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| **Strategy Group**  Key Theme - Financial Inclusion and the Cost-of-Living Crisis |
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| Financial Inclusion and the Cost-of-Living Crisis was the key theme discussed at the LMP strategy group on Thursday the 6th October 2022 |

Guest speaker:

Nick Morgan, from Chapeltown Citizens Advice Buruea (CCAB), shared a presentation about the impact of the financial crisis on communities and shared the Citizens Advice National Data [website](https://public.flourish.studio/story/1634399).

Local data for Leeds from January - June 2022 shows:

* Almost 17,000 people sought advice from CCAB and almost 50,000 cases were dealt with on a range of issues (including fuel, food, and level 1 and 2 OISC registered asylum advice).
* The majority of people lived within the 10% Lowest Super Output Areas of the city.
* 43% of those seeking advice represent diverse communities.

The government have implemented a number of measures, to alleviate the impact on communities, but the guidance on how people access this support is confusing:

* £650 be given to the lowest income families.
* £300 to be given to pensioners.
* £150 to be given to people with a disability.
* £400 will be given to all households due to the increase in fuel cost.

The partnership was asked the following questions:

* What can we do practically?
* CCAB are running a project that looks at how information is shared with people with a learning disability which will lead to simple communications being shared. The national [Citizens Advice](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/) website has information that can be translated.
* Partners discussed ways to communicate information and suggested community conversations and sharing videos in different languages as they were useful during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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| Actions:   * Partners to share resources providing financial advice on the LMP blog. * Samantha Powell will attend the fortnightly Financial Inclusion partnership meeting to feedback the Leeds Migration Partnership feedback. |

* What can we do to influence policy?
* The CCAB are asking for the £30 household support fund to be added back to Universal Credit and Personal Independent Payments (as paid through the pandemic).
* Nick attends the Third Sector Leeds partnership meeting. [Third Sector Leeds](https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/networks-forums/third-sector-leeds/) is a formal network of organisations with an interest in sustaining and developing a thriving third sector in Leeds. They recently launched a [cost of living position statement](https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/news/third-sector-leeds-cost-of-living-position-statement/).
* How is your organisation impacted by the financial crisis?
* Organisations require more funding to deliver support, especially those working with asylum seekers.
* What are the barriers to accessing support?
* There is still a hostile environment, where policies are making life difficult for many.
* Many people are likely going to struggle to afford to apply to secure indefinite leave to remain status.

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| Actions:   * Refugee Council’s policy team are looking at the impact of delays to Indefinite Leave to Remain applications (i.e., benefits being stopped). Partners are invited to share concerns with [alice.tooley@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:alice.tooley@refugeecouncil.org.uk) * Partners to share feedback on the above questions with Nick via a Google form that will be shared on the blog. * Nick will feedback partners response with the Third Sector Leeds partnership. |

Resources: Several resources were shared during the meeting, the useful links are outlined below.

The cost-of-living crisis is a key priority for many, including the migrant third sector, a number of resources have been created to support this key agenda:

* [Third Sector Leeds](https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/networks-forums/third-sector-leeds/), is a formal network of organisations with an interest in sustaining and developing a thriving third sector, they recently launched a [cost of living position statement](https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/news/third-sector-leeds-cost-of-living-position-statement/).
* Third Sector Leeds wrote to the chancellor to share concern over the cost of living crisis which was signed by over 600 individuals/organisations (see the letter to the Chancellor attached below).



* The Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) have set up a national data [website](https://public.flourish.studio/story/1634399), to show the demographic and key concerns of people seeking their advice.
* [Together Leeds](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/campaign/cost-of-living) is a council webpage sharing key resources.
* [Zero Waste Leeds - We’re building a movement to help make Leeds a zero-waste city by 2030](https://www.zerowasteleeds.org.uk/)
* [#CostofLiving Resources January 2023 | Migration Partnership](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/costofliving-resources/)