## Leeds Migration

# Partnership

**LMP Strategy Group – 16th January 2019 action notes:**

* **Strategy Group Action Plan**

Early 2018 the Strategy Group identified three key areas to work on and developed an action plan for 2018-2019:

* Priority 1: Safety and inclusion
* Priority 2: Housing and homelessness
* Priority 3: Health

To help facilitate discussions about the LMP Strategy Group Action Plan a casework example is shared for the priority area being discussed. This helps:

* identify specific and general issues experienced by people accessing services and organisations providing services
* enables partners to identify gaps and challenges
* enables LMP Strategy Group to identify actions to influence decision making

|  |
| --- |
| **Priority 3: Health** |

**Mental health case:** Solace case study of a woman in her thirties who was referred to Solace, by her GP, for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Details of the case have not been noted as the person only gave permission for her case to be discussed. A summary has been provided of Solace’s approach to working with the individual and general observations provided by therapists at Solace.

Solace approach to work with the individual:

* Solace adopted a triage service to help identify the right support and looked at the person’s strengths/ community access/ and access to legal advice.
* The person was referred for talking therapy and stress management. Using metaphors (images) and mindfulness the individual is being supported to look at the here and now, rather than past experiences. This helps a person take steady steps to their healing at a pace they can manage themselves and provides them with grounding and coping mechanisms.
* Stress management has been important to enable the person to develop a feeling of being in a safe space and to learn techniques on how to cope with panic attacks.
* The person was encouraged to talk about her hopes and aspirations and she wants to train as a journalist, get a job and learn more English. Solace helped her to access ESOL provisions which the individual is seeing as a positive use of her time as her current immigration status means she is unable to work.
* Solace liaised with the GP because the person was taking medication for depression but did not know why she was taking the medication.

General observations from Solace Therapist:

* People can experience traumatic pain after suffering trauma. If a person’s memory is triggered to a trauma, they can have a physical response to the memory and feel pain. The asylum process can impact on this as people are expected to share information about their past trauma. The physical response to stress can make people appear as though they are lying.
* If the person was a refugee it would be easier to provide therapeutic support as they would be in a safe place.

LMP Strategy Group – the following observations/ reflections were made:

* Recognition of the importance of **raising awareness and understanding of mental health and wellbeing** for: individuals, so they can receive appropriate and timely support; professionals, so they can respond appropriately to individual needs
* A couple of examples were shared of experiences of people experiencing poor mental health: 1) a man arrested for stealing when he had just received money from the Hardship fund via Leeds Refugee Forum; 2) a man repeatedly tried to access a service had a panic attack but insisted on an ambulance being called as he was convinced he was having a heart attack, and 3) an account of a man taking sleeping pills in the morning because he did not know what the tablets were for.

**Of note:**

Police: the ‘Liaison and Diversion’ unit at Police Headquarters, Elland Road have Mental Health Workers

Solace have set up a group to train people about panic attacks and they take referrals for this training.

* **Mental Health First Aid Training** – identified a need for frontline staff to receive Mental Health First Aid Training. Cost can be a barrier to this – Solace are planning to deliver mental health first aid training in March to refugee organisations and hope the sessions can be delivered 4 times each year.

A number of organisation, such as DWP, Refugee Council and LCC, have Mental Health First Aiders in place for staff.

**Healthcare charges –** highlighted that there will be a number of people unable to access or deterred from accessing healthcare services, including mental health care, because of the NHS charges for overseas visitors. Asylum Matters, Medact, Maternity Action and Doctors of the World are undertaking work to track the impact of health care charging, particularly on vulnerable members of society with precarious immigration status, such as destitute asylum seekers.

**Questions / answers:**

Question 1: how long is the waiting list for those being referred to Solace?

Response: the time frame can vary as some people will receive support almost immediately. If a person who does not meet the criteria for funding, they could be waiting 6 months.

Question 2: were other services in place before Solace was established?

Response: no

|  |
| --- |
| **Review and refresh of the LMP Strategy Action Plan** |

Following discussion partners agreed:

* To extend the action plan to a 2 / 3 year action plan (rather than a year)
* Current priority areas should remain the same – adding mental health to the health title ‘Health and mental health’
* To revise the objectives within the current action plan – for example, adding in the work currently being undertaken in relation to the Homeless Charter and ‘Big Change Leeds’
* Consider gaps within the current action plan – for example: sources of training for mental health and well-being; legal and /or justice. This led to a query about legal representation within the partnership – Chapeltown CAB have received funding to employ an immigration solicitor. If there is a particular item on the meeting agenda about law, the solicitor will be invited to attend
* Identify lead people for priority areas/activities that don’t currently have a lead
* A facilitated meeting to be arranged before the next Strategy Group meeting in May to review and refresh the action plan
* **LMP Communication Review**

The new arrangements for Leeds Migration Partnership have been in place for just over a year now. These include: Strategy Group and Operational Group meetings and the use of the Blog as the information sharing platform.

A survey was published on the Blog December 2018 to gain feedback about using the blog and consider areas to improve, the survey can be accessed [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/lmp-update-what-you-think-of-the-blog-and-what-youd-like-us-to-change-improve/). A draft communication strategy has been developed – hard copies were shared at the Strategy Group meeting and both documents have been published on the LMP webpage, please click [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/lmp-comms-group-report-to-lmp-strategy-group-16th-january-2019/) to access the communication strategy.

As a result of the feedback received the blog has already been amended accordingly. The team administrating and supporting the Blog: Jon Beech (LASSN), Richard Orton (Refugee Council) and Georgia Ellis (RETAS) would welcome further feedback for the Blog and the Communications Strategy, particularly:

* Is there anything that needs adding to the Communications Strategy?
* Revision of the Menu Headers on the blog?
* Ideas/ thoughts about developing an LMP Facebook page – this would mainly mirror the twitter feed but may be a better platform for ‘engagement’ – encouraging 2 way conversations

Observations:

* Many shared their appreciation for the weekly email referring people to the blog updates.
* Information can be difficult to find – for example, an individual searching for the meeting dates and papers for today’s meeting found it challenging as: there were 2 different routes to find the date and time of the meeting; the 2018 dates were published in one section, but not the 2019 dates; different papers were found for the meeting under the different routes - it was suggested there is one place to publish the meeting dates and the papers for each meeting to be in the same place, or use easy signposting/links
* Some people have been concerned about uploading information twice (if someone has already done this) – people reassured that Jon, Richard and Georgia usually check when completing the administration of the blog before it is released on the blog.

Any further comments about the Blog and/or the Communications Strategy – please email:

* Jenny Jennings Jennifer.Jennings@leeds.gov.uk or
* Pauline Ellis Pauline.Ellis@leeds.gov.uk

….who will collate and pass your comments on to Jon, Richard and Georgia

* **Feedback from Leeds Strategic Migration Board (LSMB)**

Due to unforeseen circumstance the LSMB meeting held in December changed their planned theme of ‘Health’ at late notice – thank you to Kathryn of Solace for agreeing and attending to share experiences and issues faced by migrants accessing mental health services.

The main discussions were:

* **Leeds Joint Strategic Assessment** (JSA) – presentation by Simon Foy, Head of Intelligence and Performance, LCC

The JSA looks at population, health and wellbeing, socio economic inequality and inclusive growth trends across Leeds and helps to consider what will happen within the next 5 years.

**Agreed:** to invite Simon/ representative to a future LMP Strategy Group to share the presentation with partners

* **EU Settlement Scheme Toolkit and Brexit**

The EU Settlement Scheme – EU citizens and family members who want to stay in the UK beyond 31st December 2020 will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. This allows them to get a new UK immigration status that will protect their rights in the UK once the UK leaves the EU.

The Home Office have produced a toolkit aimed at community leaders and local authorities to raise awareness and activities around EU citizens who will require support to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

* **Policy paper** on citizen’s rights in the event of a no deal Brexit – produced by the Department for Exiting the European Union

All three of the above papers have been published on the LMP webpage – please click [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/reports-and-policy-documents-discussed-at-the-leeds-strategic-migration-board-joint-strategic-assessment-eu-settlement-scheme-and-citizenss-rights-in-the-event-of-a-no-deal-brexit/) to access these.

* **Home Office grant funding**, available to voluntary and community sector organisations to help vulnerable or at-risk EU citizens needing additional support when applying for the EU Settlement Scheme

Two level of awards:

Level 1 – to fund grant projects from £5,000 up to £39,999: and

Level 2 – to fund grant projects from £40,000 up to £750,000

Organisations helping EU citizens to apply for settled status can apply for funding to the Home Office. The application period will close at 12pm on 1st February 2019

For more information, and to take part in the grant funding opportunity, please click [here](https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/dcc90ff7-c416-465a-ad92-9dd7f15bcce7?utm_campaign=eu-settlement&utm_source=gcs-local-north&utm_medium=social).

Observations:

* Applications to Home Office grant funding

Chapeltown CAB are considering the National CAB advice, who advise against applying for this funding due to concerns about some of the criteria expected of applying organisation – for example, the criteria does not **demand** that organisations are OISC registered to an appropriate level. However, Chapeltown CAB are already receiving enquiries about the EU Settlement Scheme and are considering making an application to the funding.

Support has been offered to Nick Morgan, CEO, Chapeltown CAB through LCC Customer Services Advice Service and Communities Team should this be required.

None of the other partners who attended LMP Strategy Group in January are planning to apply for this funding and have indicated that if they were they would look to link up with Chapeltown CAB as this requires specialist provision.

* **Migration Yorkshire** publish local migration profile statistics every 6 months on their website, please click [here](https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/userfiles/attachments/pages/664/leedslmp-summary-jun2018.pdf) to access the document.
* **LMP membership on the Leeds Strategic Migration Board**

Daniel Mundet and Ruth Davany, are meeting with Shaid Mahmood, Chief Officer Communities Team, Leeds City Council, on Tuesday 19th February.

Pauline Ellis (Support for LMP) and Samantha Powell (support for LSMB) have also been invited. The meeting aim is to:

* reflect on LMP’s representation, presence and role in LSMB
* discuss how we (LMP and LSMB) can get the most out of the link and relationship?
* **Operational Group Update**

The last Operational meeting took place on Monday 26th November 2018 and discussed the following:

* LMP draft communications strategy and survey of the blog
* Migration Yorkshire, Regional report on migration (Leeds)
* National Refugee week this year is 17th-23th June 2019. The theme is the same as last year ‘Different Past – Shared Future’.

Activities can include: training opportunities, awareness raising, cultural activities, bringing communities together.

A Civic event is usually organised and June’s Operational Group will focus on celebrating the achievements of Refugee week that focus on achievements.

* ‘New Roots’ is a new project being delivered by the Refugee Council in partnership with RETAS and PATH Yorkshire. This project provides a range of holistic activities and support to improve integration outcomes by engaging and connecting with refugees.
* WYDAN: The hardship fund (cash payments to destitute asylum seekers during the winter time) started the first week in December. Money for the fund is raised through events.
* Women’s Health Matters Rainbow Hearts women’s group deliver two health and social support information sessions every fortnight at the One Community Centre on a Tuesday 10-12:30pm.
* PATH are delivering ESOL classes through the Talk English Project.
* Leeds Refugee Forum – are setting up the ‘One Community Art’ project in partnership with two community art groups.
* The Operational Group meeting dates are agreed and published on LMP’s web page:

|  |
| --- |
| Monday 4th March 2019, 10:00 – 12:00Monday 17th June 2019, 10:00 – 12:00Monday 23rd September 2019, 10:00 – 12:00Monday 11th November 2019, 10:00 – 12:00Venue: One Community Centre |

* Suggestion: for the Operational Group to consider campaign activities for future agendas, in order to make people aware of current concerns. To include tips on how to campaign. Ali Mahgoub and Mary Brandon to discuss further.
* **AOB**

**Unity in Poverty Action update:**

* Leeds Homeless Charter aims to provide a foundation to bring about a more inclusive approach to tackling homelessness based on the reality of homeless people’s experience.

The Charter will help to support the good accommodation infrastructure of LASSN Grace Hosting, WYDAN Night Shelter and St Monica's to ensure the provisions are well co-ordinated.

Three sub groups have been established:

* Migration and Homeless
* Mental health
* Grass roots communities

The Migration and Homeless Working Group are **always** looking for people with lived experience to be involved and examples of case studies of people with lived experiences that can be used to influence policy and practice – please contact Dave Paterson Davepaterson.upa@gmail.com

Feedback on the current Charter – please contact Dave Patterson on the email above

LMP partners will be asked to sign up to the Leeds Homeless Charter in the not too distant future

* Selective licensing – The Council’s Executive Board will decide whether to introduce the selective licensing in just one or both areas proposed – Harehills and Beeston Hill in March 2019.

**Refugee Council update:**

* The Refugee Council are looking for new premises for their offices as the contract for the current premises ends in August 2019. A building is being considered near PAFRAS offices, Sheepscar, but nothing has been confirmed yet. The next strategy meeting will still be at Oak House.
* Kathryn Ashworth asked for people to advise where they know there is appropriate space for therapy to be delivered – confidential space for 1 to 1 meetings (plan B) Kathryn’s email is: kathryn@solace-uk.org.uk

**RETAS update:**

* RETAS are considering moving premises, due to a need for more space, and are considering a move to the Bangladeshi Centre – yet to be confirmed

* **Future LMP Strategy Group meeting dates:**
* Wednesday 15th May 2019 – at Oak House, 10am -12pm
* Wednesday 11th September 2019 – Location TBC, 10am -12pm
* Wednesday 27th November 2019 – Location TBC, 10am -12pm