## Leeds Migration

# Partnership

**LMP Strategy Group – 9th September 2020 action notes:**

Karen and Daniel welcomed partners to the LMP strategy group meeting. The meeting scheduled for May was cancelled, leaving a 7 month gap, however it doesn’t feel long since we last met due to many of us attending the fortnightly operations group meetings.

**Matters arising**

* Duncan Wells was representing LMP at the West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Group. Due to other commitments he has stepped down, LMP thanked Duncan for the work he has done. Ally Swaddling (PAFRAS) has offered to take up this role going forward, all partners in attendance support the decision and thank Ally for volunteering to represent LMP.

**Action:** West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Group update will be added to the LMP strategy group agenda as a standard item.

* The Prezi presentation to be created by the Communities Team has been put on hold.
* LMP will invite Palm Cove and Salvation Army to attend future LMP strategy group meetings.
* The LMP operations group will continue to meet fortnightly.

**Action:** LMP priorities will be shared with the operations group to enable partners to share how they add value. The feedback will help gauge whether the priorities need to change due to covid-19.

* Review of priorities with a Covid-19 perspective

LMP leads reviewed the existing priorities which can be accessed [here](file:///C:\Users\20161877\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Word\The%20framework%20for%20reporting%20on%20the%20progress%20of%20LMP%20priorities%20has%20been%20developed%20and%20the%20updates%20have%20been%20uploaded%20to%20the%20blog) and shared updates on the progress of activities against the priorities.

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, some organisations have put a hold on activities they normally deliver, as their priorities shifted focus due to the emerging pandemic.

**Health Priority – Karen Pearce**

The health priority [progress update](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/LMP-Health-Priorities-Progress-September-2020-002.pdf) was shared with partners, additional highlights are as follows:

* GP surgeries are increasing the use of online services for patients accessing health care, creating a digital barrier for many asylum seekers and refugees. The newly formed Communities of Interest group, established by Forum Central, is working with Health Watch to consider how to overcome the digital barrier for vulnerable groups. Partners wanting to receive the Communities of Interest meeting minutes can contact Pip Goff to request they be added to the email distribution list: [pip.goff@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:pip.goff@forumcentral.org.uk) Wendy Cork provided the contact details for Hannah Davies and Stewart Morrison at Health Watch. **Action:** Karen and Jon to contact Health Watch to ensure LMP influence the plans.
* LMP suggest One Stop Centres consider implementing the use of web cams, handsets, and make private rooms available to help people access GPs remotely.

**Action:** Daniel to raise this with the Leeds Strategic Migration Board.

* Public Health England produced a report on the disparities in the risks and outcomes of Covid-19, which can be accessed [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf).
* Solace and Refugee Council have contributed to the development of the Leeds Community Healthcare Third Sector Strategy and plan to attend the first meeting to discuss next steps at the end of September.
* To enable smaller organisations to engage with Public Health, a single point of contact needs to be identified.

**Action:** Jon will speak with Public Health to confirm a single person to contact.

* Mobile and pop up covid-19 test centres have been set up across Leeds, more information on where they are based can be accessed [here](https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/#where-can-i-go-for-testing).

**Housing Priority – Jon Beech**

The housing priority [progress update](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/progress-against-lmp-priorities-september-2020/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=progress-against-lmp-priorities-september-2020) was shared with partners. A lot of work is being carried out to support those who are destitute and have no recourse to public funds with most recent changes including:

* The newly established charity LEDAS are in the process of procuring properties to support those who are destitute.
* LASSN’s grace hosting will be re-opened to support 3 or 4 people by November.
* Garforth House could potentially close at the end of September, however Leeds City Council aspire to support Garforth House until March 2021. The Safer Leeds team applied for funding, which offers to support those with no recourse to public funds until the end of March 2021.

**Action:** Daniel will ask the Leeds Strategic Migration Board for clarification on whether Garforth House will be kept open following the outcome of the funding bid.

* The NRPF and DV meetings currently clash and it has been difficult for partners to attend. **Action:** LMP to identify a representative to attend the domestic violence forum.

Due to the increase of those seeking asylum and the impact of covid-19, Mears are now using hotels to accommodate newly arrived asylum seekers. There are currently 2 hotels being used in Leeds.

* Mears will be working closely with Refugee Council to hold a steering group, to gauge what support is needed for those living in the hotels and ensure they have a voice.
* Refugee Council have secured funding to recruit staff to support those living in the hotels and will be responding to asylum seekers needs. This includes coordinating the allocation of clothing donations based on [form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdceM2G_orIrPDvqm826mPGsw9uhETblsybgtjzEPvm76UnwA/viewform) requests. Once staff have been recruited, clarity on how to make clothing donations will be confirmed. For more information please contact Duncan Wells: [Duncan.Wells@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk](mailto:Duncan.Wells@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk)
* Mears will consider whether hotels can provide a private room/area to asylum seekers needing to make confidential phone calls to GPs and legal services.
* There is a concern nationally over the far right entering hotels, trying to video asylum seekers. Security staff working on the hotel sites have been briefed and the police regularly visit the hotel sites. From November, student police officers will make weekly visits to the hotels as part of a pilot intervention project to improve police engagement with asylum seekers and advise how to report a hate crime.

**Action:** LMP partners can attend the Tuesday morning drop-in session from November until March 2021 to help the police to better understand how to engage with asylum seekers. For more information please contact Nicki Batley: [nicki.batley@mearshousing.co.uk](mailto:nicki.batley@mearshousing.co.uk)

* Migrant Help are working towards implementing a free phone number for the Question and Answer service and will share the number when it is ready to go live.

**Safety and Inclusion Priority – Ali Maghoub**

Due to covid-19, an update on this priority isn’t available as many activities have been put on hold over the last 6 months.

* Ali has not been able to attend the hate crime strategic board, chaired by Councillor Coupar, as he’s been focussing on responding to the pandemic, however the board have been meeting.
* Refugee Council and PAFRAS are working towards the Domestic Violence Kite Mark with Safer Leeds. Safer Leeds would like more migrant organisations to apply for the kite mark, for more information please contact Sunita Jhamat: [Sunita.Jhamat@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Sunita.Jhamat@leeds.gov.uk)

**Employment and Learning Priority – Daniel Mundet - report**

The Employment and Learning priority [progress update](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/LMP-Employment-and-Education-Priorities-Progress-09092020.pdf) was shared with partners.

* Covid-19 has changed employment and learning priorities, there is a need to rethink and consider the most pressing issues to migrants with changes to the way services are delivered.
* As a result of covid-19, ESOL provisions have moved online creating an additional barrier as not everyone has access digital access.
* Employment rights activities and workshops are delivered online and services are not sure they are reaching the people that need the support.
* Adult learning provisions are starting to be delivered with a mix of face to face and online services. The services are keeping an eye on what is happening and feeding back to make sure barriers are identified and overcome.
* Refugee Council have created a guide for employers advising on employment law for those transitioning from 5 years right to remain to indefinite leave to remain, it is available on the Refugee Council website and on the [LMP blog.](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/employing-refugees-2020-guidance-by-the-refugee-council-and-the-equality-and-human-rights-commission/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=employing-refugees-2020-guidance-by-the-refugee-council-and-the-equality-and-human-rights-commission)
* **AOB**
* Monthly calendars on activities will continue to be uploaded to the blog.
* Refugee Council have received funding to expanding their London phone line service to become national, to signpost people to local support provisions. The phone number will go live at the beginning of October and be used until March 2021, and will be shared through the LMP blog
* **Future LMP Strategy Group meeting dates:**

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Venue** |
| Wednesday 25th November 2020 | 10-12pm | [Zoom](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Leeds+Asylum+Seekers+Support+Network/@53.7808586,-1.5448145,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xaa25db5e2008738e!8m2!3d53.7808586!4d-1.5448145) |