



**Forum
Central**

A collective voice
for the health and care
third sector

Learning Disability Member Meet Up

20th January 2021



Learning Disability Member Meet-Up

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

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Lisa Smith – New LCH Learning Disability Lead – Intros**
- 3. Aidan Smith – WAA Cost Savings Report**
- 4. Rach Stanton – Shaping Our Future Info Session**
- 5. Stacey Taylor – Communities of Interest Microgrant scheme**
- 6. Updates / AOB**
- 7. Close**

Participants

- Jez Coram – Forum Central
- Daisy Morgan – Forum Central
- Karen Fenton – Forum Central
- Kelly Bishop - Forum Central
- Sarah Wilson - Forum Central
- Rach Stanton - Forum Central
- Damian Dawtry - Forum Central
- Becki Hainsworth - Leep1
- Angie Marshall - Cafe Leep
- Aidan Smith - Leeds City Council
- Laurel Andrews - Oakwood Hall
- Lisa Smith - Leeds Community Healthcare
- Tina Turnbull – People Matters
- Erin Hodson – Caring For Life
- Madeleine Fahy – Connect in the North
- Lucy Struthers – Specialist Autism Services
- Natalie Dara - Specialist Autism Services
- Laura Stott – United Response
- Andy Rawnsley - Aspire Community Benefit Society

- Diane Wilson - Groundwork Yorkshire
- Luke Aylward – Leeds Autism Aim
- Kieran Fowler - HfT
- Paul Sellers - Dimensions
- Liz Bradbury - LJWB
- Steve Bardsley – LCC Joint Commissioning
- Jenny Sellers - Leeds Weekend Care Association and SNAPS
- Pete Hughes – Leeds Autism Services
- Sabiha Hussain - Hamara
- Caroline Aylward - TCV Hollybush

Notes from the meeting

Karen Fenton - Forum Central Staffing Update

- Two new starters have joined Forum Central:
 - Kelly Bishop - Administration Officer
 - Sarah Wilson - Mental Health Development Worker
- Forum Central are in the process of updating the organisational chart - this will be shared with everyone and will be on our website.

Aidan Smith – WAA Cost Savings Report

- Link to briefing paper: <https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Working-Age-Adults-Savings-Report-January-2021-V2.docx>
- The briefing paper should have been sent round to members - Aidan will talk through this.
- On behalf of the council Aidan wants to thank all organisations working through such a difficult time - They are very grateful for everything you do.
- The paper will hopefully give some context and background to the saving challenges the council is facing - They are in the thick of savings work and are working on this day in, day out.
- In the last 10 years throughout austerity, they have been facing significant challenges - As a result of this the way that councils work has become more enterprising and income generating - With Covid-19, the effect has been not just personal and regarding illness, but financially the council has been hit hard and financial shortfalls are significant.
- The savings shortfall is £119,000,000 - A massive amount to try and bridge the gap - They have managed to save £60,000,000 through budgeting across the council - Within these savings Working Age Adults is trying to find around £7,000,000 in savings.
- Looking at how they could make these savings, It' not just a one size fits all approach and has to be more nuanced - They really want to focus on

protecting statutory provision and people's care and support needs - Taking an approach to make sure provision is still there but a lot more efficient and good value for money.

- There is a pie chart in the report that shows that 40% of the savings are to be made around Adults and Health.
- They are looking at generating income through the CCG - Looking to our health colleagues for support.
- They are also looking to save money looking at the traditional grants and contracts, commissioning and review areas.
- The table in the document shows which areas they are working on.
- The purpose of putting the paper together was to make sure organisations were aware of the plans - They recognise that the way this was put together was done the wrong way round and they admit they should have approached organisations first - Forum Central were vocal about the need for this approach to be improved - They plan on improving their approach in the future and not making the same mistakes.

Questions

- **Tina** - What are the timelines around this? Will they need to speak to individual organisations? They are in the annual budgeting cycle for the year now and it would be useful to know how this will be affected.

Answer - They are in the process of making contact with organisations that will be affected - A formal letter will also go to those affected from the director – Cath Roff

- **Tina** - Will there be any implications re: the Camilla Cavendish review?

Answer - Aidan will look into this and get back with any info - On a basic level the government response has not been adequate around Covid-19 and this has led to budget shortfalls that may last for the next 2 years - There needs to be more funding in order to change this.

- **Andy** - Have these pressures had an effect on the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage plans?

Answer - Information on this has gone quite quiet and these conversations have been difficult - Aidan will ask legal colleagues about this and will feed back.

- **Andy** - Wants to make a plea in terms of early involvement of the sector - Is it possible to facilitate early engagement from members so they can put in place savings and efficiencies earlier and contribute?

Answer - They are confident now they have done what they need to for 2021/2022, but in the future they will try to get the sector involved sooner and keep organisations updated - Jez and Aidan have talked a lot about getting more representation from the sector.

Jez will distribute to members any additional info Aidan sends through to him re: Living Wage and Camilla Cavendish review etc.

Rach Stanton – Shaping Our Future Info Session

- Link to the report: https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Shaping-Our-Future-Report_Jan2021.pdf

Questions

- **Tina** - What about alliances that are not that well established? - eg. Mental health and learning disability services.
- **Answer** - The work needed would be to be more inclusive in their approach - One good example would be holding informal forums to discuss shared concerns - Forum Central could support having these conversations and facilitating these meetings.
 - It's a bit of a watch this space situation as this is just a proposal - There is some more detailed action planning to take place - Nothing to do right now but when the 2nd phase planning is happening they will want more organisations involved.
- **Tina** - Suggests not trying to do this too quickly when at that phase - Organisations have a lot of commitments and some time periods in the past have been too limited - Some alliances in the past have taken a year to put in place.
- **Answer** - They have around 12 months to work on this at the moment.

Rach is happy to come back at a later point to update people.

Stacey Taylor – Communities of Interest Microgrant scheme

- Presentation link: <https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Third-Sector-Outbreak-Plan-grants-presentation.pdf>
- Stacey works at Forum Central coordinating the Communities of Interest work and the Third Sector Outbreak Plan.

- The Third Sector Outbreak plan aims to link in with organisations around what they are struggling with and what info they can pass on re: concerns around Covid-19.
- The plan also aims to share data, resources and info around Covid-19 eg. around the vaccine.
- Microgrants can be used to help different communities access info i.e. making Covid-19 info easy read, translating this etc.
- Feel free to contact Stacey via: communities@forumcentral.org.uk for questions about the support available and if you are eligible.

Questions

- **Tina** - What is the turnaround time for applying to the larger grants?

Answer - Please get applications in ASAP and they will get to them as quickly as possible, this may take around 2 weeks. They want to have a trusted relationship with the applicants and because of this there is flexibility around timelines and around things like switching to virtual service provision.

Updates / AOB

Lisa Smith - Leeds Community Healthcare Learning Disability Lead

- ew post so Lisa wanted to let everyone know about this new role - She will be working on how we embed practice and making sure that LCH provide a quality service.
- At the moment they are not meeting target and not providing equitable care, but Lisa has seen some great work in regard to dietary, dental health and easy read provision.
- Lisa will be leading on the LeDeR at LCH.
- She will be also looking into getting client and carer feedback - A benchmarking survey was sent out to clients, however, a lot of people didn't know who they were answering questions for as they work with so many services - Lisa welcomes any feedback from any service users that people know have accessed LCH.

Close

Jeز closed by thanking everyone. He feels very lucky to work with such brilliant organisations.

Date of next meetup:

25th March 2021 | 10:00am – 11:30am | Via Zoom