

BASIS

We know this is tough time for sex workers, we aim to support in whichever way is needed and stay in touch as much as possible, prioritizing those at high risk.

Staying in touch with Basis:

- Tel: 0113 - 243 0036 (the office is now closed for the time being but phone is answered)
- Get in touch via Facebook (@BasisYorkshire1) and Twitter (@BasisSexWork) or our live chat on our website (basisyorkshire.org.uk/sex-work-project/).
- We have extra mobile phones for those who need it - please ask if you do!

Evening Outreach:

We no longer offer outreach for the time being. If you are in need or know of anyone please get in touch via our office phone, case worker phone numbers, our social media accounts and/or netreach. The Police team are also still operational and our team are on phone standby during usual outreach hours for any support required.

Drop In:

- Cancelled until further notice
- Home visits, telephone, online support ongoing but focus on critical/emergency support areas only

Sexual Health:

- **All walk-in clinics** at Leeds Sexual Health **suspended**. If you can't reach Basis, speak to Sexual Health Team on 0113 392 0333. They will assess you over phone & if appropriate bring you into clinic for treatment/meds. If you need to speak to someone and can't get through please call your support worker at Basis or contact us through the above means.

Support for people who use substances:

Forward Leeds: 0113 887 2477

- Face-to-face appointments are only happening for **prescribing** to those that are 'well', but not for those identified as high risk/showing symptoms.
- Assessments are being done over the phone. Longer waits for new starts/re-starts. **York Street may also offer starts/re-start services.**
- Prescription collection frequency will be reduced (for example from daily to 3 times/week)
- Groups have been cancelled and alternatives are being looked at.
- Online AA and NA meetings run daily
- SMART recovery also has a timetable of online meetings.

For more info: **Forward Leeds** contact details: **0113 887 2477** or info@forwardleeds.co.uk.

SWARM Hardship fund for sex workers who are struggling (@sexworkhive). We can help you access this - please get in touch or email: contact@swarmcollective.org

Utilities:

Please contact us as soon as possible if you have a pre-paid energy system and think you might struggle to pay; we can help. The government is also considering stopping energy companies cutting people off from their energy supply due to non-payment. Please contact your supplier (or we can help you do this).



Rent Advice

The government are bringing forward emergency legislation to **protect** social or private **renters** from **eviction**. **Housing associations** will **not** evict tenants who are affected by the virus and fall behind on rent payments.

Foodbanks: PLEASE NOTE THIS IS SUBJECT TO CONSTANT CHANGE

- Systems for delivering food parcels are being created
- **6 South** and **East** Foodbanks **closed**: Hunslet Methodist Church; Rothwell Fire Station; St John and St Barnabas Church, Belle Isle; St Cyprians Church, Harehills; St Andrews Church, Beeston; Driglington Methodist Church
- **5 South** and **East Foodbanks mostly open**: 4 Square Church, Osmondthorpe; St Pauls Church, Morley; St Richards Church, Seacroft; Church of the Epiphany, Gipton; St Cross Church, Middleton
- Leeds North and West Foodbank remain **open** at all 9 outlets (Bramley now closed)
- **Other foodbanks**: Holbeck Foodbank is delivering
 - Bramley Foodbank is **temporarily closed**
 - Haworth Wood centre moved from YMCA to St Mary's CoE Church in Haworth
- **Other services**: **St Vincents** has reduced staff - please call ahead when collecting food parcel; **St George's Crypt, Armley shop** - still doing food parcels; **St George's Crypt** and **Lighthouse** stopped serving lunchtime food; **Street Kitchens** circulating city rather than staying in one place. **Leeds Homeless Street Angels** not in operation because of ill health but will be back soon; Food can be got from **Neruka's Soup Kitchen, Gledhow Road, Harehills** (Wed & Fri) and **Streetwise at Life Church on Kirkstall Road** will be handing out food and hot/cold drinks on door (Thursday 7pm)

Check Leeds Food Aid Network for more info.

Hostels/Homeless Accommodation

- St George's Crypt - core services still open (no lunch served)
- St Anne's
 - Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub has **closed as of 25/03**.
 - Resource Centre - food being packed to take away, clients supported to access services they need like showers/mail/laundry etc
 - Access to support services like housing/social justice provided over phone/email

Domestic violence - Leeds Domestic Violence services and Women's Aid

- Dropins at GPs and other locations are temporarily suspended
- Refuges remain open
- 24/6 helpline open (0113 246 0401)

Mental Health support services:

Touchstone:

- Face to face where possible, along with smaller groups and online or phone support
- Email: covid19@touchstonesupport.org.uk

Dial House: All moved to phone support as of 19/3/2020

Well-Bean Crisis Cafes: Still function but not for people with symptoms as of 17/03/2020

For both these services check: <https://www.lslcs.org.uk/services/>

- **Leeds Mind Support** incl. crisis helplines: <https://www.leedsmind.org.uk/emergency-contacts/>
For more support services for anxiety, OCD, panic disorder and other mental health issues during this time visit MIND website or contact Basis for pointers to helplines

Coronavirus and Benefits

- Temporary suspension of face-to-face assessments for health and disability-related benefits (but taking new claims)
- No need to attend arranged appointments about benefits, an assessment provider will contact you
- For PIP, ESA, Universal Credit etc claims you will be contacted by phone or letter with next steps. If already receiving PIP, ESA, Universal Credit etc you will get payments as normal
- If you have a jobcentre appointment but are staying at home on Government advice, you will not be sanctioned if you tell DWP in good time.
- If you are staying at home because of coronavirus, your work search and availability requirements will be removed for period of sickness
- If you're claiming UC and think you may have been affected by coronavirus, contact your work coach through online journal or UC helpline.
- If you are self-employed and claiming Universal Credit, and are required to stay at home or are ill as a result of coronavirus, the Minimum Income Floor (an assumed level of income) will not be applied for a period of time whilst you are affected.
- If you need to claim UC or ESA because of coronavirus, you will not be required to produce a Fit Note.
- If you are suffering from coronavirus or are required to stay at home and want to apply for ESA, the usual 7 waiting days for new claimants will not apply. ESA will be payable from day one.

If you need help with working out your Benefits during this time, contact your support worker at Basis.



0113 243 0036



www.basisyorkshire.org.uk/
sex-work-project



@BasisSexWork