sam Powell (MAP)**

Digital access an issue but also the overcrowding in homes is causing barriers, lots of visas are up for renewal and this causing concern. We need to think about our language and we talk about “being more likely to not take up the vaccine offer” or “more likely to spreading the virus” how to do tackle this and further work will done around this, working with community champions and work with communities in dealing with these challenges.

Asylum – people still coming into the country which is a concern with people moving about.

### **Ann (Young Lives Leeds)**

Organisation were just starting to restart services, but this has now had to stop again, some people held out and didn't access virtual but wanted to wait until face-to-face restart for mental health support. High referrals from men in schools. Some work with artificial intelligence to understand the challenges facing young people.

### **Simon Philips (LFF)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown is causing the faith sector to think about if they should open their building or not, causing concerns. Spoken about building trust around the vaccine and that some faith leaders looking to do some recording with key messages around the myths and the vaccine. Also, that if faith buildings are to

be used as vaccine centres that people can still choose their GP if feels safer. Looking at ways the faith sector can support young people with skills/training while not at school, a local mosque is rolling out some soft skills training and this could be debating skills training and will look to meet the need.

### **Wendy (Advonet)**

service has seen an increase in referrals across all areas, people keen that their rights are maintained during increased pressures on health and care services. Work still happening on the ALADIN project to combat digital exclusion, services now focusing on mental health training.

### **Errol (Leeds Dads)**

Still lots of concerns from dads of the validity of the vaccine, the dads and kids walked restarted in November with up to 28 dads/kids within guidance, with the recent lockdown they stopped but sought advice from public health who confirmed they could restart but to keep local rather than travelling, concerns over how this looks to the general public.

### **Karl Witty (FC LCP)**

19 LCP's still meeting and supporting PCN's around vaccine messages, coordinated volunteers to support with vaccine roll out. Peer Support is growing within LCP's to ensure people connected.

**Rachael Loftus** Head of regional health partnerships but for the last 12 months has been the city leading for shielding and clinically extremely vulnerable.

Rachael joined us and presented the new Shielding guidance for Leeds. Shielding guidance is now available in different languages but if anyone would like this in another language then please do get in touch.

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

We're joining West Yorkshire Resilience Forum to host 'The Shielding Experts' on 3 February from 10am to 11.30am. This webinar will provide a valuable opportunity to listen to people about their experiences of shielding in 2020. Find out more and book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-shielding-experts-lived-experience-lessons-for-health-care-systems-tickets-135982105137>

### **Stuart ( Healthwatch)**

Myth busting and videos – it sounds like lots of people are looking to do some work around this and Stuart will check with his contacts to see if this already exists or any resources around producing this piece of work. **Awaiting email back from Stuart**

HW are doing some health literacy work around people living with a long term condition, end of live care in the community or care homes/hospices.

Some enquiries from public for elderly relatives and about who has had the vaccine and clearer information, more people are getting in touch about the issues getting in touch with their GP and dentistry – even for urgent treatment.

HW next projects:

- A new Weekly Check In about people's experiences of seeking mental health support
- The Health Inequalities work looking at the routine changes health and care services could make to support individual communities

### **Next meeting**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 1pm to 2.30pm**