



UK LEAPP Alliance Monthly Report to Supporters

By Tim Pye, Co-Founder, Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention (LEAPP) Alliance - A joint initiative of the Lead Containing Materials Association, Lead In The Water and Lead Safe World UK, 8th April 2026



Here is what has been happening in lead poisoning prevention in the United Kingdom since my last report.

Highlights

- We may be able to get some funding.
- Legislation to ban poisonous lead ammunition came into force 1 April 2026, but it is not that simple.
- Initial tests find lead in children's fast-fashion clothing.
- Vote for "[Lead - How this story ends is up to us](#)" at the Webby Awards. Currently in 3rd place.
- The 'Just Stop Lead' petition regarding Innospec has been rejected.
- There was a girl in hospital in Hull with lead poisoning.

Status

LEAPP Alliance CIC and Funding

Aveek Bhattacharya of Coefficient Giving has possibly found some funding for the LEAPP Alliance. Coefficient Giving run the Lead Exposure Action Fund which has raised about \$104 million and intends to distribute this by the end of 2027. They have already made grants of \$60 million. To take advantage of this opportunity, the best option seems to be to setup a Community Interest Company (CIC). This would be a legal entity, like a limited company, but all assets must be used for the benefit of the community. Unlike a charity, a CIC cannot claim Gift Aid, but is quicker to setup.

This would be a big change for the LEAPP Alliance, but something we have been talking about. I will draft a proposal about how this could work. I will be looking for a board of volunteer directors.



Numbers

The LEAPP Alliance currently has 136 supporters who have completed our endorsement form. Some, whose emails are now invalid, have been removed from the list.

Our social media presence is small, but growing.

Platform	Content	Name	Called	Number
Facebook	Page	LEAPP Alliance #	Followers	104
	Page	Lead Safe World #	Followers	118
	Public Group	LEAPP Alliance #	Members	7
	Public Group	Lead Safe World #	Members	6
	Private Group	Parents Against Lead (PALs)	Members	26
	Private Group	UK & Ireland Lead Safe Mamas (& Friends) *	Members	163
Linked In	Page	Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention Alliance	Followers	150
Bluesky	Account	LEAPP Alliance	Followers	26
Instagram	Account	LEAPP Alliance	Followers	54

I would like to merge Lead Safe World UK into the LEAPP Alliance page and group, but have not yet worked out how.

* UK & Ireland Lead Safe Mamas (& Friends) is not run by us.

Campaigns

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

The WWT are celebrating the introduction of the ban on lead ammunition that came into force on 1st April - [Time is almost up for toxic lead ammunition](#). This a good step forward, but I think the legislation does not apply yet and is full of holes - see below.

Just Stop Lead

I reported last month that Piotr (Pete) Farbiszewski had created a [petition](#) asking the UK Government to ban the production of TEL at Innospec. The petition was rejected because it asks for Innospec to make a change and the government are not responsible for Innospec. It would seem the petition needs to be redrafted.



Lead: How this story ends is up to us

This audio docudrama, based in New York, has already won some awards - see <https://endleadpoisoning.org/>. They are now inviting support for their Webby awards bid. You can find the voting page [here](#). Voting is open until Thursday, April 16th.

News Media

There is a paywall at the links to some of these articles. News media need to earn some money from their work.

BBC Hull and East Yorkshire

["Toddler poisoned by lead paint, mum warns"](#), Stuart Harratt, 18th March 2026.

This is why we do what we do. Samantha Hoodlass's daughter Myah was admitted to hospital and eventually diagnosed with lead poisoning. Samantha admitted "I didn't know anything about lead paint". Why should she? The warnings are just too quiet. We need to get the warnings amplified to prevent this happening to yet more children.

Daily Mail

["Unsafe levels of cancer and autism-linked toxin discovered in popular 'fast fashion' clothing brands"](#), Luke Andrews, 23rd March 2026.

Lead was detected in all 11 samples in this small undergraduate study. This was at levels exceeding 100 ppm. It is suspected that lead acetate is used to bind colours. Simulated stomach-digestion showed that chewing the fabric could cause dangerous exposure. This was done in Indiana, USA, but on clothes from global brands such as H&M, Shein and Zara so could apply in the UK as well.

Financial Times

["On lead, Britain is the laggard of the developed world"](#), Aveek Bhattacharya, 2nd March 2026

This article discusses how British authorities are dangerously complacent when it comes to lead especially in the context of our old building stock and industrial history. Dr Bhattacharya is a LEAPP Alliance supporter.

Financial Times

["Letter: Why ending lead pollution is no longer a pipe dream"](#), Professor Peter Calow, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 10th March 2026

Professor Calow wrote this letter in response to Aveek's article. He agrees with Aveek's points and emphasises the issue of lead pipes. He estimates that 8-9 million UK homes are affected and that it will cost about £10,000 to replace the lead pipes in each. This cost will often be borne by homeowners, but the impacts of lower IQ on employability and crime cost more than the cost of remediation.



ENDS Report

There is some bad news from the EU. "[Commission abandons plan to restrict lead bullets after member state backlash](#)".

BBC

I have continued to communicate with Harriett Bradshaw, environmental camera journalist, at the BBC both directly and via the UK Health Security Agency. It is likely that the news hook will be the outcome of the ECLIPS pilot. So, nothing yet. I am also following up with other documentary producers at the BBC and two independent companies.

Consumer Reports

"[What Home Lead Test Kits Can Tell You and What They Can't](#)", Lauren Kirchner, 1st April 2026.

Consumer Reports in the USA seems to be the equivalent of Which? in the UK. This article reports on test of DIY lead paint test kits. I have not seen all of them for sale in the UK and they did not include Scitus swabs or Fluorospec UV light tests. They found that all kits, except one, detected lead at 10,000 and 1,000 ppm, but none at 100 ppm. The definition of lead paint is > 90 ppm and these cannot be used to detect lead down to that level. My view is that lead is everywhere, all analysis methods, including labs, have limitations and we just have to do the best we can to reduce risk within the limitations of time and money. We just have to be aware of the limitation of the tests - the results are lead a) detected, or b) too little lead to detect.

Government

Lead ammunition ban

I mentioned above that the ban on lead ammunition was reported by the WWT and others. I have tried to navigate the labyrinth of legislation and announcements. There was a government announcement last July "[Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain's countryside](#)". The announcement refers to "[UK REACH restriction for lead in ammunition, 27 June 2025](#)". This links to "[Restriction decision: lead in ammunition](#)" and "[Draft amendment for lead in ammunition restriction](#)". There are two spreadsheets found under "[Restrictions under REACH](#)". The current list of restrictions does not include the word "ammunition", but this does appear in the registry of restriction intentions as "*Use of lead in ammunition (projectiles) in all habitats. Military and non-civilian use of lead ammunition is excluded. Primers are excluded*". However, this has the latest update as 13th December 2024, but does say "Opinion adopted". None of these documents mention 1st April 2026.

What I have found is an announcement "[UK REACH restriction on lead in ammunition: outdoor shooting ranges](#)" and "[REACH \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#)". The key points are:

- lead and its compounds must not be used or placed on the market after 1 April 2029
- in a concentration equal to or greater than 1% by weight in shot, 3% in bullets.



Although this regulation has come into force, it does not start to apply until 2028 and only fully in place in 2029.

Let's have a look at the holes in the legislation and the restriction decision from Emma Hardy MP on 27th June 2025.

The decision does not apply to Police, Military, Government Security Services, Private Maritime Security Companies and Border Force - they can carry on poisoning themselves and others.

- Elite athletes can use lead ammunition - I suppose this is to comply with the IOC requirements. A ban was suggested in [The Conversation](#) and elsewhere.

- Indoor shooting is exempted apart from with shot - We seem to care more about wildlife than humans. Remember ["Walsall firing range staff treated for lead poisoning"](#).

- The ban does not apply to bullets intended for indoor use but then sold for outdoor target shooting - so that is no restriction on bullets at all.

- The restriction on 3% lead in projectiles other than shot does not apply to:

- small bullets used for live quarry shooting or

- indoor target shooting or

- at an outdoor shooting range

- Still plenty of lead can legally be put into the environment. I think outdoor shooting ranges includes clays as well as targets.

- There is a labelling requirement for projectiles with a calibre of more than 6.17 mm saying "Must not be used for live quarry shooting" - I wonder if that will be respected?

- Lead ammunition with less than 1% for shot and 3% for bullets is still allowed - a typical shotgun pellet weights 0.06 g, so at 1% this is still 600 µg lead. That is many times the FDA child intake reference weight of 2.2 µg so best not swallowed.

- There is no ban on airgun pellets made of lead - What! Why not?

The basic fact is that it seems that lead shot will be banned from use, indoor and outdoor, from 1st April 2029. This has got to be a good thing, but the term "too little, too late" comes to mind.

Open Letter to Ministers

Lee Crawford has forwarded a response from Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care in the Scottish Government, in response to the open letter sent to health ministers in all four UK nations.





The response is more extensive than those received from Wales and Northern Ireland. This also defers to the National Screening Committee but has some other information. This includes the Lead in Children Scotland (LiCS) surveillance system. This is a passive system, like LEICSS (United Kingdom Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System), and started in January this year, but will analyse data from 2015 to 2024. The letter also discusses the management of elevated lead levels in drinking water and the consultation that I shared earlier.

I don't think we have yet had a response from Wes Streeting or anyone in the Department of Health and Social Care.

Awaab's Law

I wanted to see if we could get lead hazards included in Awaab's Law. On further investigation I found that it is already there in phase 3. This is when all remaining HHSRS hazards will be addressed. The implementation timeline is October 2027.

UK Health Security Agency

Simon Reddy asked the South West Health Protection Team (HPT) in the UKHSA for a response to his findings regarding safe drinking water in Torbay schools. The response acknowledged that lead exposure in children is an important and under-reported public health problem and that they are raising awareness with clinicians and health professionals. They refer to the UKHSA webpages - I wonder how many GPs go looking for them. Simon has now asked for more information including evidence of potability and wholesomeness, data from Torbay schools, their view on the impact on food safety, and in what ways the HPT are supporting Torbay Council. Great persistence by Simon - what is true in Torbay may well be the same across the country.

Research

If I reported on all the new research I see each month related to lead toxicity this would be a long update! I think it is correct to say that lead continues to be the most researched environmental toxicant. Here are a couple of items.

ECLIPS

The ECLIPS project pilot in Leeds continues to progress. About 500 blood lead sampling kits have now been distributed. This will be followed by invitations for participation via posters in clinical settings. See more on the [website](#).

Lead-Attributable Cardiovascular Disease Burden

This study is titled "[Lead-Attributable Cardiovascular Disease Burden: Global Burden of Disease Study 2023](#)" (Stanaway et al, 2026). It is important because of the quantity of data points, n=42,028. It was found that 3.5 million deaths globally in 2023 could be attributable to lead exposure (5.8% of all deaths) and that lead is the second leading environmental risk (it does not say what #1 is). They concluded "*Cumulative lead exposure remains a major, preventable contributor to global CVD mortality. Strengthened surveillance, regulation, and remediation are urgently required to reduce*



the lead-attributable burden." Too right!

Actions

Here is my do/doing/done list from last month with updates in bold.

- Respond to requests for help or advice from individuals as they arise and send test or sampling kits if appropriate - ongoing
- Arrange to speak to construction companies at Croydon College - done, waiting to hear
- Work with television producers - ongoing
- Investigate the emerging healthy homes standards - to do
- Try to find out if lead hazards could be included in Awaab's law - done
- Try Lauren's HTML on our website hosting platform- to do
- Continue to support the ECLIPS project - ongoing
- Ask the Residential Property Surveyors Association if they will follow RICS and include lead risk-assessments in their standard - done no response yet
- Ask the Law Society again about including lead hazards in standard forms completed by vendors on sale of homes - done no response yet
- Keep telling Chris Packham that he should help us because he knows lead is toxic and is linked to the conditions he covered in his "Our ... minds" television series - ongoing
- Write a proposal for a funded LEAPP Alliance CIC
- Encourage LEAPP Alliance supporters to enter [Volcano Art Prize](#) by 27 July 2026

If anyone wants to pick up any of these tasks, or contribute to the LEAPP Alliance in other ways, then please let me know.



2025 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Photographer: Tim Pye. Title: Lead is a crime. Lead-Safety Message: There is no lead on this roof. Not because of toxicity concerns but because lead might get stolen. Lead increases criminality and the lead flashing on a roof provides the opportunity for crime. Description of Work: Photograph of a sign on a wall.

<https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/lead-is-a-crime/>

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