

**Physical and Sensory Impairment
Information and Strategy Session
Tuesday 9th Feb | 10am till 12am**

Attendees:

- Rachel Stanton, Karen Fention, Kelly Bishop, Zaira Khanum, Daisy Morgan - Forum Central
- Fern Warwick, David Blythe - William Merritt Centre
- Chris Jessop, Karl Proud, Ian Laing - Leeds Hearing & Sight Loss Service
- Jane Robinson - Leeds Bereavement Forum
- Marek Romaniszyn - Leeds City Museum
- Phil Gleeson - Volition Trustee
- Nikki Pattinson - Carers Leeds
- Paedar O'Dea - Leeds Disabled People's Organisation
- Bronia Angove - Purple Patch Arts
- Peter Chambers - Specialist Autism Services
- Aidan Smith - Leeds City Council
- Alison Miller - Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People
- Heather Deal, Jagdeep Passan - Leeds Involving People

Apologies

- Zoe Limbert - Mindwell

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Shaping Our Future - Rach Stanton

- Rach gave a presentation on the Shaping Our Future work.
- The report can be found here:

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

Questions/Comments

- Peadar - LDPO can offer training on the social model on disability. Rach is very interested in this and making this available to members. - LDPO's email: leedsdpo@gmail.com
- Chris - Leeds Hearing & Sight Loss service can provide sensory awareness training. Chris' email: Christina.jessop@bid.org.uk

Rach's email if anyone has further questions:
rachel.stanton@forumcentral.org.uk

3. Third Sector Cost Savings Review - Aidan Smith

- Aidan talked everyone through the savings report paper.
- The paper can be found here:
<https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Working-Age-Adults-Savings-Report-January-2021-V2.docx.pdf>

Questions/Comments

- Peadar - Are you making efforts to actively oppose austerity?
 Answer - The council is Labour run so this affects how they work. The council officers lobby through their directors e.g. Cath Roth's work with ADASS. Within Leeds they are focussed on working with health colleagues on the challenges faced.
- Bronia - Could she meet with Aidan to clear up some questions Purple Patch might face?
 Answer - Yes. The council wants to make sure support is in place for organisations. Forum Central can also facilitate discussions with the council.
- Jagdeep - Are your efforts in working with the CCG positive?
 Answer - Yes. The council is trying very hard to work collaboratively with the CCG to get the best outcomes for services.

4. Forum Central News & Strategic Updates

- Forum Central have several new team members and Zaira is the new PSI worker - The new organisational chart can be found here:
<https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Forum-Central-Organisational-Chart-Contact-Info-January-2021.pdf>
- If you want further Forum Central updates or have questions please contact us via: hello@forumcentral.org.uk. Anyone is welcome to attend other meetings we host that aren't specifically regarding PSI.

Leeds For All

- This report will be ready soon and we are really proud of this and the way organisations and people came together to provide the content despite all the challenges of doing so in a virtual world. On the International Day of People with Disabilities, Forum Central worked with the William Merritt Centre and there were around 1000 views on YouTube and around 300 participants online and 600 offline. We need to think about how we keep the momentum going here.

Better Lives Board Refresh

- A piece of work was done on why people aren't accessing the front door of social care and the report showed that certain groups are not doing this as much as others.
- Better Lives Board - Chaired by Phil Gleeson - There is an equal voice within this board for different parts of the sector.
- Better Lives blog: <https://betterlivesleeds.wordpress.com/>
- Better Lives Strategy:
<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s167070/Better%20Lives%20Refresh%20Report%20Appendix%2001111>
- They want this work to be citizen-led; they will be creating a user-led strategy and want to include people's stories within the blog.
- If you have comments to add to this work please contact Leeds Involving People on: info@leedsinvolvement.org.uk or Zaira on: zaira.khanum@forumcentral.org.uk

Inclusion for All

- The website and accessible information work information can be found here info:
[https://healthwatchleeds.co.uk/our-work/inclusion-for-all/#:~:text=This%20is%20a%20citywide%20initiative,Accessible%20Information%20Standard%20\(AIS\)%20.](https://healthwatchleeds.co.uk/our-work/inclusion-for-all/#:~:text=This%20is%20a%20citywide%20initiative,Accessible%20Information%20Standard%20(AIS)%20.)
- The next focus of this work will be other languages and translation services and improving access here. If you or anyone you know want to get involved please get in touch. This is always open to wider membership.

Street Charter Meetings

- Momentum for this has picked up again.

- Each meeting takes on a different topic e.g. parking, wheelie bins.
- The street charter combining the outcomes of these meetings is nearly ready to be completed.

5. Covid-19 Vaccine Update

- The NHS are holding a Facebook Live expert panel is on 20th February, open to all and anyone:
<https://twitter.com/nhsleeds/status/1358707417249439745> Forum Central can help with passing on positive vaccine stories.

Over the last couple of weeks, the numbers of health and social care staff coming forward to be vaccinated has tailed off. Leeds Health Partnership Teams are taking a number of targeted actions with care homes and independent providers to increase uptake working with PCNs and LYPFT at The Mount.

This week Elland Road is focusing on public vaccinations but as things currently stand there is significant capacity available at Elland Road (which can be booked through the national system) and at Thackray through the staff booking process. We have a number of Pfizer vaccines which will expire in the next 24 hours at the Thackray so speed of the essence.

To book in at:

- The Thackray - use the 'staff online system'-
<https://links.inhealthcare.co.uk/lthcovidimmunisation> or if staff are struggling they can try the telephone number is 0113 2060593
- Elland Road - by calling the national booking telephone number - 119

Who is currently eligible:

- Groups 1, 2 and 3 of front-line health and social care staff
- Anyone who is over 70 and who hasn't already been vaccinated (don't need to wait to be invited, they can contact the national booking system)
- People who are CEV and their carers
- Carers who are over 65

6. Member Updates

- Nikki - Carers Leeds - Vaccines a big focus, especially concerns around younger carers with health problems waiting for vaccines. Digital exclusion for carers also an issue. They are offering equipment out.
- Bronia - Purple Patch Arts - Given out 10 tablets received through funding but still a struggle getting people online. Monthly disco still going ahead, get in touch with Bronia if you want to get involved.bronia@purplepatcharts.org
- Peter - Specialist Autism Services - Vaccine issues around misinformation and distributing correct information, this has gone well. They have also been working on digital inclusion.
- Alison Miller (Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People) - Focussing on inclusion and accessibility. Providing BSL interpreters to the Elland Road vaccination site.
- Fern - William Merritt - Unable to deliver face to face assessments but can deliver these if it is urgent.
- Karl, Chris - Leeds Hearing & Sight Loss Service - LOPF funded coronavirus project ongoing to create accessible information. Working with deprived areas converting Public Health England's BSL, creating braille info etc. Providing digital inclusion training for visually and hearing impaired people. Let them know if any service users could use this support.
- Feel Good Factor - 8-week mindfulness course for deaf people and people with hearing loss:
<https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Deaf-mindfulness-1.pdf>

7. Breakout discussions - strategic influence and priorities for the network & group feedback

Strategic/organisational points:

- Place a rep on the health and wellbeing board committed to representing PSI so that the network receives clear feedback - Gabby at FC can support this.
- Strategic updates in general need to be fed back to the PSI network more often and more clearly.

- The health inequalities work stream could be further utilised.
- The mental health preventative work that many services are doing needs to be recognised - Prevention is one of the 8 main mental health strategies outlined and Pip from FC is a member of this board so can champion the prevention work of the third sector.
- Leeds For All - Carers Leeds, Purple Patch and the William Merritt centre all in agreement that we keep annual momentum up for this piece of work and utilise the branding. A calendar of different organisations events might be useful. The LOOP directory could help here.

Points specific to people our member organisations are working with:

- Carers Leeds are struggling to get carers to engage. It is also hard to get volunteers involved as they cannot go out. There is a lot of surviving and not much developing.
- Carers and parents are struggling with their mental health and are embarrassed to ask for help. Isolation is prominent. Carers Leeds can help and have grants accessible to work on this issue.
- Volunteers are struggling to engage with vulnerable service users when they can't attend an office.
- Sharing positive vaccine stories to improve uptake - Especially for those with learning disabilities and autism.
- Building trust post-Covid-19 and adapting to how different service users want to work i.e. digital or in person.
- Mental Health post covid - how we can work together was discussed.

8. Group feedback, reflects and what's nexts

- Hubspot CRM is being incorporated into FC's work at the moment.
- Zaira will be approaching people to have 1 to 1 meetings.
- Please contact Zaira on: zaira.khanum@forumcentral.org.uk if you wish to arrange a meet up or have any points, concerns, questions etc you want to raise.

9. Possible discussions for next meeting

- LOOP work
- Mindwell updates
- Better Lives Leeds board updates

- Update on the health and wellbeing board/health inequalities workstream