

Dear Communities of Interest Network,

As always, this week's email includes a number of updates and resources for you to use and share with the other organisations you work with. This page provides the latest advice and guidance from the Leeds Public Health team, and signposts you to the relevant local services and resources.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to share your knowledge of what's happening within communities, the challenges you're facing as an organisation and the successes you've achieved. If you have information you would like to share with us, before our next meeting, please use the 'Share your knowledge' button on our website.

Please forward this email to anyone who you think would benefit from these updates. Anyone who doesn't currently receive these emails, but would like to in future weeks, can subscribe by emailing communities@forumcentral.org.uk. Thank you as always for your support with sharing these important messages.

Virtual session 15.06.21 [flash card can be found here.](#)

Latest position Variant of Concern

The Delta variant is now accounting for nearly half of new cases in Leeds and as it is more transmissible, we are seeing a significant rise in the infection rate, as are many other areas of the country, with increased social contact following changes to restrictions and impact of the Delta variant.

We anticipate further rises as the number of outbreaks will increase as there is more community transmission. Following the update earlier this week, A [statement](#) has been issued reassuring our residents about the steps being taken to address the sharp rise in cases, particularly in the age groups who have yet to receive their vaccination.

Latest position: Rates are highest in young people. We currently have particularly high community transmission in the Headingley & Hyde Park and Little London and Woodhouse areas and are working with ward members and local partners on enhanced activity.

Some key points:

- The vaccine is now available to **anyone over the age of 18** and should book using the 119 number
- Overall, the infection rate is going up **almost twice** the national rate.
- Rate for over 60s are relatively stable so far
- Most cases are in 19-24 age group, followed by the 18-19 age group.
- hospitalisations are stable and deaths low.
- 64% of the eligible population in Leeds have been vaccinated with 1st jab
- Over 50% have been vaccinated with two.

30 minute Covid-19 briefing

Due to the rise in numbers of over 60's contracting Covid-19 and the rise of the Delta variant, Public Health are providing a 30-minute briefing on the current situation in Leeds.

Rachel Brighton and Hannah McGurk will provide a more detailed breakdown of the figures by ward, as well as presenting you with a checklist of what you can do to support the effort.

The briefing is next Thursday 24th June 10am -10.30am.

[Click here to join the Zoom meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 859 9698 3303

Passcode: 54067

Testing for COVID-19 – Guidance for Leeds citizens

There are different tests you can get to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19). The test you need depends on why you're getting tested. Both tests are free. The 2 main tests are:

- Rapid lateral flow tests – for people with no symptoms, they give a result in 30 minutes using a device similar to a pregnancy test.
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests – for people with symptoms, they are sent to a lab to be checked.

Things to note

- If you have to self-isolate, you may be entitled to financial support.
- Vaccination remains the best defence against the virus.
- For more information on how to access any tests or financial support [see our website for more details.](#)

Coronavirus Support Guide

Let's face it – there's nothing good to say about coronavirus (COVID-19).

It's made life difficult for all of us, disrupting our education, messing with our work, and affecting the people we love in all kinds of ways.

This guide offers some ideas to get you through the tough times, keep yourself safe, and protect your family and friends – especially when you need to self-isolate. [You can find the support guide here](#)

Impact of Covid-19, and the lockdowns

UK's 1st and largest survey of its kind to document the Impact of Covid-19, and the lockdowns, on 17,000 ethnic and religious minority people. <http://bit.ly/evensurvey>

EVENSURVEY is looking for participants from ethnic and religious minority groups 18+ living in England, Scotland or Wales to [complete this survey](#) which will take around 30 minutes

You are rewarded a £10 Amazon gift voucher through your participation by letting [@EVENSURVEY](#)

The Leeds Public Health Resource Centre

PHRC supports anyone with a responsibility for or interest in improving health and wellbeing in Leeds, including students and volunteers. If that sounds like you and you have a few minutes to spare, the PHRC would like to hear your views on what we currently offer plus some ideas for the future.

You can complete this survey even if you have never used the PHRC before. Click this link to take the survey <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/PHRC21/> and please feel free to share it with other people you know who are interested in improving health and wellbeing in Leeds. The survey is live until Monday 17th July.

Help us to improve mental health services in your community.

The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) sets out a transformative vision for community-based support for adults and older adults living with moderate to severe mental illness and complex needs. In Leeds, we're working in partnership to deliver this vision. We will be developing and testing new ways of offering mental health services and looking at how services work better together.

This is the start of a three-year piece of work. It's important that we collaborate with as many people in Leeds as possible, as well as building on the wealth of feedback and experience we already have.

To start these conversations, we will be hosting two introductory briefing sessions online, via Zoom, where you attend to find out more about this work, share your feedback and learn how you can help shape community mental health services in Leeds! [**You can find out more here**](#)

[**Joint Strategic Assessment for Leeds**](#)

Simon Foy, Head of Intelligence and Policy at Leeds City Council will share a partner initiative which seeks to improve our insights into how the city is progressing against our ambitions.

The workshop will look at the work underway on the Joint Strategic Assessment, a city-wide analysis which will help shape priorities, guide the use of resources and evaluate the success of our interventions going forward. During the workshop we will share initial, early findings and look at further lines of enquiry. However, we are also keen to get your insights both on views on what's happening in the city, but also about gaps in our collective knowledge. An interactive workshop focused around Joint Strategic Assessment for Leeds, and how the third sector can use the data within how we work. [**Book your place here**](#)

Many thanks

Stacey on behalf of Forum Central