



**Forum
Central**

A collective voice
for the health and care
third sector

Learning Disability Member Meet Up

17th September 2020

Learning Disability Member Meet-Up

17th September 2020 | 10:00pm – 11:30pm | Via Zoom

Introduction

The Learning Disability Meet-Up brings together Forum Central members with an interest in Learning Disabilities and/or Autism. Before Covid-19 the Meet Up would offer the opportunity to network as well as news and updates from the 3rd Sector, city-wide strategic updates and keeping members informed about the work of Forum Central.

Meet ups are now being held bi-monthly via Zoom. The intention is to provide an opportunity during the government restrictions and social distancing guidance for learning disability and/or autism focused member organisations to connect and share updates, challenges and learning on the impact of Covid-19 on their services and members.

The sessions are left informal so that the topic of future meetings can be decided upon collectively and dependent upon member organisations' priorities.

Participants

- Jez Coram – Forum Central
- Daisy Morgan – Forum Central
- Karl Witty – Forum Central
- Mandy Haigh – Leep1
- Mick Whitehead – Scope
- Carol Benson – Aspire
- Hayley Burke – Mental Health Carers Support
- Tina Turnbull – People Matters
- Hannah Greenwood – Purple Patch Arts
- Bob McDougall – People in Action
- Laura Stott – United Response
- Madeleine Fahy – Connect in the North
- Barbara Stewart – Leeds Bereavement Forum
- Ian McArdle – 100% Digital
- James Hill – Pyramid of Arts
- Cath Lee – Leeds Mencap
- Charis Green – Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People
- Annette Clark – Catholic Care
- Paul Sellers – Dimensions
- Luke Aylward – Leeds Autism Aim
- Linda Langstaff – Specialist Autism Services
- Sue Munday – HfT
- Ann Wilson - Slate

Notes from the meeting

- Jez opened the meeting and due to a few new faces gave a brief update on the purpose of the member meet ups. Jez then introduced Daisy Morgan, Forum Central's new member support worker.

Daisy Morgan – New Member Support Worker

- Daisy introduced herself and gave an overview of her new role. Daisy has been working at Forum Central since March in an Admin and Comms role and took up the position of Member Support Worker in August.
- Daisy's is still making the transition from her admin and comms work to her new duties but her new role is to contribute to Forum Central's mission and raise the voice and profile of members and the sector. Daisy will be working across all specialisms.
- Daisy would welcome the opportunity to get to know members and also understand if the information we share is useful and what members need.

Introductions from members

- To help Daisy, members introduced themselves and provided a short overview of their services and organisation.

Karl Witty – Local Care Partnerships

- Karl Witty, Forum Central Third Sector Health and Care Development Officer, talked through Local Care Partnerships (LCPs), who forms them, how they are located geographically, data and information, current work and priorities, and his role in supporting the voice of the third sector in the LCPs.
- Priorities include the Winter Planning Workshops being delivered in the LCPs, where all parts of the system can come together and plan for the winter season. Digital Inclusion is also a priority with a pilot project happening in the Beeston and Middleton area looking at digital assets in the community and developing digital skills in the sector.
- Karl reinforced his role as an advocate and representative of the third sector in the LCPs and to provide sector perspective on an equal footing to data and medicalised information in LCP development.
- Tina mentioned priorities of Local Care Partnerships for particular communities, a focus on frailty and the biggest needs for populations that come under LCPs, with a focus on younger people and older people. Tina asked a question on whether there are any signals that as they LCPs are maturing, they are starting to think more broadly about more minority needs e.g. the needs of people with learning disabilities and / or autism, that are citywide but not at the top of the agenda?
- Karl answered that one of the challenges with using Population Health Management where Frailty has come up as a key theme, means that other priorities in communities are pushed to the side. Karl mentioned that they are in a bit of transition period at the moment where the LCPs haven't really found their feet and it can be hard to justify presence at meetings and that means voices aren't heard. And that some of the priority groups aren't represented in the conversation. There are signs that in some of the LCPs that they are looking more at those groups that experience the greatest health inequalities. The Communities of Interest network at Forum Central has helped this. Some of the newer LCPs which have started with

a blank canvas have been able to bring in health inequalities e.g. the Light LCP has third sector as the dominant voice.

- Jez asked a question about practical steps to strengthen the relationship for learning disability and / or autism in the LCPS.
- Karl answered with challenges of the
- Slides from Karl's presentation are available on the Forum Central website – Learning Disability Page: <https://forumcentral.org.uk/learning-disability/> and more info on the Forum Central LCP page <https://forumcentral.org.uk/local-care-partnerships/>
- Please contact Karl if you would like to connect with the LCP in your area or would like more information: karl.witty@forumcentral.org.uk

Kickstart Employment Programme

- Jez outlined information from the Government's Kickstart employment programme for people aged 16 – 24 and then handed to Tina from People Matters.
- Tina mention their grant for the next few years from Henry Smith Foundation to help people with learning disabilities, autistic people and people with learning difficulties into employment and how they can link into some of the national programmes.
- People Mattes have looked at the Kickstart programme but as an individual organisation, like many other organisations, would not be able to take on 30 new starters and manage but as collective it may be possible.
- Tina noted, one of things about these schemes is that they don't have the interest or expertise to do enough for people with learning disabilities and if we don't do anything, we run the risk of the people we support being left behind again.
- Tina would like to see if they could link their grant with the kickstart scheme for the benefit that as employers it produces the financial support for the wage costs.
- Tina asked that if as organisations there are areas or responsibility that members think a young person could take on then it gives organisations a way of living out our values. It gives us a mechanism of employing another person but a person with a learning disability.
- Can we decide as a group of organisations whether we can work together to build the 30 placements if there is enough interest?
- There are conditions, it has to be a new job, employability support, the grant will be for 6 months.
- There will be other organisations focused on running kickstart programmes – DWP info focuses on Chamber of Commerce collaboration for small employers.
- By working together, we could have a specialist one.
- Several members showed interest.
- Tina mentioned taking a bit of time to organise the grant at People Matters and then producing an EOI on the Kickstart Programme.
- Jez asked about the wider membership of Forum Central and if there is potential for wider member to get involved. Tina would have to look at the grant conditions and see if they would be able to offer support to the wider membership. Organisations supporting people with learning disabilities would definitely fall under the grant conditions.

Digital Inclusion and Digital Skills Training

- Mandy from Leep1 provided an update on the Digital Skills Training and a paper-based survey that is being produced to get a clearer picture of the needs of people with learning disabilities who are not using tech.

- Purple Patch Arts sent around a survey to collect the needs of organisations who have or are wanting to have a digital service offer and what their training needs are, or what training they can offer to other organisations.
- Ian from 100% digital mentioned using the results of the surveys to inform how training can then be targeted and working together to see who can deliver the training.
- Mandy mentioned they have started digital inclusion training.
- James from Pyramid of Arts gave a brief overview of Aladdin (Autism and Learning Disability Digital Inclusion Network) and the work that is going on.

Next Meeting

Jez closed the meeting with the date and time of the next meetup.

19th November 2020 | 10:00pm – 11:30pm | Via Zoom