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LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND

Official Conference Newspaper

2019

# Building Alliances: Working Together



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## Welcome to the Learning Disability England conference

The theme of the conference is **Building Alliances**

To us that means people working together to achieve shared goals.

Some of the great work people are doing together is being shared at the conference. There are examples of how disabled people, family members, organisations and their staff are working together to learn, lead change, and fix problems. There was loads more we wanted to include but did not have space.

We know there are also big problems in our society, health and social care system and communities where people's rights are not respected, or they experience abuse or are not listened to.

Learning Disability England wants to be a strong ally and positive force in the changes people with

learning disabilities and their families want to see or are leading on.

We have thought about how Learning Disability England will act as an organisation to help build alliances.

### We will:

- Build our membership with people, organisations or groups who share the aims and values of Learning Disability England founding members
- Build connections and relationships across our members and the wider community
- Work in partnership with organisations and people of all kinds who want the same things

-Be open and reliable in sticking to our aims and values and behaving in line with them

-Support approaches that have evidence and share learning

-Be part of debates and conversations on what really matters to people with learning disabilities

-Support members to lead on, share or be part of the work on the priorities the members' set

We want feedback on how we are working. Learning Disability England is still developing and we are trying to share what we learn as we go. See what members of the Representative Body say about their work so far on page 6.

**Stronger, Louder, Together!**



# Keynote Speakers

## Kate Ansell

Kate is a disabled filmmaker. She has over 15 years experience making TV programmes. For Channel 4 News, she produced and directed No Go Britain, a series of special reports highlighting barriers for disabled people in the UK, and featuring members of LDE.



She joined the BBC again in 2018 as part of the Daytime commissioning team. The team make decisions about what programmes to put on television.

**Kate is speaking about building alliances with the media. Find her article on page 11.**

## Ray James CBE

Ray is National Director, Learning Disability at NHS England.



He is leading NHS England's work to transform care for people with a learning disability and their families/carers.

Ray has previously worked in local government, as Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care at Enfield Council for over a decade and is a Past President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). Ray was awarded a CBE for services to Adult Social Care in the 2018 New Year's Honours List.

**Ray will be speaking about the NHS Long Term Plan. Read more about it on the NHS insert.**

## Katie Matthews

Katie Matthews is a Learning Disability and Autism Network Manager at NHS England.



She is a part of a team of four Network Managers, two with a learning disability, autism, or both and two without. They use the co-working model where people with different strengths and abilities collaborate to get the best from each other. Katie's team acts as a bridge between NHS England and a forum of people with a learning disability, autism, or both, family carers, advocates and supporting organisations.

**Katie will also be speaking about the NHS long term plan.**

# Agenda

TIME	SESSION TITLE
10.00am	Registration
10.15am	Pop-Ups
11.00am	Opening Session - Welcome from our conference Co-Chairs
11.15am	Louder Voices Learning and influencing together
11.40am	Building alliances and the Media Kate Ansell
12.15am	Tea & Coffee Break
12.40am	Workshops - session 1
1.40pm	Lunch
2.30pm	The NHS Long Term plan: Connections and alliances Ray James and Katie Matthews
3.00pm	Workshops – session 2
4.00pm	Tea & Coffee break
4.20pm	What's happening next at Learning Disability England The LDE team
4.40pm	Launch Transgender Support Guide Michael Fullerton , Shaun Webster and Jez Coram
5.00pm	End of main agenda - Networking
6.00pm	End of conference

## Louder Voices

We are a group of self advocates, families and support workers and managers who came together on a 6 month programme to learn how to influence politics and the media. **Find out more on page 7.**

In our presentation we will showcase the work we have been doing, our campaigns and the successes we've had so far, and we will talk about what it means for us to work together.

Presenters: **Vicky Buckingham, Lynn Jackson, Gary Bourlet, Mark Brookes, Jordan Smith, Kate Chate, Liz Wilson, Mark Brookes, George Sinclair**



# Workshops

If you have not registered for workshops please talk to a member of Learning Disability England staff and they will help you find where to choose.

SESSION 1	SESSION 2
NWTDT - NW Co production— A Long Term Relationship NOT a One Night Stand (that's Consultation)	Advance and My Safe Home- Partnerships we all HOLD dear...Building Housing Opportunities
TLAP - Making it Real Quality Markers	Trowers & Hamilns - Approaches to managing funding challenges
NDTI- Is commissioning Broken?	Change and Care Management Group - Transgender support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism
Community Catalysts - So What, What Next project	TLAP -Making it Real Quality Markers
	SeeAbility - How eye care aware are you?

# The Power of Partnership Working

As part of the Transforming Care Agenda, over the last few years Future Directions has successfully enabled over thirty individuals to move out of long stay hospitals, back into their local communities.

Many of these individuals had spent many years in hospital due to the lack of community services being available. Bespoke packages are developed in partnership with local commissioners, families and people being supported. People now live in their own homes and are involved in recruiting their own support teams in a way that makes sense to the person. Here at Future Directions we listen to the people we support in order to deliver value-based services. We support people to be valued members of their community, to develop new skills, increase confidence, improve relationships with family and friends and gain paid employment.

We support a self-advocacy group called 'SPICE'. The group are 'Experts by Experience' and work throughout the North West to train health professionals, organisations and other people with learning disabilities and mental health needs.

The work they do is varied and includes:

- Working alongside SeeAbility to train other people with learning disabilities and support staff about how to look after their eyes.
- Teaching students at Salford University.
- Raising awareness about disability Hate Crime in the local community.
- Being part of a research project looking at growing older with learning disabilities.
- Quality checking and improving services.
- Speaking at conferences.



It is really important for us as a service that we continue to challenge people's perceptions of learning disabilities and breakdown stereotypes. By employing people with learning disabilities we focus on people's strengths and enable people to develop their skills and build confidence. It gives people a real sense of purpose and belonging. Stevan, a member of SPICE, says **"having a job makes me feel good."** Another member, Delwyn, explains **"we're involved in so many different things. I feel like we're helping and making a big difference."**

For more information about SPICE please visit [www.futuredirectionscic.co.uk/spice](http://www.futuredirectionscic.co.uk/spice)





Learning Disability England

## Some of the things we did in 2018

### Informing and supporting membership

Through social media, newsletters & face to face

- 8000 **Twitter** followers
- 2895 **Facebook** followers
- We sent 75 **Newsletters** to over 2100 every time



### Helping members influence Policy and Development

We focused on 6 core policy areas

- **Sleep ins** – as part of the Sleep in Alliance
- **Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act** – consulted our members and represented them
- **Supported Housing and Housing Benefit**
- We were part of the **Social Care Futures**
- **Mortgage Interest** lobbying
- **Personal Health Budgets** promotion



### Modelling our values and supporting best practice

- 2 **new staff** recruited inclusively
- 9 **webinars**
- 3 member wide **training sessions**
- 15 member **workshops**
- 6 days of **Louder Voice Training**
- 2 **party conferences** attended
- 3 **engagement projects**
- 8 **consultations or policy responses**



### Campaigning and influencing

We helped members contribute to

- **Quality Matters** – contributed to the development
- **Transforming Care** Stakeholder round table
- **Health & Well Being Alliance** people with learning disabilities included
- **Continuing Healthcare Advisory Group**
- **Independent Living Strategy group**
- **Transitions in Education**
- **NHS Ten Year Plan**



### Learn and support partners through projects and research

We developed and maintained our partnerships



FIND OUT MORE AT [LDEngland.org.uk](http://LDEngland.org.uk)

# WE WANT YOU!



## TO BE A SPOKESPERSON!

**WE ARE STRONGER, LOUDER, TOGETHER!**

To help make change happen we want to support a wide network of people be spokespeople —self-advocates, families and friends, and staff from organisational members.

This would involve sharing your experience and knowledge on issues important to you.

Please get in touch if you would like more Information. Please contact:

[rachael.hall@LDEngland.org.uk](mailto:rachael.hall@LDEngland.org.uk)

## Conference Artwork



The artwork exhibited at the conference today was created by members of KeyRing Krew, Darlington.

Their diversity banner is one of their biggest pieces and is on display today. They decided they wanted to create a big piece of art that meant something to all of them. They discussed the different ways disabled people are represented and how sometimes people are labelled or treated unfairly. They wanted to do a project that said everyone should be treated equally. The banner is made up of several different panels drawn with felt tips and stitched together to make one big piece.



# Launching a Transgender Toolkit



As a result, Michael linked in with CHANGE and Choice Support to agree a way of developing an easy read publication that would be designed to support and signpost people who had an interest in transgender issues. The result was the facilitation by CHANGE of focus groups with people with learning disabilities and/or autism, and Persia West, an author and speaker on gender issues.

The Transgender Support Booklet that will be launched at the Learning Disability England Conference is the result of hard work between all these parties during the course of 2018, to ensure people with learning disabilities and/or autism had an excellent source of information to assist with transitioning, or dealing with any uncertainty and confusion. The Booklet will be available electronically freely via CMG, CHANGE and Choice Support Websites from early February and delegates at the Learning Disability England Conference will be lucky enough to get hold of the first hard copies.

It was recognised within CMG, as a social care provider, that there was a significant gap in information to support people with learning disabilities and/or autism who were keen to transition to another gender, or indeed were faced with significant confusion about their gender identity. Following conversations with people supported, Michael Fullerton, Clinical Director with CMG, decided that it would be important to develop a resource that would assist people with learning disabilities and/or autism, their families and support teams.

## Great Communities – supporting people who ‘fall through the gaps’



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Local authorities are facing unprecedented demand for services, accompanied by budget reductions. Because of this providers are being asked to support more people for less money, which creates a risk that some people will ‘fall through the gaps’.

In response, Community Catalysts and MacIntyre have worked in partnership to create the Great Communities project, piloting in Warrington. The aim is to reach out to people with disabilities who may find themselves in this situation.

The project is supporting these people alongside the local community, including businesses, to identify what they do and how they can evolve to provide opportunities to more people with disabilities. The aim is to make connections and think differently to present Warrington as a vibrant, inclusive and aspirational community for all.

Great Communities works by speaking to people about their lives and goals, learning about the things they are good at and passionate about. It then starts to connect them with organisations or individuals that might help, including others in a similar situation. It also looks to find unused assets in Warrington – spaces, vehicles, programmes and in doing so sparks relationships and networks.

Examples of what people have generated so far; a weekly friendship group, an autism friendly film club, a Cooksmart and nutrition programme, volunteering opportunities and support into paid employment. Alongside this mapping and identifying who people are and how we can connect.



There has been a great deal of interest from professionals, people and families keen to connect. Local people, providers, organisations and community groups have been supportive to the contribution and development of new opportunities. The early outcomes are good and it feels like the right way of working, to lead from behind and enable people to achieve and aspire to more.



# Our year as a Representative Body – thinking about Learning Disability England and how we work



**Vicky Buckingham, Lynn Jackson, Rob Greig, Sheila Moorcroft, Lucy Burke & Alicia Wood share their thoughts on what the Rep Body has been up to this year.**

## About the Representative Body

The Representative Body is a group of Learning Disability England (LDE) members who are elected to help steer Learning Disability England. They represent LDE members, making important decisions about what we say and do.

The Representative Body is an even split between self-advocates, families and friends, and organisations. There are 12 people in total – 4 self advocate reps, 4 family and friends reps, 4 organisation reps

## What we have worked on so far – setting up Learning Disability England?

For the last 2 years we have been working towards setting up Learning Disability England as a democratic organisation. This has been a huge job and taken a long time. We have tried to set up foundations for Learning Disability England which will allow everyone to have a voice and to work together as equal partners.

As a representative body we have tried to shift power, working together to make sure all our members are being represented and our priorities and values are based on what members think is important. We have started to build more policies based on our values and principles. This has been challenging and time consuming, but we think we are making steady progress.

## What have we learnt from our work so far?

We have learnt that as an organisation we have limited resources and time which means we can't work on everything, instead we need work in a focused way. Developing partnerships and alliances with others is therefore important and we need to do more of it to make our work stronger.

We want to be part of the conversation and share the work others are doing. We want to work in a supportive way that makes more of a difference, giving us all a louder voice, rather than us all doing the same thing separately.

We have also learnt that sometimes members have different concerns and priorities. Because of this we have learnt how to work together as a group, to listen to each other, share ideas and reach clear decisions. We need to keep doing this to make sure everyone's voice is heard.

## What are we pleased about for Learning Disability England in 2018?

We are pleased that Learning Disability England is growing, starting to become better known and have more influence. This has led to new opportunities for both individual and group members of Learning Disability England. We are pleased that people with learning disabilities can speak out in their own right and as representatives of Learning Disability England, being at the center of making change.

We are pleased the rep body was able to work together with the trustees to deal with the difficult issue of responding to an action by a Trustee that some people thought was out of line with Learning Disability England's values. Our discussions led to us making decisions and included all the different voices from within Learning Disability England. This also helped us to start thinking more about what our rules and values really are.

## What are we concerned about for Learning Disability England in 2018?

We have come a long way in a short time. But as a new and still relatively small organisation, we still face challenges in making ourselves visible, making our voice heard and building a larger membership. We aim to strengthen our partnership working and expand our membership and resources in the coming year, so that we can achieve more and be a stronger participant in national debates.

We think in the last year Learning Disability England has grown and got stronger, but we know we still have lots of work to do.

Get in touch with the rep body, contact:

[Samantha.Clark@LDEngland.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.Clark@LDEngland.org.uk)

Sam will pass your message along.



# Louder Voices

We are a group of self advocates, families and support staff who did a 6 day course to learn how to get our messages across to politicians, policy makers and the media.



We believe that things will only change for the better when those of us who experience discrimination and inequality are the ones to speak up about it and challenge it.

### We've been practicing using our Louder Voices...

Jordan Smith, Health Equalities lead for Dimensions and elected Representative for Learning Disability England went to the Conservative party conference. He asked the Minister for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, about what he would do to stop people with learning disabilities dying early. Matt Hancock said he would change the attitudes of health staff so they valued people with learning disabilities more.



Emma Fraser, Quality Consultant for Dimensions, practiced speaking in an interview and being filmed. We are seeing more and more people with learning disabilities speaking in the media and we need to keep training and mentoring people to do this.



We learnt about how politics works and how best to get politicians to understand what we need and what needs to change. We had a surprise guest speaker, the Prime Minister Theresa May!



We think that more organisations should run Louder Voice courses and change how people with learning disabilities are seen and how we all work together.

If you want help to run your own Louder Voice course for the people you support and LDE members, contact

[Alicia.wood@dimensions-uk.org](mailto:Alicia.wood@dimensions-uk.org)



# Rightful Lives: Human Rights

Rightful lives is an online exhibition exploring themes around human rights and people with learning disabilities and autism. They have gracefully given us permission to print some of their exhibitions here.

To see the complete Collection, visit: [www.rightfullives.net/](http://www.rightfullives.net/)

## Moan Mats By Stephen Harvey

'Moan Mats' is a personal statement about Stephen's own life experience and highlights specific frustrations, such as not being able to see the end of a football match because a support worker's shift is due to end, or arriving at an exhibition only to find that it is physically inaccessible.



## Moments That Matter

The exhibition includes photos submitted by various people. Here are some of our favourites. Jamie at the fair, Alec at the beach and Eleanor and her friends at prom.



## Human Rights By Michael George

For some months mum and I read up about Human Rights.

Based on the law we are all entitled to our human rights and this year we are celebrating anniversaries in November and December on Human Rights.

It is especially important to me when it looks like at times in my life they tried to take those rights away because of my disabilities.

We are all human beings that's why they are called human rights.

I want big rights: to be free, not to be tortured, not to be abused, to be able to have a family life and a home. You may think that's easy. You may think you can just take it when it comes but our autistic people and people with learning disabilities know it's not like that nowadays. It's hard, it's really hard.

It's nothing like that.

I'm lucky because I've got people who I love making sure it's easier for me to let those out there learn how to make it easier for me to have that freedom and independence.

I know of people like me, autistic with PDA, who don't get what I get, don't get understood and end up where they are now, being deprived of their human rights. That's why the Human Rights Act and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are so important.

Some people think we're not entitled to our human rights because we have disabilities. When the odds are stacked up against us we can fight back in court to keep our entitlement to our human rights.

**I am not going to quit till we all, in the words of Bob Marley: get up, stand up, stand up for your rights; get up, stand up, don't give up the fight!**



# Celebrating Good Lives

## Anthony's Journey

After being a Member of KeyRing in the past, Anthony has moved through our service from being a Member to being a volunteer and recently became a Community Living Volunteer in Sandwell. Anthony is able to provide peer support to other Members who have faced similar issues that he has faced and is able to use his experience. He's now focusing on getting the experience together to apply for Community Enabler roles within KeyRing.



## Mark's New Business!

Mark is a KeyRing Member in Grimsby. In 2016 was making new one-off pieces of furniture out of old things and was hoping to turn his hobby into a business. Now Mark has opened his own shop! Mark is still making beautiful household items and furniture out of old pallets and selling them in his shop. He is settling into the new premises on Pasture Street in Grimsby and is confident the shop will do well there. The shop is called All Things Shabby and Mark has had a successful first week in both sales and bespoke made to measure items. He has volunteers helping him to run the shop and has had the support of Active Humber, a local organisation that supports new business to get off the ground.



## Karen at College

Karen is a KeyRing Member in Croydon. She did well at school but did not stay on because she was being bullied. She had a number of jobs that she enjoyed but always wanted to return to her studies. In 2017 old friends encouraged her to go back to college but her confidence was low and she didn't feel she could do it. In June she joined KeyRing and started to meet with her support worker once a week. Together they started to build up Karen's confidence. They talked about Karen's likes and dislikes and what she was good at. Karen was also able to talk about the loss of her husband. **"My key worker supports me to slow down and relax, when most of the time I feel overwhelmed and would panic and stress myself."**

Karen applied for courses at college and passed the entrance tests. In the week before she started she became very nervous but received encouragement from her support worker and her friends when she arrived. She has gone on to take courses in Relationships and Health, Computers and Healthy Living.

**"My key worker continues to encourage, empower me in all my 1-1 sessions to be the best I can be and give me self belief."**

# KeyRing

... We're Life Changing



# Setting Up Your Own Supported Living

Interview of Liz, a parent who set up her own supported living.



JMS Trust offers funding and support to family carers to help them set up their own group supported living for family members with a learning disability. Funding is to help with renovations of buildings, so they meet their new purpose.

### Why did you decide to set up your own supported living?

We didn't like what was on offer, which was largely individual flats, with no communal spaces. We were worried that our daughter would quickly become isolated. So, we decided to create a setting that we thought would suit her, and made links with other parents who wanted the same.

### What's been the best thing about it?

We have created a home in a safe and supportive setting, with easy access to transport and shops. The house is welcoming, has a garden, and everyone living there has their own room, but with plenty of communal space for cooking, eating, and relaxing.

### Has there been any challenges?

Plenty...We were lucky to find a suitable house very quickly, and a group of four young people who were ready for the move. But we had to make sure that the conversion of the house for its new purpose suited their needs, and we had to seek funding for equipping it when it was done. We had kept our Local Authority informed, but there was still the usual process of getting support packages agreed and finding a care company to provide the care.

### What would you say to people who want to do the same?

Go for it! Be prepared for it to be hard work, and emotionally challenging. But what you end up with is the best possible fit for your family member...and you have real influence about how it is set up and run.

## Finding Ways of Working Together

Care Housing Association (Care) has been working hard since 2003 to help people with support needs find sustainable homes. We are keen to offer a range of solutions to people's housing needs which reflect their desires and aspirations, whilst balancing this with the commercial viability for all parties.

We now work with a number of public bodies and care providers to provide a variety of housing solutions including:

- Own front door accommodation with a shared support element
- Shared housing
- Highly bespoke specialised housing
- Homes for life
- Transitional housing
- New build properties to meet a known long-term demand
- More responsive housing which can be delivered in shorter time frames, without compromising on quality

In 2018, we are pleased to have developed homes for 70 individuals!

\*Anna was at risk of losing her home following her mother sadly passing away. We worked with the Local Authority to ensure she could stay in her home, and improved it by fitting a new kitchen, bathroom, and decorating throughout.

\*Dave, Graham and Paul had been 'living' in a hospital for several years. We worked with their chosen care provider to find a new home for them. They moved in just before Christmas and are settling in well.

We have developed 4 highly specialised new build bungalows for people with high acuity needs. The homes have received high praise from the local authority and will meet the housing needs for four individuals currently in residential settings.



Anna loves her new kitchen!  
*\*Names changed for anonymity*



**We are keen to work with more individuals, care providers and local authorities and have a track record of finding solutions where other can't. Please speak to us to see if we can help you.**



# Building Alliances And The Media

My name is Kate Ansell. I am a journalist. I work at the BBC, but throughout my career I have made television programmes for lots of different broadcasters. I am disabled, and many of the programmes I have made have been about issues which affect disabled people.

In 2012, I made a film for the BBC Panorama series about the problems some disabled people have getting a benefit designed to support them if they are unable to work. I also made a series of special reports for Channel 4 News called No Go Britain, about some of the barriers disabled people face when we are trying to go about our day to day lives. One of the reports was about self-advocacy. I interviewed Gary Bourlet and some members of Learning Disability England about why self-advocacy is important. In the series, we looked at subjects like transport, employment, and having loving relationships.

I think that it is important for journalists to talk to disabled people about issues which affect us. Sometimes journalists aren't very good at doing that. There are many reasons for this. Partly, disabled people aren't very visible in day to day life. Also, there aren't many disabled people working in newsrooms and in television more generally. There are many of us trying to change that, and most media organisations have diversity schemes aimed at helping more disabled people to work in the industry.



## dimensions Leaders List

**60 leading people with learning disabilities and/or autism have been awarded in the Dimensions 'Learning Disability and Autism Leaders List 2018'. From pressing for change in local communities or on a national stage, to remarkable achievements in sport, arts, entertainment, work and education, winners are breaking through stereotypes and challenging attitudes.**

A panel of 14 judges including people with learning disabilities and autism, journalists and prominent figures selected the winners from nearly 600 nominees.

Steve Scown, CEO of Dimensions, who selected the Young Leader and Lifetime Achievement awards, said: "Choosing winners was inspiring, humbling and incredibly difficult. I hope that policymakers, journalists and others now take note and make use of their remarkable skills and determination to achieve change."

Take Ursula, who at the age of 88 has learned to read. Ben, who uses his lived experiences to teach people about challenging behaviour. Autistic, non-speaking Christopher, who is helping people worldwide to express themselves, often for the first time. And Heidi, who is battling to change attitudes to Downs syndrome under the banner 'don't screen us out.' Four extraordinary people representing the tip of the iceberg.

Steve continued, "across the country, people with learning disabilities and autism are advocating to make life better by changing national policy and practice and entrenched social attitudes. They are spokespeople, lobbyists, experts by experience. They are actors and singers. They are film makers, receptionists, DJs. The List celebrates their achievements, larger and smaller alike, understanding that nominees may face significant barriers due to their disability."

The Learning Disability and Autism Leaders List – created by not-for-profit support provider Dimensions in association with Learning Disability England and the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group- is the first such listing to celebrate the dedicated, selfless work of 60 of these individuals.

Their voices deserve to be heard. Find, and share, them [www.dimensions-uk.org/leaderslist2018](http://www.dimensions-uk.org/leaderslist2018) #LDALeadersList2018





# Partnerships To Suit You



With over 30 years' experience, Voyage Care is the leading specialist provider for people with learning disabilities and other complex care needs.

Voyage Care believe every person has the right to live the life they want. They offer support in a range of settings, enabling people to live the life they want; where, how and with whom they choose.

Their local support teams not only support people to do the things in life they enjoy but are there for them and their family whenever needed. The needs and aspirations of the people they support are at the centre of all they do.

An example of this, is the tailored care and support that is delivered at Voyage Care's supported living service, The Croft in West Yorkshire.

Providing person-centred support to four individuals, the team demonstrate flexibility on a daily basis – allowing the people they support to lead their own lives, enabling them to increase their independence.

Building strong relationships with families is also extremely important to the team at the supported living service.

Individuals at The Croft use a direct payment method which puts their care and support in their control! Staff understand that one size does not fit all, so their direct payments allow the individuals to request support when required.



This method also creates the opportunity for change. If you'd like to find out about our care and support for yourself or your loved one, contact our friendly enquiry team on the below:

0800 035 3776 / [referrals@voyagecare.com](mailto:referrals@voyagecare.com)



## What Building Alliances Means To Us

Most L'Arche Communities provide a mix of supported living, registered care, and day activities. But there is much more to us than that. We are passionate about people with learning disabilities being a visible and valued part of society.

We celebrate people with learning disabilities and invite them to be part of long-lasting Communities of support and friendship. Our Communities are made up of people with learning disabilities, employed assistants, volunteers, and local friends and neighbours. Our focus is on building relationships, creating a sense of belonging at a deep level, and supporting each person to flourish.



One of our family members said: **'At L'Arche you have that continuity of care. Because everybody lives together you get to know everyone's foibles and quirks, and you love each other even more. I don't see L'Arche as a service provider; I see it now as my extended family. I've adopted this big family. It's great because I've only got a little family. Suddenly, there are all these lovely people who love my daughter. Its great – the best thing we ever did.'**

We are proud of our care quality, with currently 2 of our 15 CQC-regulated services rated as outstanding. We support people to choose the housing and support they want. Each L'Arche Community has a number of "live-in" assistants living alongside people with disabilities.

Our Communities are outward looking, and well connected within their local area. And we have the added dimension of being part of the world wide federation of L'Arche.

L'Arche is an inter-faith organisation that welcomes people of all faiths and none. At L'Arche, people with and without learning disabilities share in life together to build a more human society where every person is recognised and valued.