

Registered number
04233275
Registered Charity number
1092587

Learning Disability England

Report and Accounts

31 March 2021



POLKADOT & ELLIS
ACCOUNTANTS

incorporating P&W Social Accountants

Objectives, aims and significant activities

Learning Disability England's aims are to make sure:

1. What is important to people with Learning Disabilities is heard and understood.
2. There is a change in behaviour in service design and delivery that builds on rights.
3. Show how Coproduction and real collaborative working make a difference.
4. We live our values and model the change we want.

Like everyone else Learning Disability England's staff, volunteers and members rapidly changed priorities and working methods in March 2020.

At the start of the pandemic the organisation worked with our members and partners to understand the community's priority needs.

We did this through on line meetings, a special survey of members and contact with member reps of all kinds.

Our members have told us their most urgent needs and priorities they believe we were uniquely placed to offer were:

- Getting reliable, accurate information about government policy and guidance
- Supporting them to understand how to use technology to help them connect with others, access information and share solutions
- Sharing ideas and resources on approaches to their work under the Covid 19 restrictions, for example a workshop on least restrictive, rights-based support for people who want to continue their daily routine despite social distancing and stay at home instructions
- Linking with others who are working on the same things to share resources and minimise duplication or for peer support,
- Getting their voice heard by LDE gathering intelligence on people's experiences and challenges and feeding those into guidance and policy development
- Making sure they, their loved ones or the people they support continue to get good, reliable support
- Informing or directly contributing to coronavirus policy and guidance for people with learning disabilities based on evidence from people's experience or the academic networks linked to LDE
- Keeping going as a small organisation - particularly important for small user-led organisations which have diversified income streams and relied heavily on face to face delivery for their sustainability

1. Informing and supporting our members

All members get a weekly online newsletter with information on new ways of working, policies and legal changes, blogs and opinion pieces, and resources shared by members and the wider community.

We sent 42 regular weekly newsletters plus four special focused ones.

More than 2,000 people every week get that newsletter.

Covid response grants allowed us to make the member's newsletter available to anyone who wanted it.

Covid response grants also allowed us to develop and maintain an inclusive Coronavirus information hub.

The hub included information from members and partners as well as easy read and accessible information on

- Coronavirus restrictions and guidance
- Keeping-in-touch resources and open events
- Tools to support wellbeing, staying healthy and digital inclusion

By November 2020, visits to the Learning Disability England website had grown by 142% compared to the previous 6-month period.

73% of the 92,806-page views were from new visitors.

By March 2021, there had been more than 160,000 new visitors to the website.

The Coronavirus hub pages are the most popular pages on the LDE site. 6 of the top ten pages were consistently covid related.

More people visited the website when changes to Government Guidance were announced - with around 1,455 new visitors on those days.

Learning Disability England shared this information across social media, and we have seen similar increases in engagement there.

We hosted 9 public webinars and 3 for members only on:

- Covid: the law and guidance
- Mental Capacity Act and Covid laws
- Making Annual Health Checks work
- Families planning ahead and for emergencies
- Managing shared household expenses
- The benefits system and basic income
- Developing supported living
- Knowing your rights: visiting during Covid 19
- Understanding the impact of Covid on people with learning disabilities and their families
- Raising the Profile - PMLD Core & Essential Service Standards?
- Living through Covid and lockdown - coping strategies and positive action
- The 2021 Census and accessibility

People with learning disabilities, family members, researchers, barristers, support workers, trainers, and managers led or attended these online sessions.

More than 2,800 people attended those sessions live, and 100s have viewed the recordings since.

Worked with others to help stop misuse

With Turning Point, a paid supporter organisation member, we created an open-source tool kit and resources to help people with learning disabilities, families members, and direct support workers understand the law, good practice and options on treatment decisions, including DNAR and how to challenge if they think there has been misuse.

Inquiries and consultations

We helped members share what is important to people with learning disabilities, their families and supporters by sending evidence created with members to 3 government consultations or parliamentary inquiries:

- The Life after Covid House of Lords inquiry
- The Disability Strategy
- The Social Care Taskforce Learning Disability and Autism advisory group

We worked with groups of members to feed into the following consultations with what our members said was important :

- The Care Quality Commission strategy consultation
- The Social Care Futures Inquiry
- Mandatory vaccines for residential care workers

More than 500 organisations, groups and individual members were directly involved in feeding back, speaking up or shaping policy.

Learning Disability England was 1 of 3 partners in the Valuing People and Health and Well Being Alliance, 1 of 22 national alliances working in partnership with the health and care system to share its expertise at a national level to improve services for all communities.

We helped NHS England, Public Health England and the Department for Health and Social Care to work with the Voluntary sector and people with learning disabilities and their families on changing health services and policies.

As a member of the Valuing People Alliance, Learning Disability England supported people with learning disabilities, their families and paid supporters priorities to be included on:

- The Health Inequalities after Covid task and finish group
- Inclusion in service redesign through and after Covid
- Identifying what will stop the premature deaths of people with learning disabilities from minority ethnic groups
- How NHS 111 is working inclusively
- Reasonable adjustments and inclusive practice on vaccine deployment, testing for Covid 19
- The development of work on Social Care across the VCSE Health and Well Being Alliances and with DHSC

We aim to demonstrate co-production and real collaborative working making a difference.

We worked with members of all kinds to find out more about how choices and getting a home.

Where people live - we worked to find out what is happening through the Big Housing Conversations hosted with Housing LIN.

We wrote a report on what members told us about the Big Housing Conversations in 2020.

There are clear recommendations for better information on the options and how to make them happen, including people with learning disabilities in strategic housing plans,

We are using what we heard to feed into research being led by York University as well as our work with members and partners.

Supported by the DHSC led grant we created a grant programme for user led or community groups that helped them change how they work or keep going through the pandemic. The programme distributed 16 grants of £4688 on average that helped groups develop on line activities, connect people to speak up or have fun as well as deliver Covid safe ways of working that support wellbeing.

4. Campaigning and influencing on what matters to people with learning disabilities to help people get a good life

Learning Disability England supports campaigns led by our members and brings together members and partners to campaign on important issues together.

Learning Disability England is part of the Social Care Future movement; campaigning for what is important for good social care in the future and worked with members to confirm the detail of what matters in their support for the Social Care Future Vision so everyone can use that in their work.

We support a group of spokespeople to represent members because Learning Disability England staff do not speak for people with learning disabilities or other members.

Learning Disability England members spoke up on:

- Housing choices across the country
- Cuts to support packages
- Access to the Covid Vaccination
- The use of DNAR during Covid and the Protect, Respect and Connect Review
- The Coronavirus Bill and disabled people's rights
- Challenging the British Medical Associations ethics guidance on prioritising during Coronavirus

We supported other members' campaigns and got the wider membership involved on:

- Promoting changes to sleep in payments mean people get the support they need, and support staff are paid fairly
- Walk It Like You Talk It employment campaign
- The Right 2 Home campaign and visiting rights resource
- The #WeAreHumanToo campaign
- The fair pay for social care campaign.

Who benefits from our work?

Our membership includes people with learning disabilities, their families and friends and organisations and others who support them. Benefit extends beyond our direct membership as many people can use a broad range of resources via our website, and our campaigning influences policy for everyone with learning disabilities.

By end March 2021 we had over 700 members and a reach of approx. 11,000 people through the newsletter, social media and our direct work. The membership includes 623 individual members and 136 organisational or small group members.

The organisation or group members themselves are connected to many thousand people so our work indirectly benefits them.

In response to Coronavirus in March 2020 we opened much of our work to self-advocates and family members who were interested or needed the support whether they were members or not. More than 2,800 attendees were directly involved in sessions. A crisis grants from DHSC allowed us to extend and continue that until November 2020 including the on line Coronavirus information hub. By March 2021, there had been more than 160,000 new visitors to the website.

Volunteers

LDE benefits from the active participation of the 18 volunteers involved in its governance as Representative Body members or Trustees. In addition, a group of 10 - 15 people from the membership regularly volunteer to represent Learning Disability England at policy or consultation working groups, or through being spokespeople.

Structure Governance and Management

Governing document and charity constitution

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12th June 2001, amended by special resolution on 28th May 2012, and registered as a charity on 24th June 2002. The organisation changed name on 14th June 2016 (having previously been the Housing and Support Alliance).

The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company, which is governed under its Articles of Association.

LDE's Articles were reviewed and revised in 2016/2017 as Learning Disability England was formed. In February 2020 the Annual General meeting agreed to a change that reduced the number of Trustees required to between 6 - 8.

Organisational structure and decision making

The Board of Trustees hold the overall responsibility for governing the charity but do that in consultation and partnership with the Representative Body, elected by the membership.

The Chief Executive reports to the Trustees of the charitable company who meet at least quarterly. The Board focuses on strategic decision making and delegates the day to day management to the Chief Executive Officer.

The CEO collaborates with the Co-Chairs of the Representative body and Chair and Vice Chair of the Board on decisions affected by organisational policy or strategy and consultation with the wider governance group.

In Autumn 2020 the Trustees and Representative Body commissioned a governance support programme to review what it needs from its governance to make sure that LDE delivers on its values and moves forward as a strong organisation. The programme involved all members of the governance and ran from January to June 2021. The programme confirmed that those involved think the model is right for Learning Disability England. The Trustees and Representative Body members have an action plan to strengthen the model through investing in the support mechanisms and ways of working. There is also specific work happening to learn from the 2020 Rep Body elections to inform the 2022 elections.

LDE had a registered small office base in Faversham until May 2020. During Covid 19 lockdown period the charity was forced to close its office as the landlord changed the use of the building. A new appropriate office base has been secured for later in 2021.

In March 2021 the organisation had 7 staff working equivalent hours to 5 full time staff.

Most of LDE's staff work remotely based at home and before Coronavirus travelled nationally as part of their work. In March 2020 LDE changed how it works like many other organisations. The Trustees have worked with the Representative Body and staff team to regularly review how LDE works safely to deliver our aims through 2020 and beyond. The successful delivery of the annual conference and positive feedback from across all membership voice groups means the organisation is going to maintain some online working.

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Company number
4233275 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1092587

Principal and Registered office
c/o Anthony Collins Solicitors
Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2ES

Trustees

Sarah Maguire (Co Chair)
Deborah Neill
Jan Walmsley
Jodie Williams (Co chair)
Paula Braynion
Lisa Hopkins
Liz Tilly

Key Personnel

Chief Executive - Samantha Clark

Independent examiner

R B Welch FCA
Chartered Accountant
P&W Social Accountants
10 Newent Road
Birmingham
B31 2ED

Bankers

Cater Allen Private Bank
2 Triton Square
Regents Place
London
NW1 3AN

Solicitors

Anthony Collins
134 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2ES

Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Learning Disability England

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail; or to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.



R B Welch FCA
Chartered Accountant
P&W Social Accountants
10 Newent Road
Birmingham
B31 2ED

18th October 2021

Learning Disability England
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account
1 April 2019 to 30 March 2020

	Notes	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2020 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2020 £
Income & Endowments				
Donations	2	5,385	11,285	16,670
Income from charitable activities	2	148,219	45,955	194,174
Total income		<u>153,604</u>	<u>57,240</u>	<u>210,844</u>
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	151,954	57,240	209,194
Total expenditure		<u>151,954</u>	<u>57,240</u>	<u>209,194</u>
Net (expenditure) / income for the year		1,650	-	1,650
Transfers between funds	11	-	-	-
Net (expenditure) / income after transfers		<u>1,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,650</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>1,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,650</u>
Reconciliation of funds:-				
Total funds brought forward		57,156	-	57,156
Total funds carried forward		<u>58,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,806</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Learning Disability England
Notes to the Accounts
Statement of Financial Activities

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The reporting currency is £ Sterling.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Plant & equipment	over 4 years
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Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the transaction price).

Grant income is deferred if it relates to specific expenditure which has not yet been incurred. This expenditure will be a condition of the grant.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount at the balance sheet date.

Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. They are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Income

All income is recognised in the statement of financial activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are accounted for on a receivable basis.

Grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier. Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the Charity's control, the income is recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the Charity can meet such conditions the incoming resource is deferred.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs allocated to charitable activities include the direct costs of providing services and running projects.

**Learning Disability England
Notes to the Accounts
Statement of Financial Activities**

2 Income

1 April 2020 to 30 March 2021

	Current year Unrestricted 2021	Current year Restricted 2021	Current year Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Donations			
Donations	6,610	-	6,610
Total Donations	<u>6,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,610</u>
Charitable Activities			
Advice, conferences and workshops	27,683	-	27,683
Membership Subscriptions	79,566	-	79,566
Grant Income	78,300	224,168	302,468
Total Income from Charitable Activities	<u>185,549</u>	<u>224,168</u>	<u>409,717</u>
Other Income			
Bank Interest	12	-	12
Total Other Income	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>
Total Income	<u>192,171</u>	<u>224,168</u>	<u>416,339</u>
Prior Year Income			
1 April 2019 to 30 March 2020	Prior year Unrestricted 2020	Prior year Restricted 2020	Prior year Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Donations			
Donations	5,385	-	5,385
Total Donations	<u>5,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,385</u>
Charitable Activities			
Advice, conferences and workshops	78,467	45,955	124,422
Membership Subscriptions	69,752	-	69,752
Grant Income	-	11,285	11,285
Total Income from Charitable Activities	<u>148,219</u>	<u>57,240</u>	<u>205,459</u>
Total Income	<u>153,604</u>	<u>57,240</u>	<u>210,844</u>

Learning Disability England
Notes to the Accounts
Statement of Financial Activities

7 Staff Costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Salary Costs		
Tax and National Insurance	146,409	99,024
Pension Costs	23,489	30,451
Other Costs including Training & Welfare	6,962	6,020
	780	534
Total salaries, wages and related costs	177,640	136,029

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Full time equivalents	6.5	5

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2020	
Additions during the year	5,168
At 31st March 2021	-
	5,168
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2020	
Charge for the year	4,409
At 31st March 2021	759
	5,168
Net book value	
At 1 April 2020	
At 31st March 2021	759
	-

9 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors		
Prepayments and accrued income	81,470	111,145
Other debtors	449	449
	-	435
Total debtors	81,919	112,029

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade Creditors		
Accruals	360	4,244
Deferred Income	1,275	1,275
Grant & Project Balances	53,234	46,091
Other Creditors	154,879	134,084
	1,472	2,000
Total creditors	211,220	187,694

Learning Disability England
Notes to the Accounts
Statement of Financial Activities

11 Fund Balances *(continued)*

At 31 March 2020, funds were analysed as follows:

	At 1 April 2019 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2020 £
Restricted Funds				
NESTA	-	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	57,156	1,650	-	58,806
Total Charity Funds	57,156	1,650	-	58,806

Net movements included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Restricted funds			
Health and Wellbeing Alliance	13,200	(13,200)	-
NESTA	32,000	(32,000)	-
Other restricted funds	12,040	(12,040)	-
	57,240	(57,240)	-
Unrestricted funds	153,604	(151,954)	1,650
	210,844	(209,194)	1,650

Learning Disability England
Notes to the Accounts
Statement of Financial Activities

13 Status of the Charitable Company

The charitable company, 04233275, is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The registered office is 134 C/O Anthony Collins Solicitors, Edmund Street, Birmingham, England, B3 2ES. Its principal activities are the relief of people who are disabled, handicapped (whether physically or mentally) or chronically sick people, their families and carers in particular through the provision of advice, counselling, workshops, training, and advocacy in respect of their housing care or support needs.

The liability of members is limited but is not exceed £1 per member.