

## **LMP Strategy Group – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 action notes:**

Karen and Daniel welcomed partners to the strategy group meeting. Since the last meeting, a leaving card was sent to Pauline Ellis who retired in November. Pauline expressed thanks for the kind messages she received.

## **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 Pearce**

- ❖ **Leeds Migrant Health Board** which was set up to improve outcomes for the health of migrants in the city, has not met since the start of the pandemic. LMP partners raised this concern with Anna Frearson, the Public Health Chief Officer, Alison Lowe, the third sector board representative, and Pip Goff, the Third Sector and Community Local Care Partnerships Manager. A Migrant Health Board meeting is now scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021. In advance of the meeting, a terms of reference was shared and Public Health are inviting feedback on the board's existing priorities. **Action:** partners invited to share feedback [here](#). **Action:** LMP will lobby for migrant health issues impacted by poor housing to remain a priority for the Migrant Health Board.
- ❖ The **Regional Migrant Health Board**, attended by Public Health, National Health Service (NHS), Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Home Office leads from across the region has reconvened. **Action:** Vicky will share the Leeds members contact details so partners can feedback to the regional board.
- ❖ Partners expressed concern that services, such as the NHS, rely on the third sector to reach communities with Covid-19 vaccination messages. Yet the services lack focus on the migrant health agenda and needs of migrant communities are not being heard, understood and addressed.
- ❖ **Action:** Karen will meet with Anna from Healthwatch, to feedback partner concerns ahead of the Partnership Executive Group meeting. All agree the key priorities for the partnership are regarding GP registration and positive vaccination messaging.
- ❖ The Clinical Commissioning Group is changing the way they commission services and Jon is working with them to ensure commissioners do not miss marginalised groups, such as refugees and asylum seekers.

### **Housing Priority – Jon Beech**

- ❖ **Influencing standards:** There is a lot of engagement with Mears. Leeds Asylum Support Seeker Network have submitted a bid to Mears Foundation

requesting funding to help other third sector organisations provide online activities to asylum seekers residing in the hotels.

- ❖ **Destitution:** LMP partners lobbied for accommodation support to be extended to those who are destitute and homeless. This resulted in WYDAN and LEDAS, (with support from PAFRAS) being commissioned to provide accommodation and support to those who are (non-EU) destitute and homeless until March 2021. Both organisations are seeking funding post March. NACCOM (No Accommodation Network) are working with services in Leeds to support the work to develop pathways out of destitution.
- ❖ PAFRAS raised concern with Simon Hodgson over the gap in funding support for Non-EU people with no recourse to public funds who are not asylum seekers and expect a response from Simon next week as this is impacting PAFRAS case work. **Action:** destitute homelessness concerns to be raised with Simon Hodgson, Leeds City Council's Head of Community Safety Services.
- ❖ The Homelessness Board has changed its name to Street Support Improvement Board. **Action:** Concern for European citizens with no recourse to public funds will be raised at this board.
- ❖ Samantha Powell, Third Sector and Migration Partnership Manager (LCC), met with Reed Partnership regarding the 28 day move on period. Sam is speaking with different organisations, including RETAS, to understand Reed's working partnership with the wider third sector partnership.

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

- ❖ The **Domestic Violence** Forum has changed name to the Domestic Violence Voice and Accountability Forum and a draft terms of reference was finalised at the last meeting. The forum wants the victim voice to be heard and has identified issues and gaps in information for migrant groups.
- ❖ **Translated key messages** regarding the vaccine and shielding are available on the LMP blog [here](#). The CCG, NHS and Leeds City Council websites have translated material, including videos and the use of browse aloud so people can listen and not just read the messages.
- ❖ Voluntary Action Leeds are facilitating an evaluation session with refugee community organisations regarding vaccine messages. The CCG are working with community leaders to develop training for community groups.
- ❖ Leeds Refugee Forum are working with 6 communities to create a short film about vaccinations in to different languages. **Action:** Ali and Samantha Powell to discuss accurate messaging and link this work with the council's Community Champions work.

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

- ❖ The **Adult Learning Board** is still postponed while the council adjusts to key people leaving the council through the early leaver initiative. **Action:** Daniel will raise this at the next Leeds Strategic Migration Board meeting.
- ❖ The partnership agree the benefits of signing up to the Voluntary Action Leeds **volunteering quality mark** are to be explored. **Action:** Daniel will gain more information about this and share with partners.

- ❖ **ESOL provisions** remain online, creating a digital divide. Many organisations, including PATH Yorkshire, have people wanting face to face classes and when government guidelines permit, they will re-instate face to face classes.
- ❖ Language barrier is a key concern for those applying for **Universal Credit**. The Chapeltown Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) help to claim service work with local organisations such as RETAS and use Language Line. However, translators are not always available, thus causing further delays leading some needing to access food banks. There have also been issues regarding identity documents. **Action:** Nick will arrange for the Universal Credit project manager to speak with Simon Betts to help move cases on.
- ❖ The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are using a flexible support fund to engage with organisations helping people whose first language is not English. Potential partners have been identified and negotiations are taking place. **Action:** Simon will share organisation details once they are confirmed.
- ❖ The national CAB have seen a 60% increase of people falling into debt due to the pandemic and are planning a campaign advising what to do if in debt. **Action:** Nick will share the campaign resources on the LMP blog when they become available.
- ❖ The national CAB have seen a rise in European Union citizens refused universal credit when they have satisfied their right to reside but do not have settled status.

## Key theme: Vaccination Programme Planning – Tim Taylor

A Public Health presentation about vaccinations in Leeds was shared with partners. The key highlights include;

- ❖ Leeds has vaccinated over 100,000 to date.
- ❖ Different sites across the city are being used as vaccination centres.
- ❖ Leeds are currently vaccinating people within the top 4 priority groups.
- ❖ The key clinical risk factor is **age**, particularly the over 60s age group.
- ❖ To ensure those with social risk factors such as ethnicity, poverty and social isolation are supported, a vaccination bronze group has been established. It aims to identify; barriers to vaccination uptake, places easily accessible, trusted providers where vaccinations could be administered and ways to promote the uptake of the vaccination with diverse communities.

Partners agreed the following key concerns to be considered in vaccination plans;

- ❖ **GP registration** is a key barrier for many accessing the vaccine. There is a lack of understanding with some surgeries refusing to register people who do not have identity documents. NHS England have launched a GP registration campaign making people aware they do not need to provide proof of address or identification, resources can be accessed via the blog [here](#).
- ❖ Mixed **messages about charging** migrant communities to access the vaccine needs addressing locally.
- ❖ To overcome **language barriers**, the forms provided in the vaccination centres are to be made available in other languages.
- ❖ Vaccination centres need to be local to where people live.

**Action:** partners are invited to share feedback on the Public Health vaccination programme planning [here](#).

## West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Update – Ally Swaddling

- ❖ The last West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration meeting papers were circulated via the [blog](#).
- ❖ The Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) regional reps are meeting next week. Ally will be raising concern over the lack of resources for Urban House.  
**Action:** partners wanting to raise concerns regionally are to contact Ally ahead of the meeting: [ally@pafras.org.uk](mailto:ally@pafras.org.uk)

## AOB

- ❖ LASSN secured funds from the Leeds Community Foundation Covid-19 strategic infrastructure payments scheme, this **funding is available to individuals and organisations for attending Covid-19 related strategic meetings** across Leeds. **Action:** partners can apply for this funding using the invoice shared via the blog [here](#). The **deadline** for this funding to be spent is March 2021.
- ❖ **Laptops** for Refugee Community Organisations will be delivered to LASSN today and will be distributed to organisations through the Leeds Refugee Forum.
- ❖ The City of Sanctuary have funding to develop an **online central portal advertising activities**. Jon is developing the platform and will share it with partners in due course.
- ❖ Local **job centres** have reduced their opening hours to 10am-2pm (Monday-Friday) due to the current lockdown restrictions. An additional 200 work coaches will be in post by April and this may affect the structure of the social justice team in Leeds. Simon will feedback the suggestion to make the Department of Work and Pensions a free website for customers to use, so claimants can access the website free, without data as has been done with a school website, more information available [here](#).
- ❖ The next **Leeds Strategic Migration Board** meeting will focus on asylum and will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. Pria will meet with LMP leads in preparation for the meeting.

## LMP Strategy Group meeting dates for 2021:

Date	Time	Venue
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