

LMP Strategy Group – 12th May 2021 action notes:

Karen and Daniel welcomed all to the meeting and made a special thanks to Simon Betts, who was attending his last LMP meeting. Simon is retiring from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and partners thanked him for his contributions to the partnership over the years.

Updates on Priorities – Challenges and Opportunities

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

Health Priority – Karen Pearse

- ❖ The **Leeds Migrant Health Board** resumed their meetings in February and began reviewing their priorities. The key priorities focus on access to health care, ensuring access to interpreters to overcome language barriers, and ensuring people know their rights and entitlements. Jon and Karen shared examples of good practice from across the country regarding access to interpreters with Anna Frearson, the Chief Officer of Public Health. The next meeting will be on the 25th May 2021.
- ❖ Public Health recently recruited Sarah Erskine to focus on the refugee and asylum seeker health agenda. Karen and Jon will meet with Sarah in the coming weeks.
- ❖ The newly established **Regional Migrant Health Board** meet to share good practice around migrant health, to understand the migrant perspective and to influence service provisions. It is chaired by the Wakefield Director of Public Health and attended by Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group representatives from across the region. Kathryn Ashworth (Solace) attends this meeting and will share updates from the board with the LMP. Mental health services for asylum seekers was reviewed at the last meeting, following the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership [Tackling Health Inequalities report](#) recommendations. A sub-group has subsequently been set up to focus on refugee and asylum seeker mental health, to implement the report recommendations. **Action:** Kathryn will find out who the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group representative is attending this board. **Action:** Karen will ask the Leeds Migrant Health Board if they feed into the regional board.
- ❖ Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network (LASSN), Leeds Gate, MESMEC and the Travel Exchange are working together after securing funding to deliver a 9 month project to help improve access to health services. Senior representatives from Public Health, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust will be invited to take part in conversations to discuss a new approach to commissioning, to help reform the way services

are commissioned over the next 4 years. LASSN will hold a focused conversation in September this year, bringing people from migrant backgrounds to share their experiences, to help commissioners understand the limitations of the commissioning process. **Action:** Karen will link Jon with the person leading on refugee and asylum seeker service user involvement workshops.

- ❖ The Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health England will cease to exist in approximately 1 year. A consultation report about the reforms to the Public Health system can be accessed [here](#). **Action:** Karen will work with Forum Central to understand the changes to the health service and will update the LMP as changes are clarified.

Housing Priority – Jon Beech

- ❖ Jon has not been invited to attend the Homeless Board. **Action:** Jon will arrange to be invited to the meeting going forward.
- ❖ The third sector are working with Mears to ensure asylum seekers residing in hotels are able to readily express their concerns. There are a lot of activities being delivered in the hotels.
- ❖ Destitution remains a huge problem for the city while third sector organisations providing emergency accommodation offer different measures of support. **Action:** Jon to speak with Dave and Mary in advance of the next Homeless Charter meeting (15th June) about LASSN, LEDAS, Micro Rainbow and WYDAN's offer of support, to consider how to develop a standard pathway out of destitution as set out by NACCOM (No Accommodation Network).

Safety and Inclusion Priority – Ali Maghoub

- ❖ No update available.

Employment and Learning Priority – Daniel

- ❖ Daniel is meeting with Voluntary Action Leeds to find out more about the volunteering quality mark and will share details with the partnership.
- ❖ The last Adult Learning Board meeting was postponed but Daniel will be attending this board meeting when it reconvenes.
- ❖ Now that lockdown restrictions are easing, PATH Yorkshire are conducting a survey to gauge people's perceptions and needs. The findings will be used to plan next steps.
- ❖ Daniel and Ali are working together to plan face to face learning, while considering the impact of Covid-19 restrictions.
- ❖ Change appears to be on the horizon, as the Government announced their commitment to increase the training and learning opportunities for adult learners as part of their 'Lifetime Skills Guarantee'.
- ❖ Tracy Brabin is the newly elected West Yorkshire Mayor with powers over a variety of areas including funding for up skilling adults for employment.

Key Themes:

Asylum Support Cessations

- ❖ Negative cessations have been paused pending the outcome of a court case which was adjourned until the 26-28th May. The Home Office are waiting for the court ruling before announcing the plans for negative cessations. ASAN (Asylum Support Advice Network) are sharing up to date information and partners can request to receive updates by emailing: asylum-support-advice-network@googlegroups.com
- ❖ The Home Office have not indicated how many people will receive a negative cessation. Local authorities are requesting data be shared to aid planning. Third sector organisations do not receive information about negative cessations and rely on organisations to refer people, making it challenging to plan.
- ❖ Reviewing government [asylum statistics](#) and [Refugee Council statistics](#) may help to anticipate the number of people that will receive a negative cessation.
- ❖ **Action:** Jon will speak with Ali to discuss re-opening the hardship fund over summer, to support destitute asylum seekers.
- ❖ The cultural food hub can support those with no recourse to public funds.

Third Sector Resilience and Sustainability Post Lockdown

- ❖ The [Third Sector Resilience](#) survey was launched and is open until the 31st May. The survey is being used to collate feedback from third sector organisations about the impact of the pandemic. **Action:** partners are invited to share their feedback [here](#).
- ❖ Funders are favourable to resource organisations providing evidence of need. [Refugee Action data hub](#) provide reports and data which are a good source of information to reference.

National, Regional and Local Updates

New Immigration Policy Plan Update

- ❖ Asylum Matters submitted a response to the consultation on the proposed new immigration policy and a meeting is planned locally to look at the national actions following the consultation.
- ❖ A freedom of information request on how the responses will be used, may be requested.
- ❖ Asylum Matters are writing to MPs to gain parliamentary influence for when the policy is discussed through parliament.
- ❖ The number of those with no recourse to public funds is expected to increase under the new proposals and long term destitution planning will be needed.

Leeds City Council's Safer Stronger Communities Update

- ❖ Leeds City Council have undergone significant changes in response to the current funding challenges. James Rogers is the Director of Communities, Environment and Housing. The Communities Team and Safer Leeds departments have merged to become the Safer Stronger Communities Team under the Chief Officer, Paul Money.

- ❖ Lelir Yeung, Head of Community Relations and Cohesion, continues to lead on the migration agenda. Pria Bhabra remains the Migration Programme manager and Samantha Powell continues as Third Sector and Migration Partnership manager providing continued support to the work of the LMP going forward in place of Pauline Ellis.
- ❖ The council is still going through a transitional phase and reporting functions are still being established. **Action:** local authority staff will continue developing the Prezi presentation which was started by Pauline, to reflect how LMP can influence established reporting structures within council departments. A draft will be shared as soon as possible.

West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Group (WYSRMG) Update

- ❖ The minutes of the last WYSMG meeting, 9th March, are available [here](#).
- ❖ The next meeting is on the 9th June and Ally will raise concern over the lack of data available for expected negative cessations. **Action:** partners to raise concerns with Ally Swaddling who will raise concerns on behalf of LMP.
- ❖ The next meeting is the last for the current representatives and the nomination process will be held over summer. **Action:** LMP representative to be discussed at the next LMP meeting.

AOB

- ❖ **Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)** representative at LMP will be Stephanie Kendall, following Simon Betts retirement.
- ❖ **Covid-19 Community Champions micro-grant funding** of £1000 is available for groups supporting Covid-19 messaging. Grants up to £500 are available for un-constituted groups as well. Funding criteria is [here](#).
- ❖ **Aspen card providers will change**, the cards will not work on the weekend of the 22nd - 23rd May.
- ❖ **LMP to review how organisation services** will change over the next 6 weeks as lockdown eases further. The next strategy meeting may be held in person (with online access).
- ❖ **Asylum Seekers in hotels** have been visited by Care 4 Calais who have distributed meals. Bevan Health Care are using a vaccination bus to visit the hotels to offer the Covid-19 vaccine.
- ❖ **Operation meetings** will focus on LMP priorities going forward and the meeting frequency will be discussed at the next operations meeting.

LMP Strategy Group meeting dates for 2021:

Date	Time	Venue
8 th September 2021	10am-12pm	Online
24 th November 2021	10am-12pm	Online