# Third Sector Health and Care Leaders Network Notes

**Thursday 24th April 10 am - 12pm**

**In person at BattleScars, Onward House, Millshaw Park Way, Leeds, LS11 0LS**

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## Welcome and Introductions

Jo welcomed all to the meeting and explained the importance of why we come together at meetings like this to discuss upcoming changes in the city/sector, to share learning and just to come together to network and connect with colleagues in the sector.

Jo highlighted the choice of venue - Battle Scars, who are a survivor-led and run charity offering local, regional, national support around self harm and also a member of Forum Central.

**Some key updates since our last meeting:**

- The Hey Neighbour Grant:
  The grants support both new and existing activities that aim to improve lives in local areas by encouraging neighbourliness and community engagement. Examples of funded projects include community play events, local sports tournaments, and social gatherings like film nights.

    - Small Grants: Up to £500 for individuals or informal groups without formal structures.
    - Large Grants: Up to £1,500 for constituted community groups or organisations with an annual income under £50,000

- Household Support Fund:
  The Household Support Fund is a UK government initiative designed to assist vulnerable and low-income households in covering essential living costs such as food, energy, water bills, and other necessities.

  The grants round opened on Tuesday 27 May 2025 and closes at 5 pm on Tuesday 24 June 2025. A second round of funding will open in September and close in October 2025. For more information please check the Forum Central website.

- MH transformation: Gold Dust Report – Learning from the Transforming Mental Health Grants March 25 - powerful examples of the innovative and impactful approaches.

- Work and Health Grants for Leeds VCSE sector:
  The funding programme was created by Leeds City Council in collaboration with Forum Central. It is aimed specifically at community organisations based in Leeds that support individuals with significant health conditions who are economically inactive, helping them begin their journey toward employment.

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## Guest Speaker: Jim Barwick, CEO of Leeds GP Confederation

Key Points and Context

- **Timely Action Is Crucial**
  Delays in addressing patient needs now will lead to significant issues in the future. For example, long waiting lists for procedures or assessments can have a wide-ranging impact on an individual's life — including their ability to work, their mental health, and overall quality of life. These delays ultimately place additional strain on GP services.

- **NHS Planning Guidance**
  The guidance emphasises that individuals may simultaneously experience all three stages of care (prevention, diagnosis, treatment). It's critical that these stages are connected and coordinated across services.

- **Six Core Components of General Practice**
  One of these is improving telephone access, with an emphasis on adopting best practices for managing patient calls effectively.

**About GP Confederation**

- The GP Confederation is a member-led umbrella organisation representing all 87 GP practices across Leeds.
- Its core purpose is to be the collective voice of general practice within the Leeds Health and Care System.

**Support for Patients Waiting for ADHD Diagnosis**

- The Confederation has created a waiting list for adults awaiting ADHD assessments.
- To support these individuals:
    - They are contacted to confirm whether they still wish to proceed with a diagnosis.
    - While waiting, patients are offered support tailored to their needs — most commonly in the areas of housing and financial assistance.

## Group discussions feedback and actions:

**Analog to Digital, Karl Witty - Group Feedback**

Significant good practice has been identified within the sector in relation to digital inclusion. Partner organisations have demonstrated strong engagement in supporting patients who face barriers to accessing digital healthcare. A key example of this work is the involvement in Digital Health Hubs, which provide targeted support to individuals who may struggle with digital tools or services.

Conversations around the use of AI, there are a lot of opportunities as well as challenges. Use AI correctly but it's important we don't ignore the challenges that come with it for example loss of jobs.

**Hospital to Community, Kim Adams, Programme Director, Local Care Partnerships (LCPs)**

Transport, this is something that comes up a lot. It's a huge barrier to a lot of people, mobility, and finance barriers. Spending a lot of money on transport to support

Hospital long term care  back to the community - how do you build a holistic package of support for someone who doesn't know how to navigate that. Hospitals need to be linked with after care, not just with discharge, there needs to be a follow up.

Need for shift of resources - money, people or skills. Ongoing theme around how to strengthen/ build relationships especially with smaller organisations. Thoughts are how we work collectively together.

It's also so important to make sure we do share the good news stories.

**From treatment to prevention, Caroline Schonrock, Partnership Development Manager, Leeds Community Healthcare**

Key challenges remain around how we capture and use existing insights to inform prevention and diagnosis, building on what already works rather than introducing new, untested approaches. The impact of third sector interventions—often preventing deterioration—is not always visible or well understood, leaving some programmes feeling at risk. Transport also remains a key enabler, essential to access and overall system effectiveness.

**Thanks and closing remarks:** - Thank you for all your contributions today. Together, we have the potential to achieve great things, and through our combined efforts, we can keep creating a meaningful impact.

Could we please ask attendees to kindly complete our Meeting feedback form.

# Next Health and Care Leaders meeting:

**Date:** 9th July 2025

**Time:** 9:30 am to 12 pm

**Venue:** ~~Scope Community Hub, 3, Brewery Wharf, Dock St, Leeds LS10 1JF~~

Northpoint, Chadwick Street, Leeds, LS10 1LJ