

#C19SupportBrum

Together we'll get
through this



Covid-19 Support Brum Partnership

Weekly briefing for Thematic Leads

Edition 11: Date 17/08/20

Introduction

Recovery is at the forefront of discussion and planning currently. BVSC are in the process of drawing up a voluntary sector Recovery plan. Partners concerns, contributions and contingency planning have been factored in. A Special City Board will be held next *Wednesday evening which will be looking at how a local lockdown in Birmingham would be handled.* (There's no indication - yet - that this is an imminent likelihood). This will be chaired by the Rt Hon Jacqui Smith. At this meeting, Birmingham City Council will provide information on where we are at locally, what a lockdown scenario might look like in Birmingham, and how such a decision might be taken. This will be an opportunity for City Board partners to ask questions and – crucially – discuss what all our sectors can do to help avoid a lockdown scenario.

Part of informing these conversations locally, nationally and regionally is BVSC state of the sector survey. The Survey will take you around 15-20 minutes to complete. The information gathered will be fed back to all participants and to policymakers at city, regional and national level, and will be used to frame BVSC's sector support offer in the months ahead. <https://updatebrum.co.uk/>

Brian Carr presented at the Homeless Partnership Board recently to explain what we had learned from the C19 SupportBrum partnership, what the challenges have been and what the next stages will be focused on. The full presentation is below.



HomelessnessPSHipR
ecoverbyBVSC.pptx

Homelessness & Migration

The two topics have been joined together as we are approaching a real precipice in terms of the “Everyone In” agenda which has been so successful in getting people off the streets is due to come to an end (we are unsure of the exact date when additional support enabling housing for NRPF will end). This has arguably the greatest impact on those with no recourse to public funds. These people fall into a number of categories from some EEA

members who are not entitled to claim benefits to asylum seekers who have had claims refused. The reality facing this group once the subsidised accommodation is withdrawn which could take place in the next couple of months is very concerning. Without the ability to rent a property, claim benefits and address the many other barriers they face possible destitution. Coupled with the potential for a second wave or local lockdown this winter it could leave a particularly vulnerable group of people to face an extremely uncertain future. The law has not changed in relation to this group leaving the local authority with extremely difficult decisions on how best to serve them. The voluntary sector needs to be aware of when and how the accommodation and financial support will come to an end for people with NRPF and to contribute to any discussions on options and solutions.

<http://guidance.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/reader/practice-guidance-adults/discretionary-powers-to-provide-housing/>

<http://guidance.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/reader/practice-guidance-adults/>

Andy Hoole the lead for Migration has shared a report from Migrant Voice on the impact of Covid on the community. (Full report below) Migrant Voice who work across all Migrant communities have forward the following recommendations:

Recommendations

1. More widespread and multilingual dissemination of public health and other information (e.g. sources of financial support) by local authorities, in collaboration with local communities and organisations.
2. Access to Wi-Fi/internet and smartphones/laptops for loan by schools/colleges/public institutions in the West Midlands area, if this can be done safely.
3. Increased oversight of housing/accommodation providers to ensure all those in shared accommodation have access to PPE, healthcare, adequate food and a dignified existence.
4. Central Government to be lobbied to temporarily suspend rules preventing migrants accessing safe, secure accommodation, healthcare and basic financial support during this crisis.
5. Central Government to be lobbied for longer term changes that would reduce inequalities among BAME and migrant communities, including reducing visa fees to administration costs and abolishing the NRPF condition on visas.



Migrant Voice
briefing on impact of

<https://www.voicesofstoke.org.uk/2020/04/23/coronavirus-covid-19-and-changes-to-the-care-act-2014-a-briefing-for-homelessness-providers-and-practitioners/>

The above guidance has been produced by Voices of Stoke which explains the impact of Covid on the Care Act. In Birmingham where care act easements were applied this is no longer the case and full care act assessments are back in place.

Domestic Abuse

Maureen Connolly presented to the Birmingham & Solihull Housing Partnership AGM and has asked that they help by offering direct let properties to women's aid to enable women and children who are ready to move on into permanent housing to do so. Maureen highlighted some of the extreme challenges including around Policing and access to criminal justice or civil remedies. Some stark statistics below:

- Cuts have led to a near ¼ reduction in officers in the West Midlands, the force's performance in positive outcomes has fallen more sharply than that.
- Of the 62,000 reported DA cases, only 6% resulted in prosecution.
- 'Positive outcomes' – including charge, caution and community resolution – have fallen to just 8%, down from 44% six years ago.
- Although recorded offences have rocketed since 2014-15, investigations leading to charge or summons have plummeted from 34% from that period to just 6% from 2019 to 2020 so far this year.

Lockdown has had a massive impact on women and children's lives as they were effectively locked up with their abuser leading to an increase in instances and severity of domestic abuse incidents coupled with a decrease in opportunities to seek help.

- Domestic homicides are now at **a five year high** - Increase in numbers of women being killed during Lockdown
- **Evidence of previous abuse or violence in over half** the cases where the perpetrator was known to the victim
- **46% of all knife crime is DA related**
- Birmingham's DHR learnings alongside the Fem Cen have revealed that **coercive control is the most commonly missed or misunderstood factor** by professionals in cases they see and something which exists in the majority of cases involving DVA

Maureen went on to explain the Hub service, commissioned by BCC and run by BSWAid and the work that they are carrying out. Full detail and presentation is below.



BSHP AGM Maureen-
Domestic Abuse in Bir

Disability

Dave Rogers has been at the forefront of campaigning locally to raise awareness of the disproportionate impact of Covid19 on people with a learning disability. He has been encouraged by the level of engagement from BCC leaders in this discussion. He has shared below the results of the recent LeDeR steering group meeting.

Please find attached the learning disability Covid deaths update report for the BSOL CCG footprint as reported at this morning's LeDeR Steering Group meeting. I have had permission to share it with you. As you know I've aired my views regarding LeDeR and the sectors responsibility to ensure deaths are notified previously. There's quite a bit to consider from the report, of particular note are:

- It is highly likely deaths of adults with a learning disability, who sadly died in community settings, have not yet been notified to LeDeR. That needs addressing
- Underlying health conditions were a significant factor in all but one of the deaths and the gender split identified males with a learning disability were at higher risk consistent with the wider population
- There was an increase in numbers of younger adults with a learning disability dying, particularly in the mild to moderate group. There appears to have been a much lower impact on persons with severe or profound disability. That needs reflection as I suggested at the beginning of the pandemic those with minimum support were likely to fair worst. Sadly that appears to have been the case.
- It reflects the identified impact on BAME communities with a 34% increase in reported deaths of BAME citizens with a learning disability
- The reviews of all deaths reported suggests a 20% reduction in the quality of the health and care experience during Covid peak

The key learning section of the report raises a number of issues and is an important read as it shines a light on some important considerations going forward.



update on Covid
deaths LeDeR progra

Attached new link re: Optional badges/lanyards to promote ongoing social distancing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-living-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living>

Revised update from government regarding supported living services during

Covid <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-living-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living>

Here's the link to the Paradigm report, learning from the experience of support workers during Covid-19. Insightful, powerful with plenty of learning to lift from it. <https://paradigm-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Dont-ever-call-us-unskilled-again.-Paradigm-compressed-copy.pdf>

Faith

1. Zoom Multifaith Memorial Service for people who have had a family member or close friend die in a Care Home during Covid took place on Thurs 6th Aug.
2. Director of Public Health, Justin Varney, has a fortnightly meeting with mosque representatives, and another meeting with representatives from the BAME community to discuss social distancing measures and corona.
3. Very few places of worship have reopened for congregational worship because social distancing measures are proving impractical. A number are using ZOOM.
4. Social gatherings for Eid were scaled down and passed without incident.

5. The last Unity FM Connecting Communities programme was on Climate Change and Clean Air with Cllr Waseem Zaffar. Upcoming programmes are on urban walking and cycling; mental health and peace.

Carers

BCC have recently written to all care homes to ask that they restrict visitors to continue to reduce the risk of future outbreaks.



Care Home Visiting
Letter 120820.pdf

Birmingham Carers Hub works with health and social care professionals to ensure unpaid carers are identified and supported. This support is for all adult carers including parent-carers, older people in caring roles and sandwich carers perhaps caring for a parent but juggling a range of family, work and social responsibilities. For young carers (under 18 yrs.) will we work with Spurgeons who are the local specialist young carer service to ensure support is offered. They offer a wide range of services all of which is FREE to carers. If you as a professional you would like to refer someone for support who is a carer you can go here: <https://forwardcarers.org.uk/local-services/professional-referral/>

Forward Carers have a lot of advice on their website for carers and this includes a reminder of current advice which is useful for us all. The section below is taken from their website.

As restrictions are eased and we can get a coffee and get our hair done, it's important to remember that we should still maintain social distancing from people you do not live with or are not in your support bubble. In addition, there are still a lot of things we can't do, such as:

- Socialise indoors in groups of more than two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) – this includes when dining out or going to the pub;
- Socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households. Gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from exclusively from two households or support bubbles;
- interact socially with anyone outside the group you are attending a place with, even if you see other people you know, for example, in a restaurant, community centre or place of worship;
- hold or attend celebrations (such as parties) where it is difficult to maintain social distancing and avoid close social interaction – even if they are organised by businesses and venues that are taking steps to follow COVID-19 Secure guidelines; and
- Stay overnight away from your home with members of more than one other household (your support bubble counts as one household).

<https://forwardcarers.org.uk/coronavirus-advice-for-carers/>

Please find attached a statement from the City Council regarding the remained closure of the Day Care Centres (LD/PD/ABI/MH/Dementia). There is temporary additional support for clients available via ACAP.



message for
carers.pdf

Mental Health

Helen Wadley has been updating us on the latest news and was happy to share that Birmingham Mind has received some BCC funding to deliver a range of online open access workshops/courses. There will be some four -week courses and there will be some one-off workshops. These sessions will include topics such as

- Mindfulness
- Dealing with Anxiety
- Coping with isolation
- Living life to the full (general well-being for physical and mental health)
- More sociable groups – including
 - o “On-line Nattering” friendly and open drop in session
 - o Nature and Wellbeing

Dates are still being set but if you are interested please email help@birminghammind.org and leave your contact details and which course (s) you are interested in or please ring our Helpline on 0121 262 3555 and ask for your details to be passed over to the Wellbeing manager. They will then be in contact with you.

All courses over Zoom and if there are any existing community groups that would like a course especially delivered for them again please contact us and we can see if we can arrange this.

Remember in Birmingham you can get help and support via Minds Helpline 0121 262 3555. Birmingham Mind runs it from 9am to 11pm and after 11pm; it goes to the crisis team in the mental health trusts. There are lots of support available so please do ring if you are struggling.

Funding

This Funding opportunity is targeting BAME led organisation will be opening up I think tomorrow. This fund is also open to groups or organisation which are not constituted so I would encourage you all to look at this website

https://globalfundforchildren.org/the-phoenix-fund/?dm_i=6S7,6ZNF,8DYH,S5PL6,1

Clarion Futures Digital Grants Applications are Open

Clarion Futures Digital Grants Round 5 are open for applications. The Fund is designed support residents and communities to get and stay online and to use the internet as an everyday tool, safely and confidently.

Children & Young People

Summer youth provision – many youth organisations have mobilised face-face provision to support young people during the summer months – this is in line with government guidance and youth membership organisations policy and practice frameworks – see National Youth Agency.

Education results – a challenging time for many young people and youth organisations are working closely with schools to support education providers and young people where required relating to exam results.

Early Help – Over 2500 referrals received across the city to provide support to families during C-19. Birmingham Childrens Partnership continues to work with Locality VCS Leads to explore provision for the next 6 months – Sept- 20- March 21) whilst developing a commissioning framework for 2021+



From Birmingham
with love.pdf

The CYP Group that meet regularly shared their collective thoughts on what should be featured in Recovery planning for the city:

- Education /schools return – impact of limited education on young people
- Economy/employment – rates dropped, impact, schools leaves, NEETs, families
- Safe measures for delivery of services e.g. PPE, guidance
- Safeguarding – grooming, unreported concerns
- Digital exclusion

Bereavement

The Edwards Trust are an organisation supporting women and children experiencing bereavement across the West Midlands. To find out more about their services please go to <https://edwardstrust.org.uk/>

Culture-

FREE WEST MIDLANDS WEEKENDERS 29th August – 26th September

THE REGION'S ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR JOINS TOGETHER FOR THREE WEEKENDS OF INNOVATIVE EVENTS WITH WM WEEKENDERS

Erica Love, Director of Culture Central said: “The West Midlands Weekenders build upon the success and spirit of June’s Midsummer Festival, with a collaborative and imaginative approach that celebrates the region’s diverse arts and culture sector.”

“The three Weekenders are a great opportunity to showcase new and upcoming talent, as well as well-known West Midlands organisations and will give audiences a chance to take part, discover new artists and be entertained.”

More information on the three West Midlands Weekenders, including full line-ups and running times will be released in the coming weeks on makeitwm.com.

10 August 2020

The **West Midlands Culture Response Unit (WMCRU)** are today pleased to announce a brand-new series of events for the region, **West Midlands Weekenders**. Running over three weekends; **Saturday 29th August, Saturday 5th September and Saturday 26th September**, the WM

Weekenders will each carry their own theme. Together they will showcase the diversity and innovation of the region's arts, creating culture in new ways to keep the West Midlands on the map.

West Midlands Weekenders is the second series of events organised by the WMCRU, who previously produced the one-day Midsummer Festival in June. The team has been created to coordinate, develop and deliver an action-orientated, response by over 100 arts organisations in the West Midlands to the Covid-19 crisis in the short, medium and long term. Led by Culture Central, WMCRU's purpose is to ensure the visibility, viability and recovery of the Cultural Sector in the West Midlands.

Saturday 29th August

The first Weekender kick starts on August Bank Holiday - traditionally a weekend of culture, celebration and connection.

Artists from across the region will respond to the theme of 'Ritual' with pre-recorded, live stream and in person gatherings. As we bring together the many voices and communities of the West Midlands, there'll be a dance, independent artists, singers, poets, installations, experimentation, all hosted live by **Birmingham Opera Company** and **Friction Arts**.

Saturday 5th September

Produced by **Outdoor Places Unusual Spaces (OPUS)**, the second weekend takes on the theme of 'firsts'. Audiences will navigate their way through an afternoon and evening of firsts from artists around the West Midlands, culminating in a special centenary celebration from the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)**.

Saturday 26th September

The closing Weekender will round the trilogy off with a day festival celebrating and platforming some of the regions young creatives exploring all things arts, culture and heritage under the theme of **Democratising Creativity & Culture**. Not only will themes of democracy be explored (in its broadest sense) throughout the programme, but audiences and participants will get an opportunity to be a part of steering the festival content with three regional young producers, Aksana Khan, Diandra McCalla and Paige Jackson. Get ready to turn the tables!

To read more please go to the following link



West Midlands
Weekenders press rel

Homelessness

Steve Philpott Rough Sleeper strategic lead for the city has shared the positive news that there is an additional 70k to support small voluntary organisations prepare plans for their winter support for Rough Sleepers.

"Covid-19 has created a challenging environment in relation to the management of demand for single homeless accommodation and support. This has included for the city the call for 'everyone in' resulting in an additional 70 beds of a commercial hotel coming into operation (now ceased), the accommodation of over 125 people who are deemed 'no recourse to

public funds' (around 80 remaining), and over 600 presentations of single homeless people to Housing Needs Officers through additional advice provision (now located at Sifa-Fireside). Large numbers of people have been housed in the commissioned supported accommodation, but also in non-commissioned, exempt supported accommodation. At the same time, the number of people in Temporary Accommodation has risen with move-on being reduced. For the smaller voluntary/charitable Covid-19 has also been very challenging and in many cases has meant that normal operations had to cease or be drastically curtailed.

Public Health Birmingham are stating it is likely that there will be a second wave of Covid-19 in the city. This is most likely to take place in the autumn and into winter, could be more severe than the first wave, and would probably result in a city or regional set of restrictions to suppress its spread. Winter also requires capacity for Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPP) – the provision of accommodation to protect from extreme weather conditions (usually cold temperatures). This provision will not be provided in shared spaces, and night-shelters are not an acceptable accommodation solution through this pandemic.

Birmingham City Council has set up a small grants fund specifically to help small, local voluntary, community and charitable organisations prepare for the second half of 2020-21. Bids are welcomed for between £5-£10k, where funds will: -

- Prepare for or enable greater resilience to maintain service provision
- Support BCC in meeting the needs likely to present through the remainder of this year
- Enable access to unmet needs, people groups
- Strengthen partnerships across the city
- Make best use of staff and volunteer resources

More details to follow on how to access the fund.

Written and compiled by Sharne Maher, Theme Partnership Manager, BVSC
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#C19SupportBrum

Thematic Leads

BVSC has been working hard to support Birmingham citizens, professionals and volunteers during the Covid19 lockdown and one of the many ways we have been working with key figures across sectors is to have a specific Thematic lead strand to our work.

The details for the thematic leads are below, if you are part of one of these sectors and cannot find information or want to feed information back in please contact either the lead for the theme you are interested or Sharne Maher as Theme Partnership manager at BVSC who will assist with information sharing or signposting.

Contact details for Theme Leads

Mental Health: Helen Wadley, Birmingham Mind HelenWadley@birminghammind.org

Community Health: Andy Cave, Healthwatch Birmingham AndyC@healthwatchbirmingham.co.uk

Culture: Erica Love, CEO of Culture Central ericalove@culturecentral.co.uk

Disabilities: Dave Rogers, Midland Mencap Dave.Rogers@midlandmencap.org.uk

Carers: Simon Fenton, Forward Carers simon.fenton@forwardcarers.org.uk

Faith: Dr. Peter Rookes, Birmingham Council of Faiths pjrookes@gmail.com assisted by Amrick Singh Ubhi, Nishkam Centre amrick.ubhi@ncauk.org Fred Rattley and Jo Bagby, Diocese of Birmingham job@cofebirmingham.com; fredr@cofebirmingham.com and Kamran Shezad of Bahu Trust Kamranshezad@bahustrust.org.uk.

Housing: Martyn Hale, Citizen Housing Martyn.Hale@citizenhousing.org.uk & Peter Richmond, Bournville Village Trust PeterRichmond@bvt.org.uk

Children Young People & Families: Lisa Martinali, Compass Support lisa.martinali@compass-support.org.uk

Food: Karen Creavin, Active Wellbeing Society: Karen.Creavin@theaws.org

Homelessness: Matt Green, Crisis matthew.green@crisis.org.uk

Migration: Andy Hoole, Birmingham Settlement andy@migrationpolicy.org.uk

Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Women: Maureen Connolly, Bham & Solihull Women's Aid maureen.connolly@bswaid.org