

## LMP Strategy Group – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 action notes:

Karen and Daniel welcomed partners to the strategy group meeting. Following the last meeting, Pauline Ellis from the Leeds City Council's Communities team has retired, partners agreed this is a great loss for the partnership. Samantha Powell will represent the Communities team at these meetings going forward.

**Action:** Jenny will email partners to invite their comments for Pauline's leaving card.

## Updates on Priorities – Challenges and Opportunities

LMP leads provided updates on the priorities, according to the detailed action plan. The LMP action plan can be accessed [here](#).

### Health Priority – Karen Pearse

- ❖ The **Migrant Health Board**, an extension of the Health and Wellbeing Board, has not met since the start of lockdown and due to changes within the Public Health team, the board no longer has a designated chair. A letter was sent to Councillor Rebecca Charwood, the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, raising this concern who responded in agreement with the raised concern. Since the board was the mechanism to raise concerns, Karen will be meeting Anna Frearson, Public Health Chief Officer, to discuss whether this board will reconvene or whether alternative routes to raise concerns for migrant's health is needed.

**Action:** LMP leads will meet with Alison Lowe, Director of Touchstone, to jointly lobby for migrant health to remain a priority of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Action:** Karen will speak with Andy Rawnsley from Aspire and Alison Lowe from Touchstone to discuss engagement routes into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

- ❖ The Clinical Commission Group (CCG) are reviewing their commissioned services and are considering linking smaller organisations with larger organisations to make commissioning easier. It is not certain if specialist services will be joined up with universal services or whether services for migrants/refugees will remain separate, but change is on the horizon. Solace have had their contract with the CCG extended for a further year.

**Action:** LMP partners will share examples with the CCG where the Place Based Integration of Services has not been effective, such as in Wigan Borough council.

- ❖ **Solace** are referring asylum seekers into IAPT (NHS Psychological Therapy Services) and working with Richard Garland, the lead on health equality work, to better understand barriers in accessing services.
- ❖ With the Covid-19 vaccination soon to be approved, organisations require clarity on how it will be distributed and who will be the first to access the vaccine. There are currently no messages coming through about the vaccine, however LMP partners will help allay people's fears by sharing information about the Covid-19 vaccine.

### **Housing Priority – Jon Beech**

- ❖ LMP have raised awareness about **destitution prevention** by lobbying the local authority and local members of parliament to keep it a priority. Jon will be meeting with the council and Public Health later today, to map destitution support services to understand the demand. A shared pathway out of destitution is needed for outcomes to be met.
- ❖ LMP continue to ask the local authority to advise what support is available to destitute/rough sleepers who contract Covid-19 as there are currently 5/6 people known to PAFRAS who are destitute and sleeping rough with no support solutions available to them.
- ❖ Preliminary conversations have begun, to see if some of the hotel placements secured by the local authority can be used to accommodate destitute rough sleepers in the hotels, if the third sector pay the costs.

### **Safety and Inclusion Priority – Ali Maghoub**

- ❖ **The Leeds Domestic Violence Forum** are developing a new strategy for 2021. The strategy purpose, leadership, sub-groups and the victim's voice are reflected within the strategy. The forum are promoting organisations to obtain the quality assurance mark which Leeds Refugee Forum received last year after receiving the quality assurance training.

**Action:** Information about the quality assurance mark will be uploaded to the blog [here](#).

- ❖ The **Hate Crime Strategic Board** shared the Communities Migration team video promoting hate crime awareness week (10-17<sup>th</sup> October).

### **Employment and Learning Priority – Daniel**

- ❖ Job centres remain open to support vulnerable customers. 16-24 year olds are supported through the 'Kick Start' programme; Reed support those who

have been unemployed for more than 13 weeks; and from January additional support to find work will be available to all applying for universal credit. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are looking at gaps in their provision and have secured funding to support those people with addiction issues, poor mental health, and people who speak English as a second language to claim universal credit, alongside the Citizens Advice Bureau support.

- ❖ DWP have an educational development trust to help people get their qualifications approved and recognised in the UK. Access to this service is via referral through the DWP Social Justice team or a main stream job centre work coach.
- ❖ The council's employment and skills service lead the Adult Learning Board. The team are currently under restructure but Craig Skinner will be the lead contact for employment going forward.

**Action:** LMP to consider how to feed into the Adult Learning Board at the next Leeds Strategic Migration Board meeting, on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Leeds Healthwatch Digital Inclusion Report Findings [access here](#):**

- ❖ Leeds Healthwatch work with organisations to gather people's voice and experience of care and they feed this back to decision-makers. A report on the impact of Covid-19 and digital inclusion/exclusion was first shared in July highlighting the digital barriers. The CCG and hospital followed up this work and Leeds Healthwatch have produced a follow up report tracking the work being done to overcome the digital barriers specifically for carers, asylum seekers and other communities of interest.
- ❖ Beeston and Middleton are piloting an initiative that considers what a digital community looks like, by gathering people's opinions and experience of digital exclusion.
- ❖ Leeds Healthwatch help keep digital inclusion a priority for the city and invite LMP partners to feed into this work through the Health Inequalities Group, who will be meeting in a couple of weeks.

### **Key Issues shared with Health Watch:**

- People can be supported to stay in contact with support services if they are provided with language support, phone credit and equipment.
- Commissioned services need to be under a contractual agreement to provide free Wi-Fi for people attending their services.
- Digital health trainers are needed, similar to health trainers.
- Practical advice and resources on ways to improve digital access for asylum seekers and refugees can be accessed [here](#).

## AOB

- ❖ **The Leeds Community Foundation** have funded 3 work streams: the Leeds Refugee Forum activities, the City of Sanctuary to develop a central place where services can find out about online classes, and funding for people to participate in strategic activities in the city. LASSN will manage the funding for the strategic activity work stream and LMP partners will decide how the money is spent. LMP partners agreed people, or a person's organisation, can be paid £35 for attending strategic meetings.

**Action:** Jon will create a draft invoice form for people to access the funding and will circulate it with partners in attendance today for feedback.

- ❖ **West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Group** will be meeting next week. Ally swaddling will represent the LMP at this meeting and share feedback at the next strategy meeting.

### LMP Strategy Group meeting dates for 2021:

Date	Time	Venue
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	10am-12pm	Online
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	10am-12pm	Online
8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	10am-12pm	Online
24 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	10am-12pm	Online