

**Communities of Interest Virtual Session Notes**  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**1pm to 2.30pm**

**Attendees**

- **Anna** - Healthwatch Leeds
- **Ann** - VAL YLL
- **Stacey** - Forum Central
- **Chad** - Leeds City Council (Senior Communications and Marketing Officer)
- **Samantha** - Leeds City Council Migration partnership
- **Simon** - Leeds Faith Forum
- **Richard** - VAL
- **Mike**- Deaf/blind UK
- **Charis** - Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind
- **Chris**- CCG
- **Damian** - Forum Central
- **Sarah** - Forum central
- **Abigail**- BHI VAL
- **Amy** - 100% Digital
- **Ali K**- Leeds Older People's Forum
- **Emily**- Women's Hub (WLL)
- **Owen**- Leeds Autism Aid
- **Temipro** - Leeds Kids

**Theme of the session: Digital Inclusion**

Chair - Anna ( HW)

*We welcome anyone who would like to chair future meetings and if anyone has anything they would like at future meetings to focus on to let us know or equally if you would like to lead on a topic.*

**Recap from last meeting**

Talked about:

- Elland Road site- we have got some positive feedback and how to make sure it is fully accessible for everyone.
- High volumes of carers registering to GPs to get Carer Status so that they could get their vaccine (*since the meeting family/unpaid carers are now being invited for vaccine.*)

What people in the frontline were experiencing in the organisations, the pressures experienced - this has been raised with system partners

- Increased numbers of people accessing food parcels / Food Banks

## **COVID-19/updates Stacey Taylor**

### **Vaccine:**

- Elland Road site informed us that there are some free slots on the booking system for any Third Sector frontline staff/people in their 70s/CEV people that have not had their vaccine yet. Links provided.
- The vaccination is on track for people on the priority lists (over 80, 70, Clinically Extremely Vulnerable -CEV).

### **Latest Covid position:**

● Figures were shared and showed some positive but slow improvement. However, the same messages apply: People should keep the distance and protect themselves and those around them.

Community champions training- The CCG programme has already started and LCC/FC/VAL/Hamara will be starting a community champions project soon to work with around 70 local people - these 2 projects will link up.

### **Digital update - slides can be found [here](#)**

Amy delivered a presentation on 100% Digital Leeds:

- It is part of the council and ready to help any organisation working with people in order to improve digital inclusion.
- Plan to provide more long term embedded interventions for people so that they are helped properly (longer conversations and support).
- During the pandemic the services are needed more than ever because everyone has been asked to communicate and work online.
- Services: Digital Champion Training, signposting, finding and applying for funding (funding for digital exclusion in projects not able to take place face to face), bringing people together and forming partnerships.
- Projects happening now such as working with Neighbourhood Networks and Leeds Older People's Forum.

### **Connect and support**

. When people are not able to be contacted by the national track and trace, it is then passed on to local organisations and then these are contacting people through the local track and trace program -in Leeds which is the **Connect and Support** in partnership with Barca, HFA and Orion. Local help seems to be more appropriate because they understand the needs and limits of the local communities better

Contact rates have gone up from 15% to 21% and this was helped by the Local call lines. The local organisation will have 'door knockers' to call on people that

tested positive and provide any help, support and resource they may need to self-isolate and keep themselves safe.

## **Communications Update**

### **Chad Newton- Leeds City Council**

Chad delivered a presentation about the Corona Virus toolkit (where can be found, what it is, what it contains) and had a Q&A session afterwards.

The link to the google drive is [here](#)

- Hosted on Google drive so that anyone internal or external to the council has access to it
- To be easier to navigate there is also a PPT presentation with the overview of what the toolkit contains
- What is it? Source for all the Coronavirus key messages that can be used and shared to the communities

## **Introductions/check ins**

### **Anna - Healthwatch Leeds**

They have been doing an engagement on mental health for the last 2-3 weeks and it is expected to get the result out at the end of this week (Friday 12 February).

They are looking to pull together the engagement work that is happening around the city on vaccination and keen for the COI network to engage by giving their views

### **Samantha - Leeds City Council (Communities Team; Migration)**

Focus on GP registrations for migrant groups who experience barriers registering with their GPs and for those that are undocumented.

They will attend a Leeds Strategic Migration Partnership meeting where Public Health will talk about the vaccinations.

Report on Vaccination Amnesty.

### **Simon - Leeds Faith Forum**

Vaccination- encouragement has been provided, Faith community is working hard to address some of the myths.

Leeds Faith Forum started to inform people about Census happening in March and people in their communities were afraid to disclose their faith and ethnicity for the purposes of health and social care. The forum will encourage them to complete. Talks of LCC joining the Leeds Faith Forum Board.

### **Richard and Abigail - Voluntary Action Leeds (Young Lives Leeds, CD Hub and Third Sector Leeds)**

Their last meeting focused on the big challenge to get funding for the Third Sector. They are aware that a number of organisations are under real financial stress and Third Sector Leeds are looking to communicate that to policy makers.

The hub wants help with digital inclusion and they are now working with 100% Digital to put together some training for their members and that training will be further shared with interested organisations.

### **Mike- Deaf/blink UK**

They added a trained councillor to their mental health support services. Telephone based system for peer support groups up and running last week.

### **Charis - Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind**

One area of focus is supporting the Elland Road site with interpreters to help the older members of the community and the more vulnerable ones.

They have been working on their engagement with their community and overcame the main IT difficulties and more people started to engage more online.

### **Chris- CCG Comms and Engagement**

Coordinating the activity around COVID vaccinations, gather all that has been done to engage with local communities and understand their view around the vaccine. Work with People Voice's group and Healthwatch Leeds to show people that their feedback around Covid and vaccination activity has been heard and central topics will be included in a public document to be shared with everybody.

NHS covid updates can be found [here](#)

### **Damian - Men's Health Unlocked**

Issues raised were: loneliness, isolation, increased anxiety, fear about unemployment, increasing suicidal thinking, difficulties for agencies to build the trust needed, difficulties of male partners in childbirth, zoom fatigue, increased need for specialist support, increased domestic abuse in families due to isolation.

Some tablets have been distributed to digitally excluded men (80 tablets in city). A high number of people did not require any further digital support once they had received their devices and most felt confident in accessing online activities/support.

Database of activity – anybody can add activities in that can be found [here](#)

### **Ami - 100% Digital**

Working with Linking Leeds emphasizes how important digital inclusion is for people's mental wellbeing and how digital equipment has a major importance. Mens Unlocked have been amazing with their project for providing tablets. On the 100% Digital website there is a list with projects that aim to provide individuals with digital devices. Have Gathered 3000 Digital Champions in the city now that helped people understand how to navigate the website and use the resources there.

Had a meeting with Leeds Community Welfare to make sure that people are referred to the right place and helped properly.

### **Ali - Leeds Older People's Forum**

Reported increase of mental health and anxiety from those who experiences panics disorder, a number of organisations have been reporting that from Christmas until last week and many referrals have been made.

Issue with older people that are digitally excluded and cannot have access to shopping and online activities and need help from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Issue with primary healthcare access and organisations have been trying to deal with that.

The forum got into partnership with the Public Health and the Council.

A second round of Older People grants have been granted as part of the Covid 19 outbreak plan. The most popular areas of application were in projects relating to digital inclusion, to support people experiencing sensory impairments and projects for practical support: food and activity packs.

Older People's webinar can be found [here](#)

### **Emily Women's Hub (WLL)**

New campaign on international Women's day will take place in April: 'Shining a light on Women Inequalities'. Four themes: employability: flexible employability, wellbeing, flexible healthcare choices: maternity services, voice and influence. Messages on vaccines made a huge impact on the attitudes against vaccines.

### **Owen- Autism Aim**

Not had a big amount of requests for information around Covid 19 and vaccinations. No requests for advocacy. People were either not given the opportunity to get the vaccine or just they have a positive attitude but meetings will be organised to get their views on that.

They had a person using the Mens Unlocked scheme and had a very positive result. Still, many were worried that the scheme gives the tablet only for a month and would be interested in schemes that can give people tablets for a much longer period. Those interested should contact 100%Digital or Leeds Credit Union to help with the payments and instalment plans if they are on a low income and want to buy a digital device;

Working with partner organisations to deal with issues around health and employability raised by the community.

**Stacey- Third Sector Outbreak Plan Forum Central**

The grants for key messages are paused for now and the next focus is the vaccine. However, everybody that submitted an application before Wednesday 10 Feb will still be considered.

**Next meeting**

**Tuesday 23rd February 2021 1.30pm to 3pm**