

Communities of Interest Virtual Session Notes
Tuesday 23th February 2021
1.30pm to 3pm

Attendees

- **Anna** - Healthwatch Leeds
- **Stacey** - Forum Central
- **Pip** - Forum Central
- **Gabby**- Representation Lead - Forum Central
- **Sarah**- Mental Health Lead - Forum Central
- **Rachel**- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable lead, Health Partnerships Team
- **Jay** - Leeds Faith Forum
- **Charlotte** - **Gypsy and Traveller Communities** -Leeds GATE
- **Timipra**- Leeds GATE
- **Emily- Women** - Women's Hub, Women's Lives Leeds)
- **Janet- Homelessness; people with Drug and Alcohol issues** , Turning Lives Around (TLA)
- **Chris** - Engagement Lead CCG
- **Charis** - - Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind
- **Wendy** -, Leeds Autism Aid
- **Damian** - **Men** - Men's Health Unlocked, Forum Central
- **Karl** - Local Care Partnerships, Forum Central
- **Ann** -, Young Lives Leeds, VAL
- **Jag B** - Leeds Involving People

Chair - Stacey (FC)

Stacey welcomed everyone and encouraged anyone who would like to chair future meetings, lead on a topic or suggest an area to discuss at a future meeting to let her know.

Latest COVID position

The latest position in Leeds. The overall infection in the city is now 162/100.000 and this is about 16% decline in the last 7 days.

The over 60s rate is now 115/100.000 which is moving in a positive direction.

The Government's road map that was announced last Monday can be found here <https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ROADMAP-3.pdf>

Update on People who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV):

- Shielding has been extended until the 31 March;

- The letter announcing to people have started coming out already and they are only available in English so far but with [some easy read and some translations here](#) there is also [some resource available here](#)
- Rachael has been conducting some sessions to offer more clarity on the new changes and explain why some people have been added to that list.

Rachael gave more details about CEV updates and the [CEV information can be found here](#)

New data and information/guidance from the government means that a further 11,000 people in Leeds will be added to the CEV list:

- There are 3 reasons new people are now to be added on that list:
 1. You have a condition that makes you CEV such as a transplant.
 2. If your GP has said you have a combination of conditions.
 3. Looking at factors such as conditions, medications and your overall health as mentioned on your medical records. Every condition and medication adds up to a score. The downside of this is that it is counting on patient data which sometimes is not completely accurate and up to date and many people who receive a letter now might not understand why they are added on the CEV list.
- Everybody who is invited to have their vaccinations is advised to have the vaccine quickly if possible (ie not question / feel guilty about).
- People with existing disabilities are more likely to be identified as CEV because of the new algorithm.

Strategy update

Pip gave an update on the Leeds Community Healthcare Third Sector strategy. Leeds Community Healthcare provides children and adults services across the city from homelessness to language support and physiotherapy, working alongside primary care and third sector. There is a piece of work that has been developed referring to the priorities for the Third Sector. Rachel Cooper has been leading this menu of priorities and some relevant examples have been included in this [document](#). This has a wider scope which is shaping the Third Sector. This partnership work, also starting to be mirrored with the Teaching Hospital Trust aims to strengthen cross sector work and to hear diverse voices from different organisations across the city so that the system is as good as it can be and the needs are met as much as possible.

This is an ongoing piece of work and we encourage anyone to feedback what their priorities are to Rachel.Cooper@forumcentral.org.uk

Introductions/check ins

Jay- Leeds Faith Forum

Work underway with Black, Asian and minority ethnic and the wider muslim communities in terms of information and uptake of vaccines in the context of faith.

They will share the Faith Covenant document between the Faith communities of Leeds and the Council as soon as it is ready.

Charlotte and Timipra- Gypsy and Traveller Communities

Around 100 people took part in a survey that aims to highlight the communities views and concerns about the vaccine and other topics. Using the survey results to create an animated video with members' voices.

Worries are about side effects, strange ingredients in the vaccine. However, they try to disperse the myths and use NHS CCG as the best place for the vaccine information and key messages.

Chris- CCG

People can find vaccine information resources in other languages on the [NHS CCG website](#)

Janet- TLA

- Their staff taking up the offer of the vaccine and being recognised as people in the frontline. Some were not so confident in having the vaccine. Overall, it has been tried to disperse the myths.
- The young people are feeling excluded, they are not at college and feeling isolated and need support with housing and benefits.
- They feel they are left outside.
- Women's group - feeling of loneliness, isolation and find it difficult to stick to the pandemic guidelines. Women in emergency accommodation have highlighted a crisis relating to not being able to meet with family members when so many people are affected by COVID. This has affected their mental health.
- Level of drug taking has increased.

Emily- Women

Concerns about vaccination and maternity and the focus has been on spreading the right and accurate information.

Anxiety around coming out of lockdown has been a trend, employability and mental health as well especially after the roadmap plan has been resealed by the government recently.

Charis - Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind

A big focus on sharing communications. Interpreters have been supporting the Elland Road site.

There is a more uptake online by their members and they are getting prepared for the new changes brought by the announcement on the lockdown plan.

Wendy- Autism and Learning Disabilities

Autism and Learning Disabilities are not the same so people are experiencing different things as a result of the pandemic.

Some people with mild learning difficulties might not be registered with the GP. Work has begun with LCP's and LGBTQ+ groups to tailor information and updates.

Jag B- People's Voices

Increasing awareness for Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in accessing Adult Social Care Directories.

Work in collaboration with the NHS, a Network of members with a focus on mental health and learning disabilities coming together.

Working with the Woodhouse Clinic to help with the vaccination roll out and with spreading the right information.

Damian - Men

Anxiety levels still reported.

Digital project working well and people really benefiting from the access to digital.

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

Ann- Young Lives Leeds

Work is underway in getting the messages ready about vaccines for young people and how best to share these messages with YP networks.

Mental health and anxiety for young people going back to a classroom environment and about exams and jobs' prospects.

An increasing number of parents that want to home- educate their children.

Gabby- Representation

First reps meeting is on the 3rd March.

Anna - People's Voices

Thank you to everyone who completed the mental health weekly check in. The survey is on HW website and echoes members' views: the return of the 'normal routine' after lockdown and the worries signalled by people.

Please share this survey and encourage people to complete, can be found [here](#).

They will also conduct interviews with organisations and they will ask questions such as:

- What are the biggest concerns for shielding service users right now?
- What can healthcare services do differently for shielding service users?
- What are your service users' worries about easing lockdown measures?
- What would help you service users improve their health and fitness?
- Are there any questions about shielding that people need answering?

If any organisation is interested in sharing its views, there will be a call for about 20 minutes when these questions will be asked. Please email anna@healthwatchleeds.co.uk

Sarah- Mental Health

- People financially affected by covid - according to Citizens Advice Bureau impact of unemployment/universal credit disproportionately falling on the young - seen a big increase in younger people accessing advice.
- Carers - taking on the burden of care when carer is in mental health crisis - Mental Health Collaborative working on this.
- People with PTSD, effects of trauma: eg, veterans, asylum seekers & refugees, survivors of sexual violence and childhood trauma - impact of compound trauma when an environment can feel unsafe (in this case, risk of infection) - can trigger PTSD. Importance of trauma-informed care.

The Wellbeing @ Work Digital Conference is open for bookings (it's free) and will run from the 15th-19th March. Join a fantastic range of speakers to explore how to manage the impact of COVID-19 on workplace mental health, how to maintain mentally healthy workplaces in an increasingly uncertain environment and how to use learning from the pandemic to advance workplace wellbeing in the future.

[Mindful Employer Wellbeing @ Work Conference 2021](#)

Karl- Local Care Partnerships

The Local Care partnerships are running [a series of workshops](#) looking at Covid 19 vaccination and inequalities. These will contain data and Public health information about the health and inequalities behind the vaccination programme, a presentation from the CCG and they also give the chance of asking questions around vaccinations and concerns.

Please contact the LCP development team lcht.lcpdevelopment@nhs.net or karl.witty@forumcentral.org.uk to register interest.

Stacey

Leeds Health and Wellbeing board met last week and the next meeting is on 9 March and are inviting people from the communities of interest network that would like to attend this session, due to the limited number, 3-4 people asked to attend

[**You can find out more about the board here**](#)

If anyone wants to share their knowledge before the Zoom session, they can use the website '[share your knowledge button](#)'

Next meeting

Wednesday 10 March 2021 1.30pm to 3pm