

LMP Strategy Group Action Notes

Wednesday 26th May 2022

10.00-12.00 meeting

Venue: [Zoom](#)

LMP Event Summary (March 2022)

The event in March was attended by approximately 20 partners. The discussions allowed partners to share their organisation's priorities during the pandemic and to reflect on their future priorities. Partners agreed the current [priorities](#) for LMP should remain but discussed whether legal advice and financial inclusion needed to be added. The key plans for LMP agreed were as follows:

- ✚ LMP will return to holding quarterly strategy and operation group meetings in person.
- ✚ The LMP blog is a valued resource to share communications about successes and service partner activities.
- ✚ The partnership will explore ways to increase collaborative working and identify early interventions.

[Priorities](#) – Challenges and Opportunities

LMP previously designated leads to share updates on the activities within each priority area. Going forward, all partners are invited to share updates on challenges, opportunities and/or information from meetings they have attended within each priority.

✚ Health

- ❖ The **Leeds Migrant Health Board (LMHB)** held a workshop earlier this year where they identified three broad themes to consider; 1. Access to health services, 2. Communications, and 3. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). The LMHB met earlier this week to develop the priorities derived from the broad themes. **Action:** Sam will invite the LMHB representatives to attend the next strategy group meeting so they can share their priorities.
- ❖ **Healthy Communities Together** is consortium of organisations, working to improve how services are developed and commissioned, to ensure positive outcomes for marginalised communities. To ensure those with lived experience influence the commissioning of services, [MESMAC](#) are recruiting a [System Change Worker](#), a [Communications Worker](#), and a [Project Support Worker](#). **Action:** Jon will share an update about this work at the next strategy meeting.
- ❖ The **Refugee Mental Health Pathways** group continues to meet regularly.

- ❖ [Mentally Healthy Leeds](#) is making services available to asylum seekers.
- ❖ The **Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)** national service is starting to collect data of how many asylum seekers use their service to gauge how many access and complete the treatment.
- ❖ Solace have over 700 people signed up to their [free e- learning training](#), available on their website.
- ❖ Partners are still meeting people who struggle to access GP services. **Action:** Jon and Karen will raise this concern at the LMHB.

Housing

- ❖ RETAS are receiving an extremely high number of enquiries related to housing.
- ❖ The **Homeless Charter** are meeting next week. They are working with destitute accommodation providers and NACCOM to develop a memorandum of understanding whereby housing providers agree a consistent offer.

Safety and Inclusion

- ❖ The Police Crime Commissioner fund closed to applications on the 20th May but it is unknown if any migrant third sector organisations applied for the funding.

Employment and Learning

- ❖ The ESOL strategy for Leeds will be linked in with the employment and skills team, to ensure ESOL is considered within adult learning.
- ❖ RETAS have seen a decrease in people attending their classes over the pandemic, partners can refer people, and they confirmed that asylum seekers with the right to work can also access their ESOL classes.

Additional Priorities for Consideration

High priorities identified by the partnership at the March event included legal advice/representation and financial inclusion.

Legal advice and representation

Manuel Bravo is a small charity with a high success rate in their legal aid applications, to ensure asylum seekers access the legal advice they need. Recently, the team were asked by law firms to stop processing so many legal aid applications because many firms are struggling with capacity. [Jo Wilding's report](#) demonstrates there is a shortage of legal aid provisions. However, Refugee Action Community of Practice are reviewing the legal aid provisions.

Action: The next LMP strategy meeting theme will be 'legal advice/representation'. Rebecca will be invited to attend the LMP strategy planning meeting.

Financial inclusion

As the cost of living increases for the general population, migrant communities are expected to be affected. The move to a cashless approach means asylum seekers are unable to access services (i.e. the council's new bike scheme in Leeds can only be accessed by those with a bank account).

Partners continue to support those who are destitute, by supplying mobile phone data and emergency food provisions. **Action:** LMP to look at how they influence organisations, to prevent them from excluding people.

Intermediate priorities for the partnership identified at the March event include; funding; ESOL and promoting anti-racism.

- ✚ Many organisations are doing work around **anti-racism** [Brap](#) delivered training to LASSN staff/volunteers and Manuel Bravo commissioned training for their staff about unconscious bias, and Refugee Council supported the show racism the red card campaign. **Action:** LMP will consider how to progress this collectively at a future meeting.

National, Regional and Local Updates

- ✚ The **Leeds Strategic Migration Board** (LSMB) met on the 12th May. The key theme was the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and the government Ukraine schemes. Karen Pearce is currently the LMP representative at the board but is stepping down. **Action:** An LMP partner interested in representing the partnership at this meeting to talk with Karen, Jon or Sam.

Key Theme: Nationality and Borders Act 2022

Seb Kleir (Seb.Klier@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk) shared a presentation outlining an overview of the Act which was passed on the 28th of April 2022.

Key concerns include:

- ✚ The Act introduces 2 types of refugees; Group 1 are those who arrive with valid visas, and group 2 are people who arrive without visas. Group 2 will potentially be restricted from accessing benefits and the right to family reunion. Their stay will be for 30 months, instead of 5 years, and they will need to renew their status. After 10 years, they can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain.
- ✚ The Linton-on-Ouse accommodation centre will open next week for 60 people.
- ✚ Rwanda is the country where asylum claims will be processed offshore for those [deemed inadmissible](#). It is only people who have made an asylum claim on, or after, the 1st January 2022 and priority will be given to those who arrived in the UK after the 9th of May 2022. Those deemed inadmissible will be sent a notice of intent advising they will be moved to Rwanda and be given 2 weeks to provide evidence to challenge the decision.
- ✚ UASC age assessments will be carried out by a newly set up national board and the Act encourages the use of a scientific methods to estimate age.

Discussion comments:

- ✚ A monitoring committee of the Rwanda offshore processing arrangement will be set up and Refugee Council are recommending that organisation working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers be part of that committee.
- ✚ If people are required to renew their status after 30 months, delays and the lack of legal representation will create a backlog for the Home Office.
- ✚ Partners are already seeing people become frightened of the prospect of being sent to Rwanda, and they are potentially going to be exploited. The guidance states that children will not be sent to Rwanda. In addition, identified victims of trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) will not be removed, whilst they are going through the NRM process.
- ✚ The government announced the introduction of a British Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act 1998. The Bill consultation has closed but has still not been published.

Any Other Business

- ✚ Strategy group **in-person meetings** will be organised going forward.
- ✚ The **next meeting theme** will be about health and legal representation.
Action: Jon will invite Bevan to share an update on work they do in Leeds.
- ✚ [Little Amal](#) will be coming to Leeds on the 20th June 2022, during Refugee Week. The communications about the event will be shared via the LMP blog.
- ✚ Advonet will be launching an advocacy fund in July this year. RETAS are looking to submit a consortium bid and invite partners to contact them if they would like to discuss a joint proposal.

Future meeting dates for 2022:

Meeting	Date	Venue
LMP Strategic Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th July 2022 (10am-12pm) • 6th October 2022 (10am-12pm) • 19th January 2023 (10am-12pm) 	tbc
LMP Operational Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th June 2022 (10am-12pm) • 5th September 2022 (10am-12pm) • 5th December 2022 (10am-12pm) 	tbc
Leeds Strategic Migration Board (LSMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 7th July 2022 2pm-4pm • Thursday 29th September 2022 2pm-4pm • Thursday 15th December 2022 2pm-4pm 	Teams Conference