

Illegal Money Lending and Loan Shark Activity

Stop Loan Sharks (the England Illegal Money Lending Team) is a national organisation that investigates and prosecutes loan sharks and supports borrowers. It works with partner organisations across the country to do this, including local authorities, healthcare providers, charities, debt advisors and many more.

The IMLT was set up in 2004. Since then, it has supported over 32,000 people, successfully prosecuted 424 loan sharks (leading to total jail terms of over 606 years) and written off at least £91.3 million of illegal debt.

Of those supported by the IMLT in the first half of 2024:

- 42% went without food, fuel or missed rent or mortgage payments in order to repay the loan shark
- 26% had used a food bank and 11% had applied for fuel vouchers from their local authority
- 37% borrowed for household bills
- 27% had borrowed specifically for food, fuel, care of young children or clothing for their family – a larger number of clients than in previous years.

In these scenarios, borrowers are likely to be experiencing poor physical and mental health.

The IMLT's work in the Leeds area in recent months has seen two suspected loan sharks arrested. The team has also received additional allegations of loan sharks operating across the city.

For further information on the team's activity and how they can support in Leeds please contact Trish Cassidy [trish.cassidy@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:trish.cassidy@birmingham.gov.uk)

Local Care Partnership (LCP) Dashboard

Attached is a dashboard giving details of the current priorities and areas of focus within the Local Care Partnerships. The plan is to refresh and circulate this quarterly. We will also be introducing a series of Teams sessions, similar to our Introduction to LCPs session, to give an overview of current activity, share some more detailed examples of what is happening and answer any questions.

The dashboard aims to spotlight specific projects that are currently being shaped or implemented in different Local Care Partnerships. Each Local Care Partnership also has regular meetings that are aimed at supporting partners to share local activity and build connections, therefore the topics covered in an LCP meeting could be much wider ranging than those listed on the dashboard.

Please see dashboard below:



LCP Dashboard Q3  
2024.pdf

Community Mental Health Transformation: Citywide Rollout

Community mental health care in Leeds is changing, with all areas of the city set to benefit from early next year. A new model of care and support has been piloted in three areas of Leeds, and original plans had been to extend this further in two distinct waves. But this has now changed, and from February 2025, parts of the new model will roll out citywide.

This means that all areas of Leeds will start to be served by new community teams made up of people from different health, social and voluntary sector organisations. Initial changes will focus on how these teams work together, how patients are triaged, and securing advice and guidance on psychological therapies. Over time, keyworkers will also be introduced so that everyone has a named contact to help them on their journey.

You can find out more by visiting: <https://www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/transforming-community-mental-health-services/>

### Cold Weather Communications

On 1 November, the Cold-Health Alerting system jointly provided by UKHSA and Met Office will go live. As with previous years, stakeholders are advised to sign up to receive the alerts. During alerts, UKHSA will undertake communications at the regional and/or national level to highlight the forecast and the potential impacts on public health.

Visit [Weather-Health Alerting system registration form](#) to sign up to receive the alerts.

The Adverse Weather and Health Plan aims to protect individuals and communities from the health effects of adverse weather and to build community resilience.

To see the plan please visit: [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#)

### Vaccination Programme

The seasonal vaccination programme is underway. UKHSA now publish a weekly update on national flu, covid and other respiratory illnesses.

You can find out more by visiting: [Flu and COVID-19 surveillance report published](#)

The key message is that it is important that those who are eligible get vaccinated as soon as possible, ahead of any winter outbreaks of covid and flu, so that they are protected against serious illness and hospitalisation.

- The booking system for vaccinations are:
  - Flu: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/book-flu-vaccination>
  - Covid: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination>
- For further information on the Flu and Covid vaccination programme please visit: [NHS England » Flu and COVID-19 Seasonal Vaccination Programme: autumn/winter 2024/25](#)
- The booking system for vaccinations is:
  - RSV vaccine: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/rsv-vaccine/>
- For further information on the RSV vaccination programme which is for older adults and pregnant women please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-rsv-vaccination-programme>

### Quit Smoking Campaign

While smoking rates have declined in recent years, over 5 million people in England still smoke and smoking remains the single biggest preventable cause of preventable ill health and death. Data shows that using willpower alone remains the most common approach to quitting smoking, despite being proven to be the least effective and so this campaign signposts people to the free Leeds Stop Smoking Service. Key messages are:

- With the average smoker spending nearly £3,000 a year on cigarettes, there's never been a better time to quit.
- Cigarettes are the number one preventable cause of death and disease in the UK. When you stop the many health benefits will happen faster than you think.
- It's never too late to stop smoking, and with the right support you're up to three times more likely to quit for good.

Information about the free support in Leeds is available by phoning 0800 169 4219.