LEAPP Alliance 2026 ILPPWA Report

Report to The LEAD Group Inc Annual General Meeting (AGM) held during International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) 2026, slides and report by Tim Pye (TP), LEAPP Alliance, United Kingdom, with narrative from the AGM Minutes, taken by Eric Ritter (LEAD Group Secretary and Founder of DetectLead Kits, Fluoro-Spec), Oct 29th 2026.



Supporters: LEAPP now has 143 supporters. Close to half are householders (parents of lead-poisoned children and others worried about lead in their homes), with the rest including researchers, advocates, service providers, health care professionals, journalists and politicians. Most endorse the work rather than taking an active part.

Role	Count
Advocate	22
Health Care Professional	4
Householder	64
Journalist	3
Politician	2
Researcher	30
Service provider	18
Grand Total	**143**



Funding and staff: £70,000 from Coefficient Giving this year pays for a Policy and Advocacy Manager, a post held by Niamh O'Regan (pictured at right) from June to August and by Dr Monisha Gupta (pictured at left) for the rest of the year. Administration is outsourced: Social Change Nest provides fiscal hosting and Social Change Hive takes on the employer responsibilities, which also takes some liability off the committee.





This week LEAPP held a briefing in Parliament for MPs and peers. Everyone who attended went home with a "party bag" containing a free Fluoro-Spec DetectLead lead test kit, and Tim Pye thanked Eric Ritter for supplying the kits. LEAPP now has the attendees' contact details. It was a morning drop-in briefing open to anyone. About 10 people were expected and 16 came, including six MPs, a baroness and a number of staffers - the staffers are the people to reach. Security is very tight, and the DetectLead kits had to go through an off-site screening centre rather than the front door.

LEAPP had a good meeting with the Northern Ireland Department of Health, which was interested but has limited resources.

The ECLIPS pilot of at-home finger-prick blood sampling has finished. The results are being written up and are likely to be reported early next year.

The UK National Screening Committee decided against screening children for lead in 2018. This year LEAPP submitted a proposal for targeted screening of the children most at risk, using markers such as old housing and deprivation.

Dr Simon Reddy's local work on lead-safe drinking water in schools led the National Education Union to produce guidance on lead in school water pipes.

Tim attended the second annual research conference on global lead exposure in London and a workshop on lead and health with Professor Seif Shaheen of Queen Mary University. He described research using the Bradford cohort showing effects of maternal lead on children, including cognition, below 1 microgram per decilitre.

New UK services include the Fellowship of Lead Paint Assessors and the Lead Aware dust and paint analysis service. LEAPP is in talks with the campaigning law firm Leigh Day about a specialist practice for lead exposure cases. Parents Against Lead (PALs) is a private Facebook group where parents can talk confidentially.

LEAPP persuaded the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to include lead hazards in its standard home survey when a house is sold, although only about 20% of surveys are done to that standard.



Government: most replies to LEAPP's open letter to the health ministers of the devolved nations pointed to the National Screening Committee. Sharon Hodgson MP, (pictured at left). Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention, made the statement that it is "unacceptable that, in this day and age, anyone falls ill due to lead poisoning", and a Ellie Reeves MP (pictured at right) made comments recognising the importance of LEAPP's awareness work. DEFRA plans new guidance on decorating safely and has published a report on the risks from abandoned metal mines and smelters. The Department of Health and Social Care gave a figure of 6% of UK children above the intervention level, which LEAPP does not accept, but acknowledged possible harm below it. The UK intervention level is 5 micrograms per decilitre. The Welsh Affairs Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Wales.



The Health and Safety Executive has proposed lowering the blood lead levels allowed for workers, especially women of reproductive age, and some industries are pushing back. Legislation to ban some lead ammunition has come into force, and evidence that lead shot is found in the natural environment fed into the consultation.

Who¤	How·Many¤
Laura·Hughes¤	8¤
Other·news·outlets¤	9¤
Researchers¤	3¤
Politicians¤	1¤
Our·associate¤	4¤

News media: there were 26 UK articles on lead exposure and poisoning this year, the largest share by Laura Hughes, the campaigning Financial Times journalist, who also made the three-part podcast "Toxic Legacy".

Ruth Jones MP had an article on lead screening published on LabourList. All are listed at https://leappalliance.org.uk/news/.

Objectives: targeted screening of children; lead in home risk assessments, including extending the Energy Performance Certificate into a wider home hazard assessment covering lead, asbestos, damp and electrical problems; more public information campaigns, especially leaflets in paint and DIY stores; and "William's Law", campaigned for by Sophie Bradley (see https://www.instagram.com/p/DeeQ7V5OpeT/) and named after her son, so that no child with pica lives in a home with lead hazards.

Tactics: news media, two documentary makers, more social media, MPs tabling parliamentary questions, forming an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on lead, writing to ministers, and a possible Westminster Hall debate.

This photo (at right) is from Tuesday's briefing with Sophie Bradley, Ruth Jones MP (who chairs the Welsh Affairs Committee) holding a LEAPP Alliance leaflet and Tim Pye of LEAPP Alliance. The UK Health Security Agency has prioritised a project looking into lead exposure and poisoning in the UK.



Tim Pye summed up the year as a lot of movement forward, but nothing "in the back of the net" yet. Elizabeth O'Brien said LEAPP is doing fantastically well!