

LMP Strategy Group Action Notes

Thursday 14th July 2022

10.00-12.00 meeting

Venue: LASSN, 22-23 Blayds Yard, Leeds LS1 4AD

Following previous discussions, the partnership agreed that future LMP strategy meetings will be themed. The key theme of this meeting is the health priority and access to legal advice.

Health Priority

- **Leeds Migrant Health Board (LMHB)**

The LMHB is a strategic council board, led by Public Health, that meets quarterly to look at strategic plans to address health inequalities for migrants within the city. Following a recent review of the board, 3 key priorities were identified:

- **Access to health for all** - learning from those with lived experience by using case studies to shape services and strategies. The action plan key focus areas are to improve access to primary care and increase uptake of cancer screening.
- **Communication** – ensuring access to interpreters, translated information, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The action plan key focus is to promote Doctors of the World resources, ensure ESOL and translated information is considered by commissioners, and promote a warm welcome approach.
- **Work and austerity** – supporting a work force that respond to the needs of new and emerging communities by supporting meaningful employment and volunteering opportunities.

Action: Cath Ward will share the minutes from the board via the blog.

- **Healthy Communities Together**

Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network (LASSN), Basis, Leeds Gypsy Travel Exchange, and Mesmac (members of the Solidarity Network) have secured funding to explore how the health system can improve. The project will be delivered over 3 years and staff with lived experience are being recruited to facilitate learning discussions.

Facilitated discussions will bring Public Health, the National Health Service, and the Clinical Commissioning Group together with those with lived experience to

ensure learning is shared. This learning will influence the health systems forward planning.

Action: Healthy Communities Together will be added to the agenda of future LMP strategy meetings for updates, and Jon will share opportunities on how to get involved.

Urgent Updates on [Priorities](#)

- **Housing**
Since March, there is no same day emergency accommodation available for destitute asylum seekers. PAFRAS continue to see street homeless visiting their drop-ins to access food provisions. WYDAN are planning to open a shelter over the winter months.

Key Theme: Legal Advice and Representation

[Manuel Bravo](#) is a small Leeds based charity that provides legal representation to vulnerable asylum seekers. Rebecca Rayment, the Chief Executive of Manuel Bravo, shared a presentation to highlight where legal aid advice is available in Leeds.

- **What is happening on the ground?**
Legal aid advice is available for; initial asylum claims, fresh claims for asylum, detention and bail work, applications to remain under domestic violence provisions, asylum appeals to the first tier tribunal, and trafficking applications. Asylum support matters are not covered by legal aid.

However, accessing legal aid advice is a challenge because the government pay very little to law firms for it (£413 for an initial asylum claim results in staff working for less than minimum wage).

[Jo Wilding's report](#) highlights additional challenges to the legal advice process such as waiting an average of 48 weeks to get a court date, waiting an average of 83 weeks to get to court, and the Home Office can take years to make a decision on an asylum claim, despite the government website stating it takes 3 months.

- **How to find a solicitor/legal representative with legal aid?**
There are currently 16 legal aid providers across West Yorkshire, 6 of those firms are in Leeds (Ison Harrion, Kalsi Solicitors, Bankfield Health, Immigration and Advice Service, Collingwood Immigration and Duncan Lewis).

However, since some areas within the Yorkshire and Humber region have limited or no legal aid advice provision, Leeds are seeing referrals come from across the region, further increasing the demand.

- **What LMP can do collectively**

LMP partners can help reduce pressure on legal services by sharing the following advice:

- Make sure people ask for their interview to be taped.
- Advise people against making multiple calls to their legal aid lawyer as they can choose to pull out.
- Services can help prepare quality evidence for fresh claims.
- Help people understand who, where and when they can access legal advice.

Partners anticipate the need for legal advice will increase dramatically over the next 3 to 5 years as a result of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

Action: Karen and Becky will arrange for key partners to meet (PAFRAS, Chapeltown Citizens Advice Bureau, St Vincents, RETAS, LASSN, Refugee Council and Manuel Bravo). Partners will map existing pathways to legal advice provisions in the city (including level 1, 2 and 3 Office of the Immigration Service Commissioner support) and consider whether a project could be initiated to address the gaps in provision, while considering how to manage people's expectations and the [Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit](#) good practice model. The outcome of the meeting will be shared at the next LMP strategy meeting.

National, Regional and Local Updates

- **West Yorkshire Sub-Regional Migration Group update:**

The current issues being raised with the group include; the lack of legal aid provision, obtaining ARC cards, Migrant Help waiting times, concerns with children being moved on, and delays in initial asylum claims. Ally shares the updates via the blog but does not receive much feedback from partners on issues to raise.

Action: LMP asked if Ally can make specific requests for information on specific topics on the blog, rather than asking for general feedback, inviting partners to email their response.

- **LMP Operations Group update:**

The first in person LMP operations group, post pandemic, was held on the 13th June and was very well attended. A guest speaker from Action Asylum Liverpool, a project that supports refugees and asylum seekers to volunteer with communities, shared information on their plans to expand their work in Leeds (some organisations have already shown an interest).

Many refugee community organisations are receiving questions about the scheme for asylum seekers in Rwanda and concerns over housing conditions. Jon Beech invited private rented sector housing colleagues to the next operations group.

Action: Jon will meet with Nick Morgan outside of this meeting to discuss the rights of tenants.

14 events were delivered during Refugee week, including Little Amal's visit to Leeds.

- **Leeds Strategic Migration Board (LSMB)**

A board representative is invited to attend the LSMB as Karen is stepping f=down from representing LMP at this meeting. **Action:** Karen will ask Roger from RETAS if he is interested in representing the partnership at this meeting.

Any Other Business

- **Next thematic meeting**

Could the next thematic meeting discussion be about Financial Inclusion, to better understand all of the offers and where to signpost people to access money, clothing donations, and data?

Anti-racism work will be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: LMP leads to invite partners to share meeting theme ideas for future strategy group meetings with Karen: karen@pafras.org.uk

- Solace are delivering a free online interpreting course next week (20th July) and partners are invited to attend, more information is available on the [Solace website](#).

Future meeting dates for 2022:

Meeting	Date	Venue
LMP Strategic Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th October 2022 (10am-12pm) • 19th January 2023 (10am-12pm) 	LASSN, 22-23 Blayds Yard, Leeds LS1 4AD
LMP Operational Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th September 2022 (10am-12pm) • 5th December 2022 (10am-12pm) 	LRF,
Leeds Strategic Migration Board (LSMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 29th September 2022 2pm-4pm 	Teams Conference



Leeds Migration Partnership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 15th December 2022 2pm-4pm	
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