



**Forum
Central**

A collective voice
for the health and care
third sector

Learning Disability Member Meet Up

19th November 2020



Learning Disability Member Meet-Up

19th November 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
- Karen Fenton – Forum Central
- Karl Witty – Forum Central
- Pete Hughes – Leeds Autism Services
- Madeleine Fahy – Connect in the North
- Simon Cluderay – Leeds Community Healthcare
- Kieran Fowler - HfT
- Wayne Dunn – United Response
- Laura Stott – United Response
- Adam Ogilvie – Meanwood Valley Urban Farm
- Steve Bardsley – LCC Joint Commissioning
- Luke Aylward – Leeds Autism Aim
- Erin Hodson – Caring For Life

- Carol Benson - Aspire
- Lucy Struthers – Specialist Autism Services
- Sally Jude – People Matters
- Bob McDougall – People in Action
- Mandy Haigh – Leep1
- John Preston - TCV
- Tina Turnbull – People Matters
- Annette Clark – Catholic Care
- Ann Wilson - Slate
- Sumaiya Ali - HfT

Notes from the meeting

- Jez opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, thanking everyone for attending despite the busy and hectic nature of the current period.

Leeds Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Simon Cluderay – Leeds Community Healthcare Operational Lead

NB: Best information as of 19.11.2020 – Simon mentions the fast-paced nature of the work and that information is changing daily / weekly.

- Simon introduced himself and gave a bit of his own background in learning disability nursing, team leadership and operational management. He was involved in setting up some of the services.
- Simon is operational lead for the Covid-19 Vaccine programme. Sam Prince is Director of Operations at the Community Trust and is the Senior Responsible Officer.
- The Vaccine programme is city wide involving all of the health and social care organisations and agencies.
- Things are happening at pace in relation to the Vaccine programme for Covid-19 which is good news for all.
- A few weeks back things started to come through from centre in terms of the NHS in relation to slides and information. Information has then come out in the press and become more mainstream.
- The plan for Leeds: Leeds is called a place. All the different regions are called a place, e.g. Bradford is a place, Kirklees is a place, Manchester is a place. All the places have to be ready for the 8th December.
- In 7 working days from now they are told they will be receiving the first working vaccines.
- The Pfizer vaccine will be the first likely vaccine to be received. They are expecting to get that from the 8th December.
- The Pfizer Vaccine (also known as Courageous) will have huge logistical problems in relation to how it will be administered.
- The second Vaccine they are likely to receive will be the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine also known as Triumph.

- The first two vaccines they receive are different but will both have to be kept in cold storage which will be difficult. The shelf life of the Pfizer vaccine is quite short.
- The first vaccine will be stored at -70/80 degrees. It is then thawed. The vaccine will arrive in cartons, which are like pizza trays. The cartons will have 195 vials. Each vial will be diluted with a saline solution. When diluted it makes up 5 doses. Each carton will make 975 doses.
- The vaccine only lasts for a short period. Before dilution the vaccine lasts 2 hours out of the fridge. Once diluted the vaccine lasts up to 6 hours. The vaccine shelf life in the fridge is 5 days, minus 1 day for distribution.
- Once diluted it can't be transported because it will separate.
- There is a lot of information still to be received due to the size of the task, e.g. mass vaccination, and the fragility of the first vaccine likely to be received.
- The second vaccine, Oxford, has a better shelf life and may be up to 6 months in the fridge and the quantities are a lot less and don't need diluting. This will be far easier to administer.
- In terms of numbers for the city, children will not be vaccinated with these vaccines because they have not been tested on children and the vaccine won't be licensed. The vaccines are for 18+.
- The adult population 18+ will be offered the vaccine.
- The order in which the population will be vaccinated. Residential and nursing home residents and staff are the priority, particularly the elderly.
- Health and social care staff are included in the priority group.
- In Leeds they have included the third sector in this group.
- The programme is likely to happen in two phases. The first phase is vaccinating residential and nursing home residents and staff, the over 80s, and all of the health and social care staff. The number for this is at least 92,000. The number of vaccines is doubled as both vaccines will be given in two doses and both at 28 days apart.
- All the trusts, primary care networks and third sector are involved.
- Total adult population number of 709,000 means 1.42 million vaccines.
- They will work through locally with organisations like the ones present but to appreciate the complexity of the task.
- The GPs and primary care networks (19 groupings) will have a base to work from for administering the vaccine to the elderly, residents in residential and in nursing homes, and the clinically extremely vulnerable, of which some people with learning disabilities will fall into that category.
- There will be people who refuse the vaccine and there will be comms work to educate people about the vaccine but it will be the individual's choice.
- Simon said that he has tried to be as honest as he can but if information changes he apologises. Simon then took questions.
- Tina (People Matters) asked a question about young adults with learning disabilities and information they have read about those young adults being down the priority list alongside the 65 year old age grouping?
- Simon answered saying there was no mention of learning disability in the first information that came out, only reference to extremely clinically vulnerable. In terms of the age grouping it does work back for the general population, age being the significant factor, alongside ethnicity and health complications. It's likely that if someone is recognised as having a health complication they would move into the extremely clinically vulnerable grouping. Simon did say that where you have got learning disabled individuals that you are looking after, caring for and supporting, where there is risk due to their health for it to be discussed with the GP

about where the individual is grouped in terms of priority for the vaccine. It isn't that they won't offered, each individual we need to be thought of. There won't be enough vaccines for everyone from day one. It's a huge programme to mobilise.

- Tina replied that as a sector we are going to have to support and promote people's access otherwise they could end up being pushed down the queue according to their age.
- Simon replies that he understands this and will be encouraging this, especially in light of the statistics on mortality rates for people with learning disabilities.
- Tina also mentioned that People Matters have started plotting out some research with their members around attitudes and potential access to vaccines. Simon welcomed this information when ready.
- Simon and the programme need to understand if people are not wanting the vaccine why this is. We need to make the information understandable.
- Simon asked the question to the group, do you think the vaccine is going to be a hard sell, do you think people will welcome it?
- Wayne (United Response) mentioned that they support quite a few people with complex needs who don't have capacity, so there will be a lot of work there with capacity assessments, best interest decisions, IMCAs, so that will be a big task for them.
- Simon mentioned they will try to keep the comms as consistent as possible across the region.
- Shak Rafiq (CCG) will be taking a lead on the comms. Dawn Bailey and Lucy Jackson (Public Health) will be supporting the vaccine programme around disadvantaged or hard to reach groups.

Forum Central Strategic workstreams and new posts

Karen Fenton – Operations Manager

- Karen gave an update on some of Forum Central's wider work.
- There has been a lot of change in the team. Karen is now Operations Manager at Forum Central. Karen's previous role of development worker for mental health and physical and sensory impairment specialisms has been divided and Forum Central are recruiting for both posts.
- Karen acknowledged Daisy Morgans's (Member Support Worker) brilliant work over the last few months and noted that Forum is recruiting for an admin worker.
- Karen noted two pieces of work connected to the Covid-19 Outbreak Planning. Stacey Taylor has come into post at Forum Central as Outbreak Planning Co-ordinator and will oversee the Communities of Interest work. Stacey will also be co-ordinating the delivery of microgrants to grassroots and smaller third sector organisations.
- Gabby Voinea was introduced. Gabby is Forum Central's new Advocacy and Representation officer with her role designed to expand representation and reach for diverse communities and link reps into city wide strategy.
- Steve Bardsley asked that Forum's new organisational chart be shared so it can be passed to commissioning and care management.

Communities of Interest

- Jez explained that due to the new posts at Forum Central and the wider work of the team, plus being midpoint into the second lockdown, moving into winter and with the vaccine programme coming, it would be good to check in with organisations.
- The group split into three break out rooms to discuss the following:
 1. People you support: Positive Stories / current challenges – health and wellbeing / Covid cases / vaccinations / key messages
 2. Your organisation: Positive Stories / current pressures - f2f / Digital services / contact tracing / long Covid / staff health and wellbeing / financial impact
- Some key points from the group discussions:
- Staffing and funding were talked about in terms of key challenges, particularly digital funding. Some organisations had six months of digital funding but the challenge of how long that work will continue was raised. Organisations uncertain of what is coming around the corner and the prospect of running hybrid services next year. Incredibly positive stories and interesting work coming out of the digital group. Some organisations felt positive about recruitment and being able to recruit into roles that weren't able to before but challenges with staff shielding, self-isolating or clinically vulnerable. Positive stories on partnership working.
- Steve Bardsley (Joint Commissioning Manager – Learning Disabilities) noted that the council continues to be very impressed by the efforts of everyone involved and the inventiveness of everybody to adapt to the unprecedented circumstances. From a commissioning point of view they are trying to keep up regular phone calls with providers but to contact contract officer with communications. Steve mentioned that he sits in on the Building Based Services fortnightly meeting.

Digital Inclusion

- Kieran Fowler - HfT – Digital Community Connector updated on his role and the services they are offering
- Mandy Haigh – Leep1 – updated on the Digital Skills Survey they have produced for people with learning disabilities and the consultation they are running in 2021

Close

Jez closed the meeting with acknowledgement of the tight network, the brilliant work everyone is doing and how lucky we are to have the organisations we do.

Date of next meetup.

20th January 2021 | 1:00pm – 2:30pm | Via Zoom