



UK LEAPP Alliance Update, Dec 2024

LEAPP Alliance



Two emails from Tim Pye, LEAPP Alliance - Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention Alliance - A joint initiative of the Lead Containing Materials Association and Lead Safe World UK, December 2024

To: Supporters of the LEAPP Alliance

There are many opportunities to progress lead poisoning prevention. Most pass by unrealised. If you are willing and able to help decide which are most useful, and especially if you are able to progress them, then please let me know.

With very best wishes for Christmas and a lead-safe 2025.

ILPPWA 2024 - WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA)

We held an open meeting during ILPPWA 2024. The main parts of the discussion were on the proposed ban on lead-shot for outdoor use and lead in drinking water. I had hoped we could identify some specific actions, but we need to work more on this.

Communications

Financial Times

Laura Hughes has continued her series of articles regarding lead hazards from old mines "[England's environment watchdog told to review risk from lead mines](#)". You may need to sign-up to their £1 trial to read this article.

Healthy Homes Hub

I have been in contact with Jenny Danson of the Healthy Homes Hub - a new enterprise that focuses on making housing healthier. Outputs from this are a [podcast](#) and an [article](#).

Unchecked UK

I had a useful discussion with [Unchecked UK](#). They focus on maintaining and improving regulations and the politics of making it happen. I have not taken it forward, but they may be a route for sharing warnings about lead hazards.

ASIA

ASIA is the Advanced Study Institute of Asia. They are doing a lot of work on [lead poisoning prevention in southern Asia](#). I presented on the work of the LEAPP Alliance during their



[ILPPWA 2024 online event.](#)

Ayanay Psychological Accreditation (APA) <https://ayanay.co.uk/>

I did record an interview with APA, but it does not seem to be on their YouTube channel yet.

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) <https://www.rsc.org/>

Our article called "*Should we still worry about lead*" is now ready for publication. There was an RSC committee meeting recently. I hoped it would be discussed, but I have not heard.

Government

Webpages

New [UK Health Security Agency webpages](#) have been published. This release is very welcome, but I think the content needs some improvement. I am going review the pages and will feedback to the author.

LEPHIS

The Lead Exposure, Public Health Interventions and Surveillance Steering Group met on 1st October. The minutes are confidential, but I will ask for permission to share some highlights once some corrections I requested have been included.

LEICSS

The [Lead Exposure In Children Surveillance System report on 2023](#) data has been published. This is, of course, a passive reporting system when health care professionals recognise the potential for lead exposure. Some highlights:

- 226 child (under 16 years) cases of blood lead concentration (BLC) above 5 µg Pb/dL blood were reported. This is an 18% increase over 2022
- Again, more cases are reported from Yorkshire and the Humber. (This is thought to be because clinicians are prompted to recommend a blood lead test when anaemia is identified.)
- The following sources were identified, in order of prevalence - soil, paint, imported spices/food, traditional medicines and herbal remedies, imported utensils, ceramic pottery and pewter
- Most cases exhibited pica and learning difficulties
- Using studies in France and the USA it is estimated that there are 64,780 children aged 1-4 with BLC > 5 µg /dL. (This would equate to 292,000 aged up to 19 - The WHO definition of a child)
- A summary of the [West Midlands shooting range incident](#) is included. The highest BLC was 242 µg/dL. 15 people received chelation therapy

ECLIPS

The [Elevated Childhood Lead Interagency Prevalence Study](#) pilot will start in January. I have been doing pre-work on engaging with community groups in Leeds. I have been told that the project was chosen as one of only 36 successful applications out of about 900.

HSE Lead Shot

The Health & Safety Executive consultation on the use of lead shot in outdoor shooting



remains incomplete - according to the [HSE Annual Reports and Accounts 2023/24](#).

DEFRA leaflet

The [DEFRA leaflet on decorating safely](#) remains "withdrawn" because it was out of date. Tim Farron MP asked about this and was "shocked" by the response from DEFRA which was "it is out of date". I have also asked Greg Smith MP to ask about this.

Water

WaterSafe are campaigning to [end the use of lead solder in](#) plumbing which is great.

[Water2](#) are marketing an under-sink water filter. The company is part-owned by Bear Grylls who produced [this video](#) which includes mention of the UNICEF "Toxic Truth" report on lead exposure (see time point 0:36). We have reached out to them to try to form an affiliation, but without any response.

I had a very useful conversation about sampling protocols with Dr Colin Hayes whom, I think, developed, or researched, orthophosphate dosing. The most important thing I learned was that water company testing aims to check that water treatment is working as it should, i.e. it is about what is under the water companies' control and not what is under the customer's control. He also explained that testing for lead contamination at the kitchen tap should be sequential because the lead pipe might be upstream and including in a shared supply. I therefore do not intend to continue to press the Drinking Water Inspectorate about sampling protocols.

Social Media

When there is something I think is worth sharing, I continue to post on the following social media channels:

Facebook

Groups

[Lead poisoning support group](#)

[UK Lead Safe Mamas](#)

Pages

[LEAPP Alliance](#)

[Lead Safe World UK](#)

Linked In

[Tim Pye](#)

[LEAPP Alliance](#)

X/Twitter

[LEAPP Alliance \(Shared with Lee Crawford\)](#)

Bluesky

[LEAPP Alliance](#)



Sent: Monday, 30 December 2024

Great article by Laura Hughes in the Financial Times. Online today. Print edition tomorrow. Several LEAPP Alliance allies are quoted.

'A timebomb': fears for children being poisoned by lead paint in UK homes

Lack of routine testing means thousands of youngsters could be suffering from effects, say experts.

<https://www.ft.com/content/eof09d7f-5f05-4902-8778-coee7a13cbcd>
