



CommUNity

In December we were delighted to launch a new film in celebration of the [CommUNity project](#). CommUNity, our Community Campus Partnership for Health, was established in 2013 to promote collaboration and engagement between our university and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations and the communities they work with around Leeds.

This ground-breaking initiative from the School aims to find new, more effective ways to improve health and reduce health inequalities in local communities. The team work collaboratively across academic disciplines and with community partners, opening up opportunities to share learning and expertise, widen participation in higher education, and to create opportunities for students and research. The film marks seven years of community partnership work through the voices of the people involved.

Keeping Global Connections Active

During a time when we cannot travel to countries where we have international partnerships, it is imperative to keep connections active and to show support during uncertain times. The Psychological Therapies and Mental Health team have an active international partnership with the [Chicago School of Professional Psychology](#) (Washington Campus), which saw the team host a visit from 3 Professors for a teaching week across undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The intention was for this to be reciprocated with 2 staff spending a fortnight in Washington to teach and present research.

The global situation unfortunately led to the reciprocal visit being cancelled however, in October 2020, 5 Leeds Beckett staff participated in Chicago School of Professional Psychology's Mental Health Awareness virtual conference. [Valerie Fletcher](#), [Paul Nicholson](#), [Vivien Sabel](#), [Dr John Hills](#) and [Dr Tom Matthews](#) each presented keynote papers as part of the proceedings throughout the month of October to an audience of Postgraduate students on programmes from across the partners 6 campuses in all major USA cities.

The team are hoping to be able to meet again in person in 2021 and extend the teaching partnership to include student study visits. Subject to circumstances, the team will be hosting a 2-week study visit in December 2021 on the theme of Psychosocial and Mental Health of Refugees.

Play Bradford

Eccleshill Adventure playground, founded by [Ali Long](#) and [Mike Wragg](#) of the Childhood Development and Playwork Course team in the early 2000s, has recently re-launched as Play Bradford in response to its growing success.



The charity, which has provided countless placement opportunities for our students over the last 15 years, is managed by alumna, Janet Jewitt, and provides free play opportunities for thousands of children each year. In these challenging times it has expanded its services to be of evermore vital support to the local community.

The People's Health Trust, a major funding partner of Play Bradford, recently featured the project in a [news article](#) and you can also find out more in the [Play Bradford blog](#).

HCS Alumna Runs Campaign for Covid-19 Bereavement Support

Recent PG Counselling alumna, [Kathryn de Prudhoe](#), has been campaigning for the group [COVID-19 Bereaved Families for Justice](#) and called on the government to fund bereavement support services. Kathryn, who is from Leeds, lost her father to COVID-19 in April. During his passing, her mother was in isolation and was therefore alone.

Kathryn's campaigning has seen her feature on national BBC news and newspapers calling for urgent investment into specific mental health support for those who have been bereaved as a result of COVID-19. The campaign also seeks investment in COVID-19 trauma and bereavement training for professionals and volunteers such as HR professionals, teachers, medical professionals, social workers, care workers and befrienders – who are also key to our country's effort to support people bereaved by COVID-19.

Find out more about this work in a [post](#) she wrote for our [school blog](#).

LS26 School Uniform Scheme

Alice Hennigan, a second-year student on the BSc (Hons) Social Care Justice and Recovery course, has undertaken amazing work to collect and distribute donations of outgrown, good condition school uniform to children in the local area.



Pictured is Alice and her daughter Delores.

Uniform can be expensive and, during the pandemic when many are out of work, Alice's aim was to bridge the gap between those that have and those that need. In order to do this, Alice started a Facebook page asking for donations of uniform in good, useable condition, items with minor damage were repaired and all uniform was washed and ironed.

She set up a collection point at her home, one in a community hall, and a third in the local supermarket. There was a large volume of uniform donated for the 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in the local area which was then organised into boxes depending on size, colour, school logo and item.

Alice was allocated a space in a local community hall to distribute the uniform, with people attending the scheme encouraged to take what they need. There are no stipulations about how much can be taken or how often they visit, and no requirements to prove that they are in greater need than others. The hall also hosts the community food bank and baby bank, allowing people to utilise all these services in one trip if needed.

The scheme was so successful over summer 2020 that it now runs on a monthly basis and over weekends. The scheme has been featured on BBC Radio Leeds and in the Yorkshire Evening post. Read more about Alice's scheme and how you can get involved on the [Facebook page](#).

Leeds ACTS! Dementia Online Workshops

Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity and the University of Leeds came together with third sector representatives to discuss challenges in dementia care and to seek opportunities for collaboration.

3 workshops took place over November and December 2020 on a number of different topics relating to Dementia, with input from multiple speakers. [Follow the project on twitter](#) to find out more.

The Valley Project

[The Valley Project](#), based in Bradford, is the UK's youngest adventure playground; having grown from grassroots over the last 2 years. The project offers opportunities for children and young people to play in a safe outdoor environment. The project aims to tackle inequalities and social isolation faced by children and young people growing up in the Holmewood area of Bradford.

The Valley Project is made up of LBU alumni and has been a huge support to our students through their willingness to provide placements, guest lectures and offering support to the authentic learning tasks that students undertake. As the project has grown, several Health and Community Studies students have benefitted from excellent opportunities, including paid employment.



Currently, two students are being supported through a final year assessment and a number of students have been successful in raising funds to enable the charity to purchase much needed resources for the children and site.

The Valley Project team have continued their work throughout the pandemic to find creative ways to continue to support their community through the distribution of hundreds of 'boredom busters', 'isolation packs' and food parcels.



MA Integrative Counselling

The Psychological Therapies and Mental Health group have recently launched a new validated Masters course.

This was in response to applicant demand for a full-time award that enables them to access PH loan funding and provides a professionally accredited qualification (BACP) that adds value to the status of a Therapeutic Counsellor. [Read more](#) about the course which will welcome its first intake in September 2021.

Evaluating Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) in Leeds

[The Centre for Health Promotion Research](#) recently hosted two learning events with 'Community Builders'. The Centre are evaluating [Asset-Based Community Development \(ABCD\)](#) for Leeds City Council – a pioneering approach that supports neighbourhoods to thrive by focusing on "what is strong, not on what is wrong".

ABCD currently operates in 14 neighbourhoods across the city. Community Builders are employed to identify people's skills and talents, and to build connections between them. They identify local assets and support people in bringing about the changes that are important to them. Key outcomes include people having good friends, and individuals and communities being better connected.

The learning events saw researchers and participants discuss findings from an initial evaluation together to confirm, challenge or develop them, before conclusions or recommendations are made. The events had to be held virtually, instead of at a community centre as originally planned, however 21 people attended from across Leeds, enthusiastically sharing their thoughts and experiences.

The evaluation aims to assess the impact of the programme, build an evidence base for ABCD and provide recommendations for future practice.

Centre for Health Promotion Research (CHPR)

[The Centre for Health Promotion Research](#) have been working on a number of different projects and initiatives.

[Dr Louise Warwick-Booth](#) has secured funding from Leeds City Council and ForumCentral to lead a 9-month evaluation to examine the impact of local Leeds responses to COVID-19.

[Professor Anne-Marie Bagnell](#) gave a presentation at the Healthy City Design Conference in November on a jointly funded project which was led for LBU by

Finally, [Professor Mark Gamsu](#) gave an invited presentation for a WHO Europe event in November on the role of community organisations in the pandemic response.

Publication News

The team have been working hard conducting research and have had a number of papers accepted for publication:

[Dr Rachael Kelly](#), [Professor Claire Surr](#), [Sarah Smith](#) and [Alys Griffiths](#) all had papers published in November by the Centre for Dementia Research. Claire also had further paper publication in January 2021 on dementia education and training and masculine identity through sports-based reminiscence.

[Dr Darren Hill](#) and [Dr Erika Laredo](#) have recently published in the European Journal of Social work; their paper explores the concept of radical kindness in community social work practice. The research was a dual site ethnography based in statutory and voluntary sector social work services.

[Dr James Woodall](#) had 2 papers published regarding Prison healthcare, one of these with Charlotte Freeman, and a third paper published on COVID-19 and the role of health promoters and educators. James also had further papers around health promotion published in December 2020 and January 2021.

[Anne-Marie Bagnall](#) co-authored a paper on befriending older adults in nursing homes.

[Alys Griffiths](#) co-authored a paper on relational counselling as a psychosocial intervention for Dementia.

[Dr Rachael Kelly](#) and colleagues from the Centre for Dementia research recently had one of their papers chosen to feature in a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) alert. The paper and the alert focuses on the support care home managers need when care improvement interventions are being implemented in care homes. [You can access the alert here](#) and [read a blog about it here](#).

School blog

Keep up to date with all the news by reading blogs written by staff and students within the School: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/school-of-hcs/