

# Help make Learning Disability England stronger



Becoming part of our  
Representative Body

**LDE**  
Learning Disability England

Stronger

Louder

Together!

#LDEngland

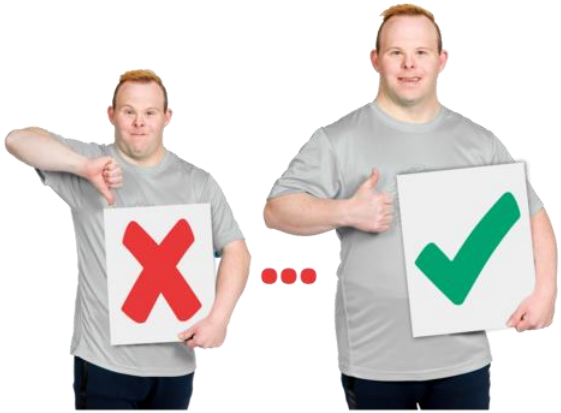
# What is the Representative Body?

- ▶ A group of 12 Learning Disability England members who are elected by our membership to steer Learning Disability England.
- ▶ They represent our members and act on their behalf, making important decisions about what Learning Disability England says and does.



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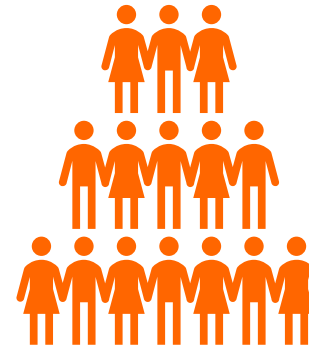


- ▶ Our Representative Body members make sure that Learning Disability England stays true to its values and is always working towards its goals.
- ▶ Any member can put themselves forward to be on the Representative Body, and all members can vote.



# There are...

- ▶ 4 People with Learning Disabilities Representatives
- ▶ 4 Families & Friends Representatives
- ▶ 4 Organisations & Professionals Representatives



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# What does being a Representative Body member involve?

We think being a member of the Representative Body will be about 11 hours of work every 3 months:

- A 4-hour meeting every 3 months
- 4 hours to read papers and get ready for the meetings
- 1 hour a month of emails or phone calls outside of meetings.

**The role is unpaid but we will pay for you to get to meetings**



# To be a member of the Representative Body you must...



- ▶ Be a member of Learning Disability England.
- ▶ Agree to work together with self-advocates, families, friends and allies, organisations and LDE staff.
- ▶ Be able to attend 4 meetings a year and come to the meetings prepared.
- ▶ Be able to travel to meetings, with support if necessary.
- ▶ Be able to stay on the Representative Body for 3 years.

and

**be able to find out what other people think**

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# Something to think about...



You must be able to represent the views of all the members not just your own views  
**SO...**

- ▶ How might you go about finding out other peoples views?
- ▶ In what way would you communicate with the other members?
- ▶ Do you have links with other members already?
- ▶ What would you do if other peoples views were different to your own?

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# You must also share Learning Disability England's values:



- ▶ **People with learning disabilities first**—in everything we do and how we are run.
- ▶ **Be challenging**—when it comes to what people with learning disabilities and families want, need and have a right to.
- ▶ **Work together**—to achieve better lives for people with learning disabilities.
- ▶ **Be empowering**—by making sure our members have power and can act on behalf of LDE with confidence and clarity.
- ▶ **Be creative and try new things**—by thinking differently about how we can solve problems and not being afraid to get it wrong sometimes.

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# How to become a member of the Representative Body...



- ▶ We will be holding elections this Spring - people will have to vote for you.
- ▶ You will have to write a very short manifesto - a bit of writing that tells people who you are and why you think they should vote for you.
- ▶ You will also be asked to record a short video, but we can help you with this.
- ▶ All LDE members can stand in the election.

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# We all need help and support....



- ▶ Please don't worry about needing help and support either with your application or to be a member of the Rep Body.
- ▶ Our Rep Body works as a team. We all support each other.
- ▶ And we will make sure you get help and support with your application, including making your video clip, if you need it.

**Just Ask!**



# Key Dates...



- ▶ Closing date for applications is 5pm on 30th March
- ▶ Shortlisted applicants notified by 24th April
- ▶ Shortlisted applicants make their video clip and submit it by 5pm on 22nd May
- ▶ Election period for all Members to vote 1st – 21st June
- ▶ Election results published on 1st July
- ▶ New Representative Body Members start their induction from mid-July onwards

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“Being elected as a member of Learning Disability England’s Representative Body is a great privilege and honour and, in particular, I’ve been delighted to be able to use this role to help spread the word about the diverse range of housing options now available to people with Learning Disabilities”.

...David Abbey  
(Rep Body member)



“I have joined LDE to bash the drum in life for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism. This is because in my experience I had people being horrible to me and I have found it difficult to find a job. However the most important experience that I have in LDE hasn't been easy but I have met new people that are in the same boat as me that wants better for other people with Learning Disabilities and Autism.”

...Lorna Ely  
(Rep Body member)



“Being a family Carer on the Rep Body is a big commitment but knowing that I am playing a small part in bringing about positive change for people like my sons who have a learning disability gives me a huge sense of pride”

...Wendy Burt  
(Rep Body member)



“Being on the Rep Body has given me opportunities to do other things too like Isolation and Loneliness and Louder Voice.

I have made new friends and I like working with Sheila and other people and friends.”

...Lynn Jackson  
(Rep Body member)



“Being a member of the Representative Body has enabled me to have a say on how Learning Disability England runs which has given me more confidence in myself and talking to others. It has also opened new doors like Louder Voice Training which in turn lead to me leading my own #lifeofaselfadvocate campaign on Social Media”

...Vicky Buckingham  
(Rep Body member)





“I think being on the Rep Body is important as its about how Learning Disability England set its priorities for the future. Having a seat at the table means you have more steer and influence and can really make change happen.”

...Scott Watkins  
(Rep Body member)



# Ask Us....

- ▶ For the rest of the session we will split into two groups. Both groups will get the chance to:



Ask current Rep Body members your questions – a chance to chat to Vicky, Lynne and Wendy about their experiences as Rep Body members

Ask us about the process – a chance to chat to Gary, Lisa and Anna about how to apply plus useful tips on filling in your application and recording a video clip

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# Thank You.

If you have any questions, please contact us  
at Learning Disability England.



You can call us on 0300 111 0444

Or you can email us at  
[elections@LDEngland.org.uk](mailto:elections@LDEngland.org.uk)



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