



“Collective Voices for Positive Change”



Lived Experience Advisory Forum October – December 2023

LEAF Coordinator update

Leading up to the end of the year LEAF looked at their different work streams and acknowledged the great work they had achieved throughout 2023. Lucy is in the process of chasing up all the outcomes of completed work so this can be showcased on the Gatehouse and OHM website.

In 2023:

- LEAF worked alongside **35** co-production partners
- **263** people with lived experience shared their expertise across multiple sectors
- **22** forum meetings were held
- **70** co-production meetings were held
- **18** training sessions were held for forum members
- **8** outreach sessions were delivered

With the pieces of co-production work that LEAF has been working on there has been significant changes, such as longer timeframes for projects. With this in mind LEAF has had to look more in depth about managing the ongoing work streams for 2024. Using reflective practice, we have now implemented some changes to our regular meetings.

New monthly meetings will now consist of the below and will be reviewed again in March 2024:

1st Wednesday of the month - Project LEAD meeting to keep everyone up to date with projects. Everyone is welcome but LEAD members will be asked to attend to provide a verbal update or written update on their project.

2nd Wednesday of the month - LEAF closed. Monica and Lucy will use this time for work on development and planning of LEAF, training or developing outreach and work streams.

3rd Wednesday of the month - Face to face forum at Bonn Square 10:30am - 1:30pm. Looking at new and current work streams. This time could be used for training, different services attending to meet forum members or provide updates.

4th Wednesday of the month - Outreach to different services, recruiting new members, building relationships with services, holding focus groups at different locations to get more voices heard.

5th Wednesday of the month (when applicable) - Training or activity day.

Development of LEAF

LEAF are trying to expand and are continuing to build a consultancy package - we are hoping that this will support bringing in funds to have more paid staff for LEAF and training for forum members.

Ongoing work streams are being reviewed. The biggest questions that will be asked will be:

1. Has an agreement and expectations been agreed by LEAF and the service?
2. Is this work meaningful?
3. Who is gaining by LEAF being involved?

The main priority for LEAF has and always will be for the development of forum members and to support positive change for service users.

LEAF will start to do more outreach to encourage new members to join over the coming months.

New rules for working with LEAF will be put into place to protect LEAF's identity and ensure that any ongoing work is meaningful.

LEAF will ask that any service who would like to work with LEAF discusses this with LEAF and an agreement made before writing LEAF's name into any funding bid or actions. If no agreement has been made by the LEAF forum, then we will be asking that LEAF's name be removed from any advertising such as paperwork, websites, publications or strategies. LEAF was never developed to be a tick box exercise and the work needs to remain a benefit to LEAF members and influence positive change to service provision.

Co-production Partnerships and Projects in November 2023 – January 2024

1. Community Champions – The LEAF Community Health Champions Project is currently working on putting a package of support workshops together addressing men's health needs. There will be a process of gaining feedback from men on what their needs are and then hopefully delivering targeted workshops using a collaborative approach. This work will hopefully start addressing the solutions to accessing health care, for men in the first instance.

2. The Alliance – LEAF are still working with the Alliance on how LEAF can be involved in a meaningful way. The Alliance are keeping both the coordinator and the lead up to date via weekly updates. However due to illness with forum members and staff shortage for LEAF it has been challenging to attend ALT on a regular basis. LEAF will be recruiting more members soon and plan to try and recruit LEAF volunteers in early 2024 and aspire to have more paid staff in the future.

3. Countywide Steering Group - LEAF is considering how we can continue working with the Countywide Steering Group.

4. Connections, Step Down House and King's College London –Funding has now been secured for the Step-down House with the support from LEAF. The LEAF forum member lead for this project and the LEAF coordinator are in the process of working with Peter on a consultancy package for the year ahead.

5. Aspire/Community Research Networks (CRN's) – LEAF and Aspire have secured funding for work to continue through 2024 to support the development of CRN's across the county. The LEAF lead has also been attending regular meetings with the stakeholders.

6. Homeless Link - Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM)/The Gatehouse – The Gatehouse /LEAF and MEAM have now agreed a way that lived experience can still participate in such a sensitive service. Conversations are also being had about LEAF supporting evaluating the new service by way of interviews for the participants.

7. 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. This project is ongoing. The evaluation of the Gatehouse by way of Storytelling now has the foundations and work will commence possibly in the new year.

8. The Gatehouse - Evaluating the Gatehouse Community Centre by way of Storytelling.

9. The Mint House/Alliance/OCC – Are looking at a pilot eviction resolution process within the Alliance. Rosie has been working hard with funding bids for this project and we are waiting to hear back from the funders.

10. Step Down House/Connections - 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.

11. Katherine and Sobell House Hospices - The EDI Project Officer, and a lead from LEAF, are currently participating in an eight-hour training course to be able to implement some Community of Practice sessions

with the aim to find and recruit members from various palliative care and homeless-serving organisations across our catchment area. They will then convene the group for two-hour meetings monthly. It is anticipated that most meetings will take place virtually via Teams, with up to four in-person meetings held to assist in group collaboration. The leaders will facilitate the eight-hour training course through Marie Curie for the group. After that, they will guide the group on discussing continuation plans for the community of practice and addressing any additional needs.

12. Peer support training - Lucy has nearly completed her course in how to support peer workers. Two members of LEAF are being supported in attending their course to become peer workers.

13. Science together - Science Together brings together the expertise and experience of local community groups with the skills and resources of researchers from across the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University to address issues and questions impacting local people's lives. Science Together connects organisations across Oxfordshire with University researchers, to respond to pressing local issues and questions together. LEAF have been offered to participate and are considering if they would like to participate.

14. Adult Safeguarding Board Mortality reviews - LEAF have been working with OCC AND OASB to look at barriers to healthcare within the homeless and rough sleeping cohort from the mortality reviews. Outcomes and recommendations from the LEAF Community Champions work are being used to support breaking down some of the barriers.

15. Centre for Homeless Impact/Alliance – LEAF supported the Alliance Prevention Meeting and held an interactive event one afternoon. The event went really well and we definitely had thirty plus people stay for the afternoon session. A LEAF member spoke very articulately about the importance of acting on feedback in order to build trust and prevent feedback fatigue. This led into a really interesting discussion about how to overcome power imbalances within feedback loops and co-production settings. It will be interesting to see what happens next in this space. Jen from CHI will be writing a short thematic report which will be shared when completed.

16. Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology – Some of the female LEAF members supported Amy who is doing a placement at Homeless Oxfordshire. The project's aim was to find out what support services, such as Homeless Oxfordshire, can do to improve the support they provide to women experiencing homelessness. I believe the focus groups have now taken place with staff and LEAF are awaiting an update of findings.

17. OHM - Considering ways LEAF could support OHM looking at how to improve services for women within Oxfordshire. Today we don't know some very basic things such as, how many women are experiencing rough sleeping in the county? There is a quantitative element, which OHM can work on with the councils and service providers. There is also a qualitative element that OHM hope LEAF can support with, what is the experience of women? What are their priorities for improvement?

A big THANK YOU to OHM for providing LEAF members with food vouchers for Christmas, it was very well received.



Lucy Stokes – Lived Experience Advisory Coordinator
Monica Gregory – Member Development Coordinator

