



“Collective Voices for Positive Change”

OXFORDSHIRE  
**HOMELESS  
MOVEMENT**

## Lived Experience Advisory Forum April – June 2023

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### LEAF Coordinator update

The forum has developed so much over the past year that LEAF will be holding a review of its aims and the model in early September with the forum members. LEAF's webpage on both the Gatehouse and OHM will then be updated following any changes or updates.

LEAF's Community Champions have secured funding to provide Monica with extra weekly hours for twelve months to work on the Community Health Champions Project with Oxford City Council. This project will aim to embed solutions from the barriers that LEAF found when looking into barriers to accessing health care within the homeless and vulnerably housed community.

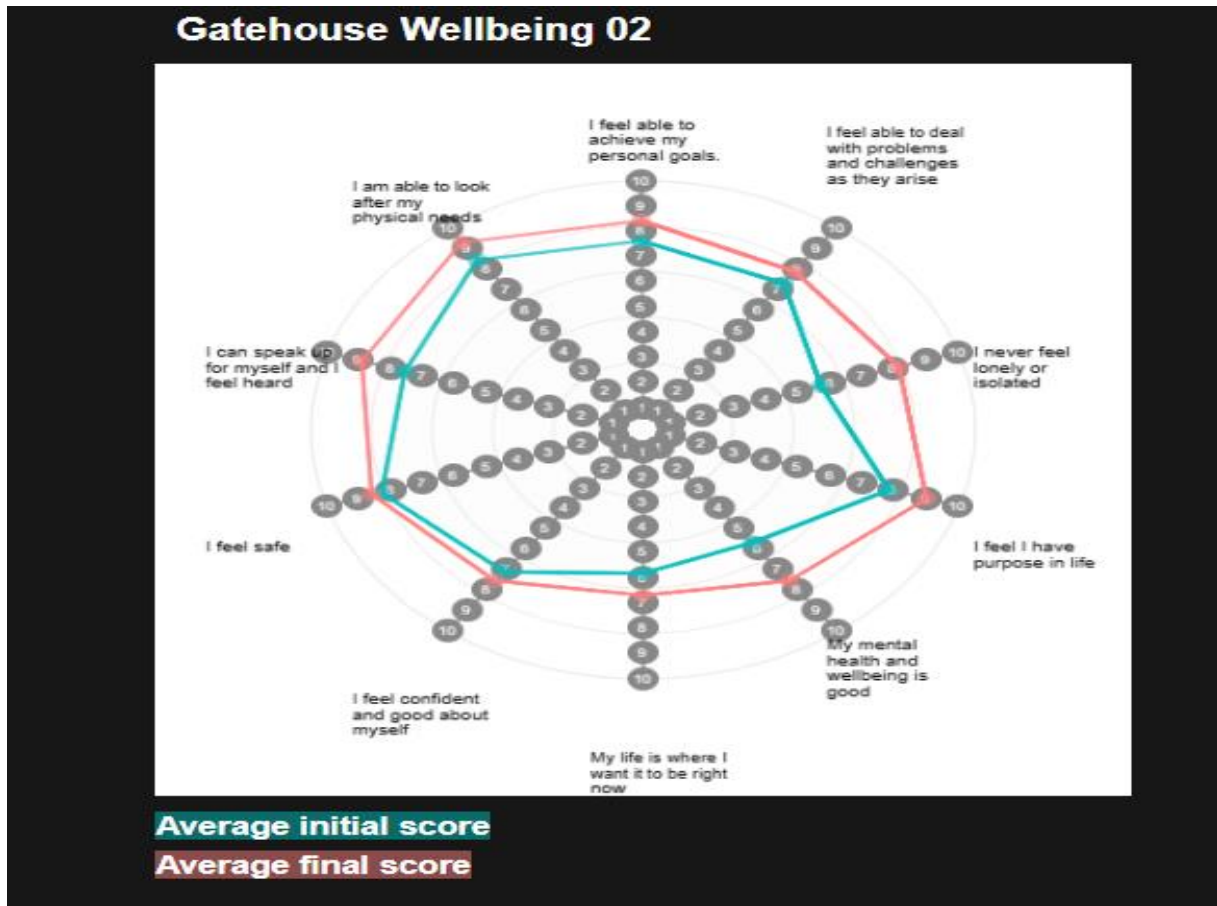
Huge congratulations to one of the LEAF members who has recently been recruited as a new Caseworker at the Gatehouse! “WE ARE ALL SUPER PROUD OF YOU”

### Development of LEAF members and wellbeing

- 8 LEAF members participated in Research into housing inequalities in Oxford.
- 1 LEAF member attended the Countywide Steering Group and shared the findings from Barriers to Health Care Project.
- 1 LEAF member has recently been recruited as a Caseworker at the Gatehouse
- 1 LEAF member and the LEAF Coordinator attended Aspires 'Getting into Business and Digital Skills for the Digital Age' course. This is to support with the design and the development of the LEAF Consultancy Service.
- 1 LEAF member led on facilitating three focus groups on Housing First which engaged with over fifteen people in total.
- 3 LEAF members attended the Countywide Steering Group meetings. Two attended to discuss their findings from the OHM commissioned project, “Why people may or may not want to move out of Oxford City.”
- LEAF members provided findings from the Community Champions work at the Old Fire Station Marmalade event. These findings will be available on the LEAF page on the Gatehouse website soon.
- 1 LEAF member took the lead on the Community Research Network meetings with the support of another member in Witney and the LEAF staff.
- 2 Community Research Networks meetings were held in partnership with Aspire in Witney and Oxford City.
- 1 forum member is working on a project “We are not worthless” more details to follow shortly.
- 1 forum member has taken the lead and is looking into palliative care within the homeless and vulnerably housed community.

- 1 forum member continues to support King's College and Connections Step Down houses by collecting qualitative and qualitative feedback from service users to improve the service.
- 1 LEAF member is supporting and taking the lead on the development of LEAF's consultancy service alongside the LEAF coordinator

**Overall since April 2023 - June 2023 LEAF's forum members average wellbeing score has increased**



## A LEAF member's feedback

*"LEAF is a safe space where you can make your voice count and bounce ideas against a very diverse group of members. Regular participation has made me more curious and hopeful about reforming services, so they better fit the needs of our community"*

## Co-production Partnerships and Projects in April – June 2023

**Gatehouse/Amber lights/Homeless Oxfordshire** - The Gatehouse and LEAF joined a podcast by 'Amber Lights in Oxford' which was set up in memory of the founder's sister in support of Homeless Oxfordshire. The 'Home is where?' podcast features conversations around reducing the stigma around homelessness. 'All about the Gatehouse' podcast - The Gatehouse Oxford ([oxfordgatehouse.org](http://oxfordgatehouse.org))

**Community Champions** worked together from October 2022 – March 2023 to research and evidence at the root causes of healthcare inequalities within the homeless and vulnerably housed population. Over the course of the project three forum members were led by Monica to manage the terms and conditions of the grant for the very first time and implemented all of the work relating to the research and planning of this project. LEAF have now secured funding for Monica to support the follow-on project from this piece of work. This will involve working directly with Luther Street Surgery and Health Watch to support the setting up of a Patient Participatory Group, assisting Luther Street Surgery to increase GP registrations amongst rough sleepers, working with other Champions to create GP Receptionist Campaign videos and contributing regularly to the Community Health Champions Steering Group.

**Oxfordshire Homeless Movement** –OHM commissioned LEAF to look at why some people may or may not want to move out of Oxford City. Questionnaires were designed and completed by LEAF. LEAF have now completed the findings. [Groundbreaking barriers report published \(oxfordshirehomelessmovement.org\)](https://oxfordshirehomelessmovement.org)

**The Alliance** – A LEAF member has taken the lead on work with the Alliance and has attended his first ALT meeting. Work will continue to see how LEAF can work with the Alliance to ensure lived experience is worked through the system to push for positive change. LEAF is continuing to work with the Alliance to put together a proposal.

**Connections, Step Down House and Kings College London** – A LEAF member has just finished evaluating the Step-down project with qualitative and quantitative data. Talks are ongoing to access funding so this great piece of work can continue. A link to the report will be available soon.

**Aspire/Consultancy Service** – The LEAF Coordinator and a forum member are working on building a consultancy package to be able to deliver LEAF's services to organisations. The work has already begun with the forum member and the LEAF Coordinator attended the Aspire Getting into Business and Digital Skills for the Digital Age course. Longer term, this will support extra funds coming in to help develop LEAF.

**Aspire/Community research networks (CRN's)** - In May, two LEAF members and LEAF staff worked with Aspire to hold two community engagement workshops for the research networks which consisted of "What would we need to do, to make a CRN model 'work' in Oxfordshire?" and a focus meeting on health inequalities re housing. Twenty-seven people attended the two workshops. Future funding is needed to continue this work and if anyone who would like to read the findings please email [lucy@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:lucy@oxfordgatehouse.org).

**New Inn Hall Street Church, Bonn Square** - support for ongoing work will include members of New Inn Hall Street Church, volunteering their time and baking for events for LEAF. LEAF also has weekly support from Irim who is the Development and Operations Manager alongside Jon the Pastor and Rosie from the Mint House. Thank you for all your guidance and help with developing LEAF!

**Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology** – Previous work will be debriefed, and any ongoing publications will be released on the LEAF Gatehouse website page.

**Centre for Homeless Impact** – LEAF is currently working with CHI on their Impact Chapter. The vision is to hold a LEAF Festival of Feedback event for service users and staff of the Alliance to share their experiences. Date 11th and 12th July - update on next report.

**Homeless Link - Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM)** – Two forum members sat on the first steering group for MEAM but due to GDPR it has been difficult to establish next steps to support forum members joining. In the meantime, the LEAF Coordinator has been helping by attending the steering groups. Expectations also need to be completed before any LEAF member can fully participate.

**Countywide Steering Group** – Unfortunately, the last LEAF member could not continue with the monthly meetings, however a new replacement has been found and she attended the meeting in May. Ongoing progress is needed to ensure she is invited to all future meetings. This group meets once a month for two hours. It is made up of representatives of organisations and departments who work with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness such as Adult Social Care, Health, Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Councils, and the Alliance organisations who provide homeless services. The steering group provides leadership oversight and influence to enable the transformation of the existing homelessness services through effective joined up working that encourages innovative thinking and overcomes resistance to change. Monica and a forum member also attended this group to discuss their findings from the Community Champions Project and to ask about future funding opportunities to work on implementing the solutions.

**Katherine and Sobell House Hospices**- A forum member has started a project working with Katherine and Sobell house Hospices to look at being inclusive to the homeless population when needing palliative care. The forum member has also been attending the Marie Curie "Homelessness and Palliative Care" ECHO Network sessions.

**Oxford City Council** – LEAF is supporting a NIHR Local Authority Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration. The research covers Housing First and the impact on wellbeing. One forum member took the lead and supported advertising, the design of posters and facilitating three focus groups alongside the LEAF Coordinator.

**The Gatehouse** - "We are not worthless" project is an idea by a forum member who will be leading and designing the project. The project will aim to increase the value of lived experience, showing the strength and resilience of lived experience individuals, reduce stigma, and increase self-esteem of people participating.

**Durham university** - LEAF supported a Durham University student with her dissertation. Eight forum members joined a focus group looking at housing inequality in Oxford. Once the dissertation is completed the research will be shared.

## **Opportunities for LEAF coming up**

**The Gatehouse** – Three LEAF members will work on the Storytelling Project evaluation of the Gatehouse community centre, and this will be project managed by Monica.

**Newcastle University** – an opportunity for LEAF to support research into accessing healthcare in police custody ongoing.

**The Mint House/Alliance/OCC** –Are looking at a pilot eviction resolution process within the Alliance. Ongoing progression will be added to the next report.

**The Gatehouse** - Are offering mental health first aid and physical first aid training to all LEAF members in September 2023.

The whole of LEAF will close for a two week break from the 14<sup>th</sup> August to the 28<sup>th</sup> August (inclusive).

**Lucy Stokes** – Lived Experience Advisory Coordinator

**Monica Gregory** – Member Development Coordinator

