

Communities of Interest Virtual Session

28th January 2021

13:00pm - 14:30pm via Zoom

Present:

Hannah - Healthwatch Leeds, Mike - DeafBlind UK, Charis - Leeds Society for Deaf & Blind People, Catriona - Basis, Rachel - Carers Leeds, Emily - Women's Lives Leeds, Jay - Leeds Faiths Forum, Toshal - Health for All, Sam - Leeds City Council Communities upTeam; Sophie - Hamara, Owen - Leeds Autism Aim (Advonet), Beverley - Counter Extremism, Ann and Rich - Voluntary Action Leeds; Karen, Stacey Gabby, Sarah, Zoe Ricketts - Forum Central

1. Leeds CCG and Comms Team meeting feedback

It has been fed back from the CoI group that visiting Elland Road has been positive. Errol from Leeds Dads has put a story up sharing his experiences. Leeds CCG are keen to hear feedback from vaccine site visits. Approach Stacey if you want to talk further about this. It was discussed the need to make sure the Elland Road site is accessible to people with learning disabilities and autism. There has been press about uptake of the vaccine in minority ethnic communities. Please pop share views and feedback you hear.

2. Praise received re: Communities of Interest

We are getting a lot of praise regarding the Communities of Interest work. A big thank you to all the participants of these sessions for engaging and sharing information gained around.

3. Leeds Older People's Forum Update

Leeds Community Healthcare and Third Sector strategy draft 'plan on a page' paper was shared out. Rachel Cooper from the forum central team is looking for feedback on this. 18 months ago this was first established with a round table event, it has since grown to an established third sector strategy and a steering group is forming. Rachel will come into the next meeting to discuss and hear your comments on it further. If there are any questions in the meantime contact Rachel.cooper@forumcentral.org.uk

4. Introductions and updates from link organisations

Anna - Healthwatch Leeds - Starting up work around shielding and would really like to hear the group's observations. Also working on mental health access to services and will share around the weekly update re: this. A report is coming in March/April on digital inclusion in health conditions and disability.

Mike - DeafBlind UK - Everything virtual at the moment but still achieving a lot. Virtual groups ongoing; telephone and video, BSL group (if anyone is interested let Mike know). Mental health work has increased; both more wellbeing based and in the crisis support service linked to the helpline and they

are working more intensely one to one with those in need. Helpline services open to professionals as well as members.

www.deafblind.org.uk then use the "become a member" link at the top of the page

Alternatively, simply contact our helpline 0800 132320, or email: info@deafblind.org.uk

Our video relay for BSL users can be accessed at www.deafblind.org.uk/contact/ and then clicking on the yellow button.

Sign up for our professionals' newsletter at: www.deafblind.org.uk/information-advice/professionals/ and for our quarterly Open Hand magazine at: www.deafblind.org.uk/what-we-do/open-hand-magazine/

Huma - Leeds CCG - Community Champions programme will be up and running soon with up to 20 people in the training. Emails will be sent through with more details.

Charis Green - Leeds Society for Deaf & Blind People - Ongoing challenges in access of information and getting real time information out quickly e.g. accessing braille information etc. Attending hospital, GP and vaccine appointments providing BSL services. Befriending video services for those in hospital available, a flyer will be shared. If you are aware of anyone needing support please let them know.

Catriona - Basis - Reduction in personal services still a struggle, face to face meetings only in emergencies. Trying to increase digital outreach. Working with LCPs in Leeds to create more accessible services in regards to sex workers and complex needs.

Rachel - Carers Leeds - Pilot with Leeds City Council providing PPE for carers - secured this not just for Leeds but nationally until June. Carers are very concerned about not accessing the vaccine and there is a rush of people trying to register as an official carer with GPs. They are trying to get more accurate information out re: this. There was an offer of Community Champions at Hamara supporting with this piece of work. Forum Central will try to help through discussions with LCPs and link up interested members for discussion .

Emily - Women's Lives Leeds - Developing new campaign linked to Covid-19 re: employability, physical health and mental health. Mental health a priority due to multiple responsibilities of women eg. childcare and working from home. Womens Hub and Girls Hub taking place online regularly. Isolation and stress in women is very prevalent and people aren't recognising this as a mental health issue.

Jay - Leeds Faiths Forum - People struggling with bereavement is a big issue as well as funerals and not adhering to Covid-19 rules. There is a lot of good work happening in culturally diverse faith communities to myth bust about the vaccine. Hub meetings are regular and anyone can attend.

Toshal - Health for All - Vaccinations for staff have been really well received. Staff mental health has been badly affected by this lockdown, but the Forum Central training on compassion fatigue (for organisations supporting older people) really helped. BME Seniors network has good attendance regularly on Zoom. Mental health needs are high and there are a lot of referrals around this. Funding received around digital access and food for community centres. Contact tracing for staff being managed with Hamara and Asha. They have been sharing information regarding vaccination myths. Further details will be shared.

Sam - Leeds City Council - Shared key messages and resources in the past, put this into a Google Dropbox so now there is a single place to find this info. The Communications Team will come to the next meeting and explain how to access this. Applied for funding for community champions work linking up with Forum Central, VAL and the CCGs. Census going ahead in March, outreach work will be done to help engage people. Re: migration work, a lot of information has been updated re: the struggles faced by different groups. Workers in emergency accommodation provision have asked about access to the vaccine. Forum Central is collating a list of third sector organisations in need of vaccines. If any organisations haven't been contacted by FC, please get in touch ASAP via hello@forumcentral.org.uk.

Sophie - Hamara - Increase in numbers accessing the Tempest Road foodbank; around 200 parcels a week. Patient ambassadors working with helping people attend GPs for vaccinations and also calling people to book in. Trying to help older people get online, have secured iPads from Barca and have been helping men's group learn to use Zoom. Only able to run face to face sessions with most vulnerable people and this is affecting staff.

Owen - Leeds Autism Aim (Advonet) - Doing work around self advocacy resources; specifically with adults with learning disabilities and migrant/refugee communities. LGBT health inclusion project starting soon. Creating free training on making information accessible. Requests coming through from people wanting low level mental health support but they don't have the resources for this. Doing some LCP work around health inequalities and access to GPs. Working on improving Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service's work with autistic adults. Not getting many vaccination enquiries, hopefully shows preventative work is working.

Beverley - Counter Extremism - Seeing a lot of online activity. Someone recently attended a health centre handing out anti-vaccine leaflets and they need this kind of thing reporting. Parents guide re: online extremism has been created, please share this around. Can submit any incidents to the West Yorkshire Portal and Bev can help with any queries using this.

Ann - Voluntary Action Leeds - Still working on reaching young people about their experiences during the pandemic and will feed this back. Mental health is a big issue as well as safeguarding concerns as children not in school. Culturally diverse hub doing work around mental health as well as distributing vaccine info.

Rich - Voluntary Action Leeds - Re: children's safeguarding - working with the lottery on distributing resources from the NCVO, please contact VAL and they can share resources. VAL want to amplify messages from this group to members. If you need to get in touch contact: Rich (for third sector Leeds) Richard.Warrington@val.org.uk , Ann (for young people) Ann.Crossland@val.org.uk and Abigail (for culturally diverse hub) Abigail.Olaleye@val.org.uk

Zoe - LOPF - Mental health and emotional wellbeing really affected by winter and lack of access to physical health services. Member organisations are working hard to get older people vaccinated. There is confusion over medication and interactions with the vaccine. Death reporting and cancellations of second vaccines is provoking anxiety. Social isolation and loneliness has increased in the 3rd lockdown. They have been trying to work with those with dementia and promote social opportunities.

5. Emerging Mental Health Data presentation - Karen

Presentation to be shared with everyone.

Please know that the feedback from these meetings is being logged and acted on and we really value everyone's contributions to making the network strong.

Can show the strategic picture if people want this through sharing a recording of the Mental Health members meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the future meetings also.

Please contact the team at Forum Central if you want to speak about this in more depth.

Questions?

When will psychologists and psychotherapists restart face to face? There are inequalities prevalent between private therapy and NHS provided and there is a need for people to be seen face to face.

A: Can't speak for every service, but people's needs and wants are very mixed as are services' abilities to offer face to face support, where most vulnerable/in need are being priorities. There is a mental health reset and recovery oversight group which meets twice monthly looking at demand and provision which Karen and Pip sit on on behalf of the third sector.

Healthwatch Digitising Leeds report highlighted a set of recommendations for organisations providing remote/digital inclusion services at this time.

6. Supporting the clinically extremely vulnerable

Stacey touched on this earlier and new guidance was sent out on the last weekly email. You can find the guidance [here](#)

7. Different meeting times/future meetings

Please feedback about the changing meeting schedule. If anyone would like to chair/co-chair in the future or have anything for the agenda please email at communities@forumcentral.org.uk