

Good Lives: What happened in 2020



In early 2020, Learning Disability England started some conversations with people, groups and organisations to talk about shared action on what people with learning disabilities want so they can live a good life.

There has been lots of research over the years and members said they believed the time had come to take action together.

They said they believe the power of change lies in each of us, talking and working together to work out what people agree on and can take action on together.

The aim of this work is to get shared actions for change that will lead to more people having a good life.

The changes could be at a national or local government policy level or things other organisations can do.

This must be a plan everyone can get involved in and feel part of.

Members said they think it is really important that self advocates – people with a learning disability – lead this work.

This must not be a plan only for Learning Disability England members but something everyone can use.



Why are we all doing this?

We are doing this work because people have said there needs to be more joined up action – people working together – to make a real difference.

Lots of people said they want to work with other people or groups to change things.



What Learning Disability England will do

Learning Disability England agreed that we would help bring people together, connect ideas or pieces of work.

We would not own the work. Or try to control it.

Instead Learning Disability England's role would be to help to share people's ideas and what is happening so everyone can build on each other's work.



Self Advocates Meeting on 19th February 2020

We started by asking some people with learning disabilities to come to a meeting on 19th February 2020.

At that meeting everyone agreed the most important things to work on and how people should all work together.



You can read the full notes from the meeting [HERE](#)



You can read Gary's blog and **see photos** from the day [HERE](#)



This group of 40 self-advocates and their supporters said that lots of things were important to them.

They said that their top 5 things in February 2020 were:

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy (15 votes)

The Right Support (14 votes)

Good Health (14 votes)

Accessibility (9 votes)

Education (7 votes)

This does not mean the other things are not important.

It does not mean people will not work on the other things.

It just gave an idea about what everyone in the room thought was most important.

These pictures show how people voted.

The pictures also show information about work that is already happening around the country that people might want to link in to:

A HOME

Quality Checking (Personal living)

Home

Shout out group

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy

Shout out group

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy

ADVOCACY AND SELF-ADVOCACY

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy

Shout out group

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy

Shout out group

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy

ARTS AND LEISURE

Arts and Leisure

Arts and Leisure

Arts and Leisure

BEING AN EQUAL CITIZEN - VOTING

Being an Equal Citizen - Voting

Equal Citizen

Being an Equal Citizen - Voting

BEING SAFE

Being Safe

Being Safe

Being Safe

BENEFITS AND MONEY

Benefits and Money

Benefits and Money

EDUCATION

Education

Education

Education

GOOD HEALTH

Good Health

Good Health

Good Health

LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Love and Relationships

Love and Relationships

PAID JOBS

Paid Jobs

Paid Jobs

THE RIGHT SUPPORT

The Right Support

The Right Support



How people should work together

The self advocates also talked with each other about how everyone should work together on Good Lives.

They decided on some 'must haves'.

These are the things they think everyone should stick to.

They also decided on some 'nightmares to avoid'.

These are the things they agreed must never happen when everyone is working together.

You can see these in these pictures:





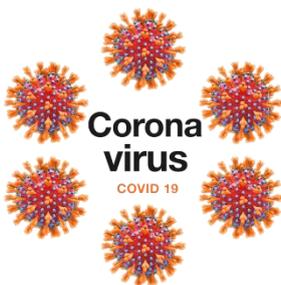
What happened next?

Not every self-advocate could come on 19th February 2020.

So we asked self-advocates who couldn't be there to tell us what they thought.

This work was added to the information collected on 19th February.

Other members shared what they thought via a survey.



In March 2020, the country went into the 1st lockdown because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

This slowed the work on Good Lives down.

And what happened in the pandemic made people change some of the things they thought were the most important to work on straight away.

But members carried on talking about it and sharing their thoughts and ideas.



All this work contributed to the Good Lives framework which is launched at the 2022 Learning Disability England conference.