





**Learning Disability England**  
**Minutes of the Members General Meeting**  
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

	<p>The meeting was online using Zoom.</p> <p>A recording of the meeting can be watched <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>You can find a copy of the presentation which was used in the meeting <a href="#">here</a></p>	
	<p><b>1. Who was there</b></p> <p>Sarah Maguire Jodie Williams Lisa Hopkins Paula Braynion Debbie Neill James O Rourke Wendy Burt</p>	<p>Co-Chair Trustees Co-Chair Trustees Trustee Trustee Trustee Rep Body Member Rep Body Member</p>

	Sheila Moorcroft Jordan Smith Scott Watkin Rob Greig Tim Keilty Gary Bourlet Rachael Hall Sam Clark Lisa Watchorn Colette Armitage Kathleen Boyle Pippa Gascoigne Eppie Leishman Mary McDonald Dame Philippa Russell Rachel Paget Tess Reddington Richard Stowe Rohhss Chapman Mark Conquer Melissa Zoe Kumaramangalam Lesley Brown Dean Snowdon Steven Largent	Rep Body Member Rep Body Member Rep Body Member Rep Body Member Rep Body Member Staff member Staff member Staff member Staff member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Independent examiner Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member
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	<p>Apologies – who could not come</p> <p>Jan Walmsley  David Abbey  Mary Woodall  Ivan Olbrecht  Jack Marshall  Lynn Jackson  Lisa Clark  Alison Giraud-Saunders  Aiste Navickaite  Sue Rzepczynski  Lynn James-Jenkinson</p>	<p>Trustee  Rep Body Member  Rep Body Member  Rep Body Member  Rep Body Member  Rep Body member  Member  Member  Member  Member</p>
	<p>Jodie asked everyone to say what kind of member they were via an online poll. There needed to be 4 members from each voice group and at least 15 members in total.</p> <p>The meeting was quorate - this means that it could make decisions.</p>	



## **2. Minutes of the last AGM in February 2020**

Sarah explained there was no formal AGM in 2021 as the organisation focused on work with members through Covid. There were a lot of other ways members fed back or worked with Learning Disability England including the annual conference.

The minutes of the AGM in February 2020 were agreed as a good record.



## **3. What work Learning Disability England has done**

Sarah talked through some of the examples of the work done in 2020 and 2021. Learning Disability England focused on what members told them was most important. That was:



1. Getting reliable information
2. Representing members' priorities
3. Supporting members to find solutions together
4. Campaigning and influencing on what matters to people with learning disabilities and other members
5. Supporting learning with partners through projects and research



The work included the Covid hub that had more than 160,000 visitors who used it to get good information and find out ways to stay connected or learn skills or information.

Learning Disability England helped members speak up or influence through the Social Care taskforce, 2 All Parliamentary Party Group meetings and campaigns on DNAR and vaccination.

There is more detail and information in the annual report and impact report <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/welcome/about-us/our-aims-and-key-documents/>

There were no questions or comments



#### **4. Annual Accounts 2020 - 2021**

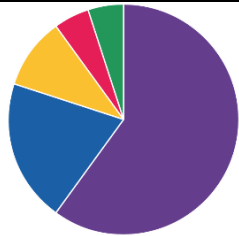
Sarah explained that the Trustees check regularly what money Learning Disability England has and how it is being used.

They want to make sure there is enough money to do a good job but also want to plan for if things go wrong.

They try to balance saving some money for dealing with problems and using the money to make a difference with members.

Sam explained that the accounts were checked by the Trustees and sent to the charity commission and companies house in 2021.

There was £200,000 more income than the years before in this year's accounts.



The big change in the income was because of extra work Learning Disability England did to support changes to deal with Covid. This included a community grant programme, grants to support digital inclusion and research.

The grants were from Charities Aid Foundation, Esmee Fairburn, and the Department of Health and Social Care.

There was a surplus of £56,000 from this financial year. This means that Learning Disability England has £116,667 savings (reserves).



The Trustees are keeping enough money in reserves to run Learning Disability England for 6 months. Any extra money will be used to make a difference with members.

Sarah asked if there were questions for the Trustees questions about the accounts

There were none. The accounts were agreed.



### **5. Work the Trustees and Representative Body did on governance**

Scott talked about the governance programme which the Trustees and Representative Body worked on together.

They wanted to check how having the 2 groups and roles was working and what could make it stronger.



The members involved decided this is the right way of working to help Learning Disability England be member led.

Paradigm made some recommendations and ideas for making the governance stronger.

These are in this report here <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Most-important-points-from-the-LDE-Report-on-its-governance-2021.pdf>

Some of those ideas have been used for example we changed the information, induction and support offered for this year's Rep Body elections and the new members.

Ideas like having a job role to support volunteers is taking longer but being worked on.

Mark Conquer asked if the work on Governance included the cost of living. Scott explained that it was done before the cost of living became such a big issue. He said that it would certainly be something that will be discussed at Trustee and Rep Body meetings as we know that it is a huge concern for everybody.

## **6. Appointment of Auditors**

It was agreed to keep Polkadot and Ellis as independent examiner of the accountants



**PE** POLKADOT & ELLIS  
ACCOUNTANTS

Rachel, the examiner, was asked by Tim if they can make the accounts accessible.

Rachel said they would look at doing that.



### **7. Appointment of Officers**

Lisa (Hopkins) explained the legal rules. Sarah has been a Trustee for 3 Annual General Meetings after today. That means she needs to stand again for another term as an officer.

Lisa said she is proposing Sarah stay as a Trustee because she lives the values of Learning Disability England as a Trustee and is reliable, thoughtful and committed as a board member.

All the members at the meeting agreed Sarah will carry on for another term.



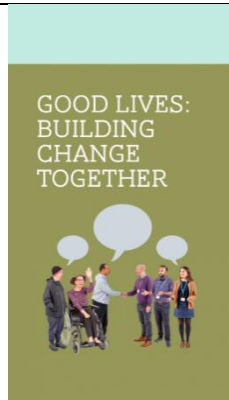
### **8. Appointment of bankers**

This year the Trustees have opened a new bank account with Charities Aid Foundation for savings.

Cater Allen is still the current account.



Both bank accounts are working well, and the Trustees know of no extra risks. It was agreed both will continue as the LDE banks



## 9. Future plans and The Good Lives framework

Jordan told everyone about the Good Lives framework that has been worked on for 2 years and been shared since March this year.

The 6 chapters are just a start – Jordan asked people think about how they can make the chapters better or get involved.

All the information including some films that explain it are here on the website <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/welcome/work-with-members-and-partners/good-lives-building-change-together/>

Wendy shared ideas for how people are using or adding to the framework

Examples like

- sharing it locally with people who buy or run services
- looking at how it can help with big plans or policies

Mark said Ace Anglia are doing similar work locally – he thinks it is important to use this to join up local and national work. Everyone pulling the same way.



## 10. Any other business

Sarah reminded everyone voting for the Rep Body elections opens on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Please look out for details on how to vote. If you do not get them this week let the team know.

Sarah thanked the members of the Representative Body who are standing down after these elections. They have all been involved since the start of the representative body.

Jordan, Rob, Sheila and Wendy were at the meeting, but David and Lynn will be standing down too.

Sarah said they have all made an important difference to Learning Disability England, supporting the staff, trustees and other members and giving a lot of time and effort. They will be missed a lot.

Sarah also thanked all the staff team for their work especially through the last 2 years with so much change to deal with.

There was no other business

Sarah closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming

