

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. Thank you as always for your support with sharing these important messages.

Covid-19 Messages Resources

The NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group have shared the following links and information:

- Videos in different community languages featuring health professionals. Currently these are English ([Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)), Urdu ([Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)), Bengali ([Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)), Arabic ([Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)) and Dutch ([Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#))
- Qari Asim videos in Urdu by Qari Asim, Imam at Makkah Mosque on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) – also have versions in English not shared on social yet but are on [YouTube](#).
- Blogs by [Qari Asim providing religious context](#) for having the vaccine and [a blog by Grace, a Black frontline healthcare worker](#) who has received the vaccine
- [All now on YouTube too](#) – videos above now on our YouTube channel, ignore the view rates as more people are watching them directly on social media
- *NEW* version in BSL on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)

If you have information you would like to share with us, before our next meeting, please use the "[share your knowledge](#)" on our website.

Shielding

A letter has been sent out to all on the Leeds shielding group in the last few days. The latest updated Routes to Support that can be downloaded from [here](#). This version includes: advice in different languages and updates on vitamin d registration; support offer for physical activity; Homeshare and vaccines

Key messages for shielders – week commencing 25th January

- **Vaccine**
 - Vaccine appointments are now being offered to clinically extremely vulnerable adults
 - Some invites will come by letter to book a slot in a nationally-run site (outside of Leeds) but if you can't get to those sites safely – there will be more local options in the coming weeks you will be usually get a telephone call for these. We can offer help to get people to those local appointments.
 - The vaccine will always be free of charge – and you should never give your bank details in relation to the vaccine
 - Shielding advice remains in place – even if you have had your first vaccine
- **CEV Households**

All household members should take extra care to follow the guidance on socially distancing, hand washing and wearing face coverings in public indoor spaces – this is particularly important if they are:

- Working in a high risk environment – where you are coming in to contact with a large number of people
- Using public transport
- Attending school

- **Help is Available**

- A comprehensive range of support is available in Leeds to help people follow the advice to shield – this is about accessing food, prescriptions, financial assistance, social and emotional support, peer support, physical activity and digital access. Please call us on 0113 376 0330 or look at www.leeds.gov.uk/shielding if you think there is something that would assist you to follow the shielding advice.

Vaccination:

As you will be aware, the national COVID-19 vaccination programme began before Christmas. Forum Central is been working with partners including our local NHS, Leeds City Council and VAL to ensure that eligible frontline Third Sector health and community social care workers and volunteers can access the vaccination due to the critically important work they are doing within the community. We have been in touch with a large number of Third Sector organisations already, but are keen to ensure that all eligible organisations are aware of this opportunity, so are sharing this **Prioritisation Guide which is attached:**

What you need to do:

1. Please read the 'Staff Vaccination Prioritisation Guide for Managers' attached plus link here: <http://bit.ly/managersvaccineguide>
2. If your workers fall into Group 1, Group 2 or Group 3 please contact hello@forumcentral.org.uk with details of the work you are delivering. We can then advise and if the work you do is covered we will send further details of how to access the vaccinations for staff in the organisation. Prioritisation is starting with the most at risk staff members first, ie groups 1 and 2 now . It is expected that Group 3 slots will be available in February.

This process is built on trust and good faith. There are significant sensitivities around which workers are eligible as defined by central government, so it is important that we are mindful that frontline third sector health and care workers are accessing vaccines ahead of other key workers.

There are no walk-in vaccination appointments being offered. Staff must have a booked appointment for vaccination.

If you have any questions please contact Daisy/Pip at Forum Central

The VCSEP (Voluntary Community Sector Emergency Partnership) are the national organisation seeking to direct resources in response to the pandemic (and other emergencies) and they want to find out how they can provide better support to local organisations, particularly those working with minority and/or more at risk communities.

People will be invited to take part in 2 zoom sessions

- **w/c 1st Feb & w/c 8th Feb** - A 90 minute interview with 1-3 people from each organisation to learn about the challenges they face in responding to emergencies, what they do in those situations and what support they need.
- **w/c 22nd Feb** - A 90 minute co-creation session with people who run other community organisations in West Yorkshire. This will be a creative online workshop where we explore ideas for improving current support services, and imagine what the perfect support service would be if it was designed 'from scratch'

Building on what we hear and learn from these sessions, we will mock-up some ideas for what an improved support service could look like. We may ask some participants to take part in a short follow-up session to get their feedback:

- **w/c 8th March** - A 30 minute follow-up session looking at some mocked-up ideas for how the service could run, to get feedback and reactions.

We would like participants to attend both the interview and the co-creation session. We appreciate that people may have very busy schedules and so we will be as flexible as possible when scheduling sessions. We are looking for a maximum of 12 organisations to take part, and will aim for a mix of location and types of organisation.

Interested in taking part? [Click here](#) to register your interest and we are looking forward to hearing from you!

Let's make Leeds the 1st **UK Women Friendly City**

The Women Friendly Leeds movement is in its second year, growing and influencing changes in Leeds to make our city safer, healthier, more fulfilling and equal for women and girls. We would like to see more women and girls taking on Ambassador roles up and joining us on our journey to make Leeds the 1st UK Women Friendly City. Here [is a link](#) to the webpage that describes the Ambassador role and an easy sign up form. If you would like to discuss in further details then contact EmilyT@leedswomensaid.org.uk

Many thanks

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