

## **Communities of Interest Virtual Session Notes**

**19 May 2021**

**1:30pm to 3pm**

### **Attendees**

- **Roxana-** FC
- **Gabby-** FC/Reps
- **Sarah-** FC/Mental Health
- **Ali-** Leeds Older People
- **Pip-** FC
- **Tatum-** Healthwatch Leeds
- **Sam-** LCC Migrant Access Project
- **Damian-** FC/Men Health Unlocked Network
- **Adam-** CCG
- **Emily-** Women's Live Leeds
- **Wendy-** Advonet
- **Chris-** Hamara
- **Abigail-** Voluntary Action Leeds
- **Owen-** Leeds Autism
- **Ann-** Young Lives Leeds VAL
  
- **Stacey -**Forum Central (Chair)

### **Latest COVID position**

- The case rate for over 60s is currently 8.1 per 100,000, a 53% reduction in the last 7 days. Hospital numbers are low and steady.
- The overall infection rate is now 52.3 per 100,000, a 14% increase in the last 7 days. The Y&H average is 40.4 and the England average is 23.6.
- There is a continual risk of new variants, with a few single cases of the highly transmissible Indian variant in Leeds. These are mostly travel related with no evidence of local community transmission so far, and all cases and contacts are being closely managed and supported locally but the picture is dynamic.
- Over 391k people have had a 1st vaccination
- over 249k people have had a 2nd vaccination
- Two thirds of CEV have had a 2nd vaccination
- As of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May there are no care homes in Leeds reporting cases of Covid-19
- Within the workplace, there are 5 sites with active cases, Environmental Health are contacting and supporting as required
- Covid-19 cases within the university student population remain low. As of Monday 10th May universities in Leeds reported 2 Covid-19 cases
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## **Introductions/check ins**

### **Stacey- FC**

The next phase/priority of covid grants is around vaccine hesitancy and the first priority area is Burmantofts and Richmond Hill. If you work or support people in that area and we have not contacted you then please get in touch.

If there are any questions, please contact [communities@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:communities@forumcentral.org.uk)

### **Tatum- Healthwatch**

She talked about their current project which focuses on helping people with communication needs and the main points covered were:

- Talked with people whose English is their second language and they outlined the challenges they incurred accessing health and care services
- They are now considering which suitable actions need to be taking to meet their needs:
  - talking to organisations and networks to get their communities' feedback and also their good practices. **Please do share/feedback any knowledge around this.**
  - Implementation of accessible information standard
  - Working with professionals and people with lived experiences;
- Previous work in October regarding people with disabilities, learning disabilities and what the third sector can do to improve that.

### **Sarah- FC**

Sarah outlined the outcoming events and opportunities for the adult mental health community. These are Community Based MH Review workshops and focus groups and **more information can be found here.**

She talked about the work going around implementing a hybrid mode of working in the Third Sector and invited attendants to share their organisations' experiences regarding:

- Ways you connected with people online during the pandemic - and things you want to keep.
- Has anyone done hybrid/blended working so far?
- What do you think some of the challenges might be?
- How can we make sure that any changes made meet the needs of the people we are working with?

Plans for meeting 8th July 13:00-14:30 - no eventbrite link yet

If more organisations want to share their experiences and good practices, please contact [sarah.wilson@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wilson@forumcentral.org.uk)

### **Roxana- Forum Central**

Any Forum central member is welcomed to share their experience as a member. This can be either about the new connections they have made, the grants they had access to etc. Anyone interested please contact [roxana.cretu@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:roxana.cretu@forumcentral.org.uk)

### **Damian- FC/Men**

Increased anxiety around digital exclusion, redundancy and increased risk of suicide.

Still some vaccine hesitancy in ethnic minority groups. The talks around the vaccine had a really positive impact but some people reported too much information being circulated.

### **Emily- Women**

Week starting 24 May, from Monday to Friday, the Women only vaccination clinic opens at Reginald Centre. No appointment needed. This is open to anyone who identifies as female but please note that it will be the AstraZeneca that is given here due to supply. Women under the age of 30 would still be able to come along for information only.

There is still some hesitancy in women around having the AstraZeneca vaccine. Any woman is welcomed to fill in the [safety survey](#).

### **Sam- LCC**

10 community champions will be at the Women only clinic and they speak multiple languages. Organisations are asked to still promote the community champions opportunity because they are still recruiting and they also offer grants to any organisation doing Covid related work.

Since the pandemic started, nobody receiving a negative decision as an asylum seeker was required to leave the country but it is going to change in the future and this is the key concern in the migrant sector.

The EU settlement scheme comes to an end on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Different support is available:

1. For EU nationals such as **Romanians, Czech and Slovaks**, however, other languages can be accessed. For further information, please contact [pomoc@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:pomoc@leeds.gov.uk). [The referral form can be found here](#)  
**More information on [what is needed for referral can be found here](#).**
2. EU nationals speaking Dutch and Italian at St Vincent's. Please contact Julie Linley [julie.linley@svp.org.uk](mailto:julie.linley@svp.org.uk)

3. **EUSS sessions** at The Compton Centre (Monday and Friday 10am to 4pm by appointment through We Are Digital. Further information [in the EUSS booklet](#).
4. If there are any EU nationals from other countries struggling to register, please get in touch with Henriette Mahamane [Henriette.Mahamane@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Henriette.Mahamane@leeds.gov.uk) who will support/direct.

### **Owen- Leeds Autism**

Reported reduction in referrals in the last few weeks probably due to lockdown restrictions being eased.

They have started an autism health access project where they work with GP practices. People who want to register and struggle to access health service are welcomed to contact them.

Still considering how to deliver their services after lockdown to cater the needs of the people demanding face to face.

People are still not having the vaccine because they do not have a choice on the vaccine they can have.

### **Abigail- Voluntary Action Leeds**

Working with galleries in Leeds as part of a two-year project.

A lot of parents have deregistered their children from school and YLL is planning an event to help parents understand the implications of such action and offer them support.

Work on mental health projects in the city.

Use storytelling as a way to come to a place of healing – events in October and November.

Changing attitudes towards the vaccine but there is still some hesitancy.

### **Chris- Hamara**

My email is [chris.mowat@hamara.co.uk](mailto:chris.mowat@hamara.co.uk). Please feel free to get in touch regarding any projects involving young or older people. Thanks

### **Ali-LOPF**

Ali shared this [this blog](#) for more information on what some organisations are planning after lockdown.

Reported concerns about the cost of delivering safe services after lockdown.

The neighbourhood networks are targeting some of the most vulnerable older people and encourage them to start interacting with people after lockdown. At the same time, work is being done to advise those eager to get out to be aware of the guidance.

Support groups are offered for mentally and emotionally vulnerable clients in groups of 6.

### **Gabby- FC**

There are currently some representative roles available:

1. Personalised care representative
2. Shared decision meeting rep on behalf of the third sector

Meeting "Connecting the dots" where reps came together to share experiences and welcomed new reps.

### **Ann - YLL**

Lots of young people are eager to have face to face appointments.

The number of de-registered children is decreasing.

### **Pip- FC**

Discussion around the pressure put on the system as a result of the lockdown new stage.

People are going to hospitals more often than before because their needs are not met at primary care which leads to overcrowding.

The silver meeting's weekly focus is on how the third sector can help with easing this created pressure.