

Communities of Interest Virtual Session Notes

24th March 2021

1:30pm to 3pm

Attendees

- **Stacey** - Forum Central (Chair)
- **Damian**-Forum Central
- **Sam**- Leeds City Council
- **Zaira**- Forum Central
- **Chris**- CCG
- **Ann** - Young Lives Leeds
- **Jay**- Faith Forum
- **Owen**- Leeds Autism Aid
- **Charis**- Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind
- **Emily**- Women's Hub (WLL)
- **Toshal** - Health For All
- **Stuart**- Healthwatch Leeds
- **Jen**- TLA
- **Natalie**- Forum Central

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

- Under 99.7/100.00 cases in Leeds which is 9% reduction
- The weekly case rate for 60s or over is 38.5 which is a reduction of 18%
- There have been a few outbreaks (5 care homes with cases, 12 workplaces and prisons) but they have been managed proactively
- 325,000 people had their vaccination
- There are 3 rapid testing sites for key workers: Headingley Campus, City Campus and the Old Fire Station, more [information can be found here](#)
- The government announced that the self-isolation payment will be widened:
 - ❖ Parents of children who were told to self-isolate, meet the criteria for the payment as of 8 March.
 - ❖ Payments can be made up to £500 and people can apply online.
 - ❖ There was a 28 days period that people can apply within but now this was extended to 42 days.
 - ❖ The successful rate for applicants in Leeds is about 50%.

- The vaccination bus is up and running at the Bilal Centre and people are welcomed to share their experience.
- In April, there might be a lower number of vaccination doses arriving in the UK but this still needs to be confirmed.

Introductions/check ins

Stacey-FC

York University is working with Black Health Initiative and they are running a project to understand diverse communities' views around vaccination.

The Community Champions project has started and Sam from Leeds City Council will offer more details in this meeting.

The NHS and CCG website updated their resources and there is a new frequently asked questions section on the website.

Together Leeds Community and Voluntary Sector have created a bulletin and more information on how to sign up can be found [here](#).

Sam- LCC

Sam provided a presentation of the Community Champion project followed by a Q&A session and the slides can be found [here](#).

The main points are:

- The contact email for LCC Communities team is communitychampions@leeds.gov.uk
- Forum Central, Hamara, Voluntary Action Leeds and Leeds City Council (Communities Team: Sam, Hannah and Jess) and also Public Health and CCG are all working on this project.
- The aim is to develop the skills of the Community Champions to have positive conversations with their networks and share accurate up-to-date information.
- Who can be a Community Champion? People that live and work in Leeds that are keen to support their friends, family and communities with covid and vaccine information and then feed the feedback back to the partner organisation they are working with.
- All the updated information and the support needed will be closely provided alongside access to training, flexibility, regular Q&As with Public Health and CCG, peer support networks with the other Community Champions and micro-grants support scheme up to £1000.
- The aim is to engage with priority groups such as people with disabilities, older people, Black Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Chris- CCG

CCG have been working with PCNs, and postcards with QR codes to surveys have been distributed to patients to share their vaccine experience.

Work underway with LCHT, LYPFT and LCH at Elland Road Vaccination clinic where people's experiences are being collected as well.

All the feedback provided will be collated and added in CCG future reports on a weekly basis. So far, good feedback was provided but also the survey revealed that some more information was needed such as:

- it is not advisable to drive after vaccination for 15 minutes
- people would like to be scheduled for their second vaccination when they attended the first one.

If anyone has any questions about the vaccine patient experience work please contact caroline.mackay2@nhs.net.

Ann

Work underway for sharing messages around vaccines for young people and for supporting families whose children were deregistered.

Concerns have been raised:

- young people's unemployment rate doubled comparing to last year;
- parents are worried about their children returning to school;
- around 950 children were deregistered during the pandemic.

Jay

They are still working on the Faith Covenant document.

Faith groups that were reluctant to have the vaccine have started to change their mind due to the hard work with the communities.

Rachel- Carers Leeds

Over 500 carers under the age of 55 have been supported to get their vaccine last week.

Really happy to see the census included the carer questions.

Reported more carers with mental health issues that need support.

Organised a series of workshops to inspire change for the younger group (16-25).

Providing digital support for careers through their digital project and there are still some devices available.

Zaira- FC

They will meet with 100% Digital on 6 April and will talk about helping people with hearing and learning disabilities.

Reported anxiousness around people going back to normal and work is being done to support them.

The PSI meeting is on the 1st of April and anyone is welcomed to join.

Owen- Leeds Autism Aid

Plan to work with 16 and 17 years old. It has been hard to do it so far because of the parents' concerns during the pandemic.

Been working with LTHT to provide reasonable adjustments to the Thackray Museum and Elland Road vaccination sites and they have created an 'Alert card' that covers how to request these reasonable adjustments.

Also finalised the health passport for people to access the services they are entitled to.

Reported that people are eager to go have their vaccine.

Highlighted a project that works with people with impairments and the link to this information can be found [here](#).

Reach out to members of the learning disability and autism community including local charities and support staff to share their vaccine stories as well. If anyone is interested, please get in touch at info@peoplemattersleeds.co.uk

Charis-Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind

BSL interpreters at Elland Road are there to assist on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

For more information contact charis.green@leedssocietyfordeafandblind.org.uk.

Toshel (HFA)

Staff and community members are looking forward to seeing what happens after the 12th of April.

The one-to-one work with older people is being held online mainly but also will carry on doing the garden meetings.

Emily- WLL

The incident with Sarah Everard had a real impact on women and raised the concerns regarding women' safety. They are launching a safety campaign and starting off with a survey asking women and girls about their feelings around safety in the current situation at home, in public transport, in the city centre. This will highlight the real issues and will help with identifying the aims of the campaign.

Stuart- Healtwatch Leeds

Continuous work around dentistry and capture how the delays and lack of availability impacts people around mental health and health inequalities.

It seems that there is nothing that can be done at a local level and because there is a national shortage.

They have been advocating that the NHS will post more guidance on the dentist's resources and give more clarity on what is an emergency treatment and who is eligible whilst sharing the people's feedback and campaign for a better response.

Anyone that wants to share their experience with the dentist, please contact stuart@healthwatchleeds.co.uk.

Their next weekly check in will focus on the vaccination for 25-30 year olds because they noticed there is a general hesitancy within this age group. You can find the link [here](#).

Damian-FC

Concerns around loneliness, isolation, anxiety, confidence, increase in domestic abuse as well.

The digital project they have been having has now come to an end.

The men's community is keen to support the women's community following the Sarah Everand incident.

Jen- TLA

They focus on maintaining their staff's wellbeing and also on managing the worries and complaints coming from their community members around the lockdown restrictions.

They will do an employee survey that will concentrate on wellbeing questions and also on the lockdown roadmap. If there are any questions, please contact jbravo@turninglivesaround.co.uk.

Noticed positive changes around the vaccine hesitancy in their staff members but they will continue with the messages and encouraging conversations.

Sam- LCC

Work underway to help the migrant, refugee and people seeking asylum to register with an GP and have their vaccination.

Many organisations are encouraging migrant communities to engage with the Census because it will reveal important information.

Next meeting

Wednesday 7 April 2021 1.30pm to 3pm