



# Leeds Voice Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION

MAY 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Third Sector Leeds Spring Open Forum Highlights (p4)**
- **Health and Wellbeing Forum Introduction to Commissioning Events (p1)**

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## GP Commissioning: An NHS Revolution?

The introduction of GP commissioning consortia in the White Paper (July 2010) "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" represents possibly the biggest shake up of the NHS in its 63 year history. Transferring 80% of the total NHS budget to GPs will have implications for Third Sector providers.

Third Sector Health & Wellbeing (HWB) Network organised a conference on 10 February 2011 with the aim to start a dialogue with the existing GP consortia and disseminate information about current and future developments in Leeds whilst providing a starting point for ongoing information and support to Third Sector health, wellbeing and social care organisations across the city.

### EVENT FORMAT

Chaired by Councillor Mark Dobson (Chair of the Health Scrutiny Board & Healthy Leeds Partnership Board) the event was a huge success with over 220 attendees.

Helen Collins (Director of Women's Health Matters & Health Improvement Board Representative) presented the case for the sector in meeting the NHS priorities, the added value of the sector's work, knowledge and expertise in working with the most deprived communities and the case for preventative approaches to public health. John Lawlor (Chief Executive of NHS Leeds) presented the current commissioning position of NHS Leeds and the opportunities and threats of GP Commissioning, and Ian Cameron (Joint Director of Public Health) discussed the future diversion of the health service into separate public health and public sickness services and the implications of an increasingly market driven approach.

Brian Power (H3+ Consortium) provided details about what the White Paper means for Leeds and progress delivered so far.

Since the conference the HWB Network has been engaged in dialogue with the GP consortia about the breadth and depth of services provided by the Third Sector. The Network has been invited to present at upcoming GP consortia meetings on behalf of the sector, along with other Health and Social Care Forums in Leeds. Third sector representatives continue to attend consortia meetings and there is representative place now secured on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Presentations and Videos of the conference including question and answer sessions are available online at [Leeds Voice's website](#)

**Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Network continues to communicate developments on the website and Network meetings.**

**Next meeting Wednesday 8 June**

Further information contact the **Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Network co-ordinator Razwanah Alam 0113 2132590** [razwanah.alam@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:razwanah.alam@leedsvoice.org.uk)

**Introduction to Collaboration for GP Commissioning Events** are being planned for June funded by the NHS.

Booking forms will be available on Leeds Voice Web pages from 23 May

## Leeds Voice and Voluntary Action - Leeds Merger

Announcement on behalf of:

**Chris Billington –  
Chair, Voluntary  
Action-Leeds**

**Adrian Curtis –  
Chair, Leeds Voice**

As part of our ongoing joint work, Voluntary Action-Leeds and Leeds Voice have been working more intensively since January on exploring ways in which our organisations can better serve the needs of other third sector organisations and communities within Leeds. One of the ways we considered this could be achieved would be to negotiate a merger in good faith of our organisations. We set ourselves a

target to consider the principles of this by 31 March 2011.

Both organisations have now completed their first stage deliberations and concluded that, in principle, there will be significant benefit from such a merger. We have therefore agreed to embark on the formal processes of due diligence and convergence planning to allow an organisational merger by the end of September

2011.

We would like to thank partner organisations for the positive interest they have shown to date in our proposals. Most importantly we would like to thank our respective chief officers and their staff for the professional way they have facilitated and engaged in our discussions. We look forward to providing further updates on our progress towards merger in the coming months.

## Final Review Event—BME Network



Left to Right: Mumtaz Ali; Huddersfield Pakistani Community Alliance & Natalie Pinnock-Hamilton; Steering Group Member Voluntary Action Kirklees

**Held on 16 March 2011 in Bradford.**

**The Final Review Event considered the progress made with the Improving Reach Funding from Capacity Builders as the 3 Year funding programme came to an end on 31 March 2011.**

The event was a great success with a stimulating keynote speech from Caryl Agard, (Director at Capacity Builders) prompting discussion on how empty the glass really is in relation to support for minority communities. Discussion topics featured a review of good practice, what challenges remain for specialist infrastructure organisations and how frontline minority community groups can best utilise quality assurance systems.

Attendance from across the region featured a range of groups

that consortium members had worked with to achieve specific funded projects as well as building of capability in terms of fundraising, governance and increasing influence.

The future beckons for Leeds BME Network with new opportunities for development of the support and advocacy functions we currently initiate and the growing of the partnership function that remains a core function of the BME Network.

We will be progressing networking workshops aimed at involving partners in the future, with discussions regarding strategic involvement and new project work.

Keep up to date on our website and through network mailouts.

**Further information contact**

**BME Co-ordinators:**

[david.odunukwe@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:david.odunukwe@leedsvoice.org.uk)

and

[annette.morris@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:annette.morris@leedsvoice.org.uk)

**Admin Assistant:**

[hannah.clark@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:hannah.clark@leedsvoice.org.uk);

0113 297 7949

Visit [www.leedsbmenetwork.org](http://www.leedsbmenetwork.org)



Group work identifying service delivery.

**Leeds BME Network**



Empowering  
Communities

“Consortia and Collaborations take time and benefits include sharing resources. They shouldn’t be viewed as a short term fix to funding shortages”



# Collaborate for Commissioning

**Third sector organisations in Leeds have been collaborating together for many years as a way of meeting the needs of the communities they serve.**

These partnerships have been largely informal support networks with small amounts of formal consortia development. Changes in the economic climate and a greater drive for increased efficiencies have led to statutory commissioners

looking to decrease the number of contracts they manage. This means that contract values are rising, and can mean pricing out some of the smaller organisations.

Consortia working can be a way of maintaining the diversity of the sector and supporting communities who may not traditionally engage with larger organisations. Consortia can also be a good way to share ideas and resources and reduce duplication. Successful consortia develop-

ment takes time to develop trust and robust governance and should not be viewed as a short term fix to funding shortages.

**Supporting Links to Commissioning** can offer support through workshops and facilitation to support your ideas on collaboration. More information at [Leeds Voice website](http://Leeds Voice website)

**Project Manager: Rachel Koivunen**  
[rachel.koivunen@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:rachel.koivunen@leedsvoice.org.uk)  
 0113 213 2590  
**Project Officer: Becki Tighe**  
[becki.tighe@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:becki.tighe@leedsvoice.org.uk)  
 0113 297 7928

## Children’s Third Sector and Commissioning

As mentioned in the January newsletter there have been and still are some considerable changes within Children’s Services across Leeds.

One area is “Commissioning”. Work started last year when in partnership with Children Leeds a “Meet the Commissioner” event was held in July 2010 of which over 80 delegates attended.

A “Commissioning Network” was established as a result of this event and another “Stakeholders” event was planned for February 2011.

The event in February again saw over 80 delegates attend to hear about commissioning developments and in particular the future of Children’s Services Commissioning. The event opened with Nigel Richardson (Director of Children’s Services) setting the scene and presenting information about the Vision followed by Sarah Sinclair (Deputy Director, Children’s Services: Commissioning) presenting “The Commissioning Journey so Far” which lead into a discussion about future commissioning arrangements.

A third presentation was delivered by a local Cluster Manager, who gave a perspective from school clusters and the future of commissioning for them. The event concluded with a workshop focusing on the next steps and support needed for organisations to better prepare themselves for future commissioning.

The event report with recommendations is now available from the forum co ordinator.

### WHAT’S NEXT.....

3 events have been planned in partnership with Leeds Voice and Children’s Services to assist in the development of relationships and links with Clusters, Cluster Managers, Schools and the Third Sector with a view to enabling better contributions to the locality work which is starting to take place.

The aim is to bring together key personnel from the above in each of the wedges/localities to hear about key children’s services messages and to meet/network/develop relationships

with each other around the integrated locality arrangements.

- East North East wedge.** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am – 1.00pm
- West North West wedge.** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1.00pm – 4.00pm
- South South East wedge.** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1.00pm – 4.00pm

More information and a booking form is available from the forum co-ordinator.

### SOMETHING DIFFERENT.....

Work has taken place with the Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) to develop a more streamlined structure for the forums which includes renaming. Members are now being asked to feedback on the new arrangements with a deadline for all comments to be submitted by 3 June.

Please contact the co-ordinator for more details.

**Contact the Children, Young People and Families Services Forum Co-ordinator:**  
[jeannette.morris-boam@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:jeannette.morris-boam@leedsvoice.org.uk)  
 0113 213 2596



## Leeds Voice

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW  
Phone: 0113 297 7946  
E-mail: [info@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:info@leedsvoice.org.uk)  
Website: [www.leedsvoice.org.uk](http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk)

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REPRESENTATION ...  
EMPOWERING  
COMMUNITIES**

## Environment Forum

The Environment Forum works to influence the environmental strategy and policy work in Leeds and provide opportunities for networking and training for forum members.

The Environment Forum Co-ordinator and Chair are looking towards strengthening the strategic links of the third sector Environment Forum in Leeds over the next two to three months. There are a number of changes happening in the [Leeds Initiative](#) structure and the Environment Forum will ensure that the third sector is represented in the relevant partnerships of the new Vision for Leeds, which sets out how Leeds will develop over the next 20 years.

Currently we have membership of the [Climate Change Partnership](#) and Waste Strategy Group and links with [Aire Action](#) Leeds.

Next Meeting Tuesday 14 June  
15.00 - 17.00

**Environment Forum Co-ordinator**  
**Becki Tighe 0113 297 7928**  
[becki.tighe@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:becki.tighe@leedsvoice.org.uk)

**Contact the  
Forum and Network Co-ordinators  
to be kept up to date  
in the thematic work areas.**

## Third Sector Leeds Spring Open Forum



**May 16 2011** - Representatives from over 80 third sector agencies in Leeds gathered to discuss the future of our sector. Hosted by Third Sector Leeds (TSL), the event focussed on three key issues for the sector at this time.

Inevitably, a major focus was cuts and how the sector adapted to the current funding climate, but there was chance to discuss a sector statement on Good Practice in Commissioning and Leeds City Council's new locality arrangements.

### **Cuts:**

Since the large public meeting on the subject of cuts with senior council officers hosted by TSL in November, a lot has happened. Around the room there were lots of similar stories of job losses and cuts to services. This was valuable information to capture and will be used to take to statutory partners to show the effects of the current economic situation on services in Leeds.

### **Commissioning:**

This discussion was followed by a fruitful conversation about commissioning. TSL has been working on a statement setting out key principles for the commissioning and contracting of services. This is an issue that affects a large number of third sector groups so lots of constructive feedback was given. TSL now plans to work the comments given on the day into the next draft of the statement. The final version will be sent out to the sector and statutory partners and will be used to strengthen the commissioning process.

### **Locality Arrangements:**

After a short statement from Cllr. Lucinda Yeadon on the Council's third sector transition fund (details at [Leeds Community Foundation](#)) we discussed the sector's engagement with the Council's new locality arrangements. TSL is actively seeking representatives for the new boards that will make up this work. If you think you might be interested please get in touch.

It is a challenging time for the third sector in Leeds, but it is encouraging to see a spectrum of people come together to help shape our strategic direction and plan for the future.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved.

**Leeds Voice provides secretariat for TSL. More information about TSL go to**  
[www.thirdsectorleeds.org.uk](http://www.thirdsectorleeds.org.uk) or  
[richard.whitmill@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:richard.whitmill@leedsvoice.org.uk)  
**0113 213 2592**