

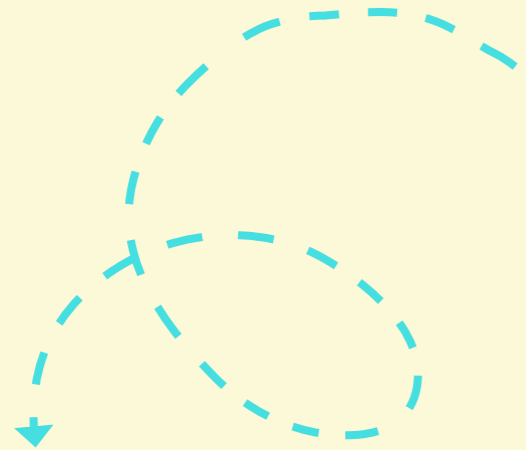
Moving towards a better future



“ Learning Disability
England is holding
a shared space
for everyone... a
united voice ”

Paid supporter member

Impact Report 2021 – 2022



Foreword

Learning Disability England brings people and organisations together as members on an equal basis to create a movement for change.

As people started to emerge from the pandemic, members, the Rep Body, Trustees and the staff team worked together to deliver on a far reaching work plan that focussed on the things member told us would make the biggest impact.

This included the launch of Good Lives, the result of several years of members and partners working together, co producing and sharing stories of hope and good practice, creating a foundation on which the whole community can build over the coming months and years.

As always, the positive impact Learning Disability England has made would not have been possible without its members. Thank you to everyone who shared something, worked with others or joined in to help create solutions and positive change.

that people with learning disabilities face every day, so it's really important to us as a family



Jordan Smith
self advocate
Co Chair



Wendy Burt,
family and friends
Co Chair



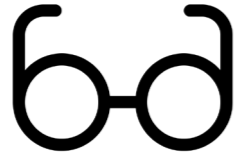
Scott Watkin BEM
paid supporter
Co Chair



“You continue to do a fantastic job of demonstrating inclusion and diversity in action that creates real change”
Family member

GOOD LIVES:
BUILDING
CHANGE
TOGETHER

Read Good Lives



Find out more

Good Lives: Building
Change Together
Plain English summary



Plain English



Film



Influencing for long term change: Good Lives

Good Lives: Building Change Together brings together what it will take for everyone with learning disabilities to be able to live their good life. It is built on human rights and a **HOPE-based vision for change**.

The 3 voice groups of Learning Disability England's membership are using the document as the basis for change, building on solutions and action we can all take or change to lobby for.

Learning Disability England host it but it is being used by people across the country in campaigning, research, service design and quality improvement.

“ [Good Lives] shows how LDE brings all of its members together and creates a bigger voice which is needed more than ever ”

Self advocate member

“ I've just come across this document. It's brilliant ! We are just starting to work on a new LD Strategy so it couldn't be more pertinent. I've already shared it with our LD commissioner and my carer rep colleagues on the Learning Disability Partnership Board here ”

Family member

“ Such an inclusive conference with so many great actions coming from this collection of passionate people with so much drive to make change happen ”

Conference speaker

In the first 4 months of being live

The Good Lives videos were watched 823 times

Over 1000 visitors to the Good Lives webpage spent over 5 minutes on average finding out about Good Lives and how to get involved

1415 tickets used over 6 formal sessions and 3 lunchtime catch ups

90% of attendees found the opening session very / mostly useful



The Good Lives Conference

The conference took place online between 15th and 17th March 2022.

It focused on sharing stories of impact and hope, with members and partners sharing what is possible next if we come together, and work differently and are willing to change structures and challenge the status quo.

The conference created a shared space where members explored together the next steps towards everyone with a learning disability living their good life, building shared understanding and a move to action.

Bringing members together: Consulting and representing members' views

Member Voice

Learning Disability England was 1 of 6 partners appointed as the Valuing People Alliance in a refreshed Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Health and wellbeing alliance programme, ensuring members voices are heard.

Member policy consultations fed into:

- The development of the Social Care white paper
- Covid vaccination requirements for social care staff
- The Disability Strategy
- The review of the Human Rights Act
- Small payments and mental capacity requirements
- Covid guidance in support settings, including supported living, community support and residential care

Members spoke up to influence change at:

- Joint Committee on Human Rights review of human rights in care settings.
- 2 All-Party Parliamentary Groups representing members' priorities on the integration of health and social care and social care reform.
- Archbishop's inquiry on social care
- Social Care Future inquiry 'Whose Social Care is it anyway?'



More than
650 people
attended the
sessions live, and
100s have viewed
the webinar
recordings
since

9 webinars
plus 5 for members
only. People with
learning disabilities,
family members,
researchers, support
workers, trainers,
and managers led
or attended these
online sessions.



Courage to Challenge

We challenge ourselves and others in pursuing and demanding good change. This means respecting and working together across different experiences, skills and expertise, working to support discussion led by self advocates and not create division but grow understanding.

For example, in 2021, the Representative Body consulted with members about the Down Syndrome Bill, a private members bill.

Some members thought it could make a very positive difference to people's lives. But twice as many members said they did not agree with the bill than said they supported it.

LDE made members aware of the bill, helped members engage with the groups leading it and made sure MPs knew about members' views.

The government supported the Bill so the Rep Body focused our work to make sure all members had a chance to contribute to the guidance once the Bill became an Act of Parliament.



In 2 weeks
101 members
responded
to 1st
consultation

55% had not
heard of the
Bill before we
asked them

81% did not
support the
Bill or were
not sure

89% supported
the idea of a
law that does
the same things
for all people
with learning
disabilities

“ [Until this] we had not seen much about it, and nothing in Easy Read ”
Self advocate member

“ Yes, please keep up the campaigning for all people with learning disabilities, encourage Health & Social Care to work together constructively, with appropriate funding. We need to emerge from this pandemic as a caring, civilised, united society of the 21st Century ”
Family member

Mary's video about good support



Influencing the future

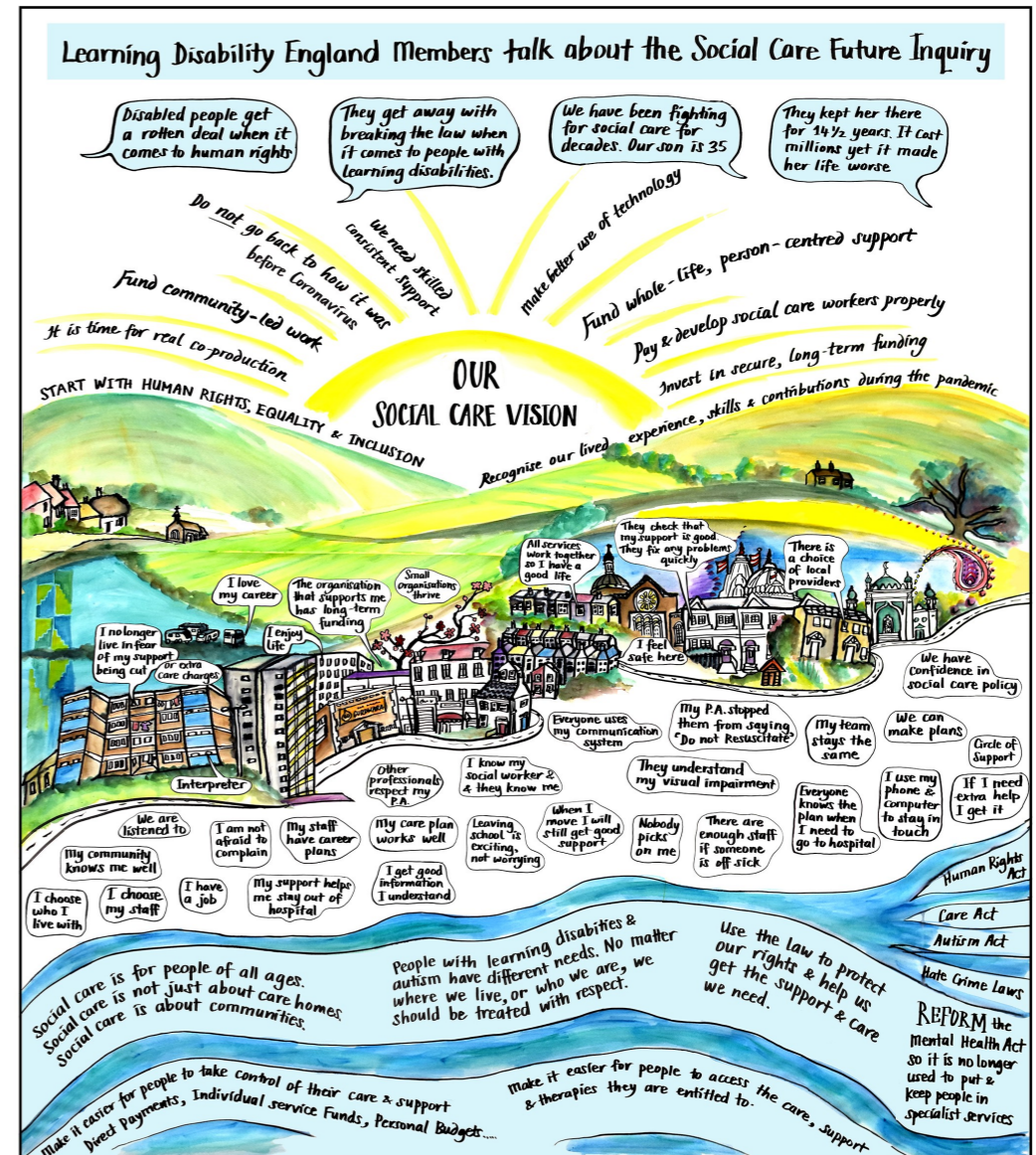
In April 2021, Learning Disability England members created their contribution to Social Care Future Inquiry.

Members said it's important they have a say about the social care they and other people with a learning disability receive in the future.

Evidence from members was co-produced between self advocates, family members and paid supporters, giving it a unique perspective underpinned by the Learning Disability England values.

The shared vision and actions work was used to influence and contribute to the work of the Department of Health and Social Care, including the development of the Health and Social Care White Paper.

Some members also blogged and made videos about their work and their experiences.



Learning Disability England Members Talk About The Social Care Future Inquiry, April-May 2021. Graphic by www.penmendonca.com ©MendoncaPen



25 blogs and videos including 36 individual members, groups and organisations

8 policy, joint committee or consultation responses

7 media pieces



Partnerships to keep people connected and share solutions

Key ways members came together to make a difference was:

- Sharing ideas and resources on different approaches
- Linking with others who are working on the same things to share resources or for peer support
- Gathering people's experiences and challenges and feeding these back to researchers and policymakers

39 weekly newsletters, 16 newsletter 'specials', 7 self advocacy newsletters sharing information, resources and events with over 2000 members and partners each week

18 'self-advocacy and families coming together' online sessions, with over 300 attendees



We stand for: rights, choice, inc



Equal Treatment

One challenge highlighted through the pandemic was the worse outcomes for people from Black Asian Minority Ethnic people with learning disabilities.

The Equal Treatment project builds on our work with the Race Equality Foundation over several years. The short projects aims to challenge racism and health inequalities through strengthening self advocacy, peer support and learning from supporters' practices and approached.

The work includes a training programme for self advocacy and family groups and support for health, social and community groups led by minority ethnic groups.

This is a learning project that Learning Disability England will make sure all members learn from and look at how we work together to do more to create 'equal treatment'.

3 delivery partners, Contact, Changing Our Lives and Include Me Too working directly with more than 40 organisations across England

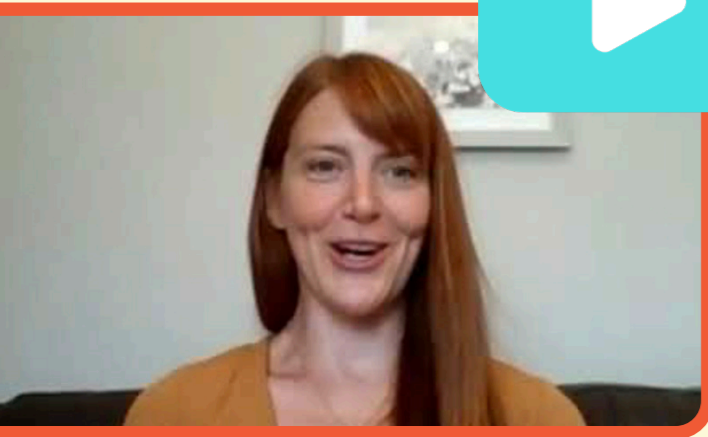


“ I feel more confident in making changes within my organisation to be more anti-racist, both internally and when we speak out publicly ”

Self advocacy group member

12 universities, 3 'waves' of interviews. LDE helped recruit 324 people; and 7 member groups made videos to explain and help make sense of the policy implications

Film



Covid research

During 2020 and 2021, LDE joined with researchers from 12 universities and other organisations to do a study on how the coronavirus pandemic has changed the lives of people with learning disabilities in the UK.

This research heard from people with learning disabilities about their own experiences. And the research team was helped by an Advisory Group of people with learning disabilities.

The work created a policy brief highlighting the findings people with learning disabilities and family members in England said are the most important for policy and practice.

And a series of videos from self advocates and self advocacy groups about key messages and priorities for change.

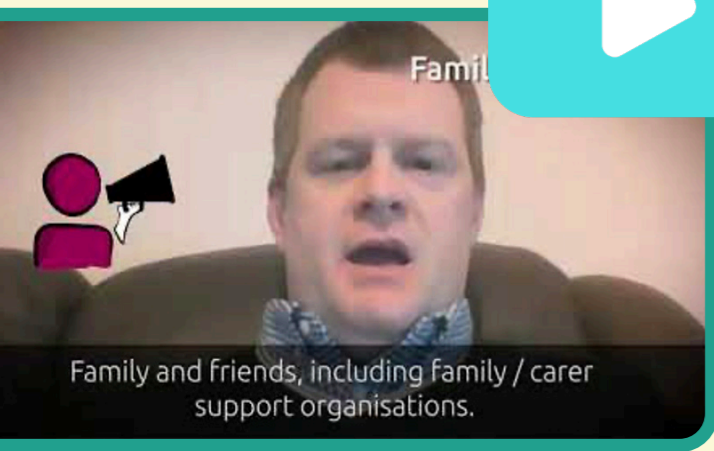


Find out more



“ We cannot let COVID turn back the clock for disabled people. The COVID response [told] people with disability: You're different – a patient to look after, not a person. A problem to manage, not a citizen. So how do we go forward, not back? We have learnt ... it can be done – if we trust people and empower them to make the decisions for their lives ”

Paid supporter member



Film



Famil

Family and friends, including family / carer support organisations.

Join today

Learning Disability England is strong because of its members. Add your voice by joining others working for change today!

What makes Learning Disability England different is that we are bringing people and organisations together to create a movement for change where people with learning disabilities, families, friends and paid supporters come together on an equal basis.

Members work together to build a world where people with learning disabilities have good lives with equal choices and opportunities as others.



We would love to hear from you
www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk
info@LDEngland.org.uk
Or call our office on 0300 1110444