



## **Update for members: Members reps meeting the Minister for Disabled people**

Scott, Kate and Jack met Tom Pursglove the Minister for disabled people, health and work in the Department of Work and Pensions.

As Learning Disability England member representatives they met him to:

1. Share some of what matters to Learning Disability England members and share some of what matters to people with learning disabilities and their families
2. Tell him about Good Lives and talk about the kind of cross government policy Good Lives is about

Good Lives is about people have equal lives with the same choices as non disabled people and support to achieve that

3. Tell him about some of the work Learning Disability England members are doing

We met for 45 minutes on Teams and here are some main points of what we talked about.

### **The Disability Action Plan**

The Minister is very keen that people share their feedback on the ideas in the plan.

He said people can also send feedback on the whole plan and its aims and values.

The plan speaks about the government's short term actions for the future to improve the lives of disabled people.

The Minister said he would like to hear more about people's example of Good Lives or what will make a good life happen.

He said he thinks the Disability Action plan and Good Lives share values.

Learning Disability England are hosting a session on the plan on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, you can sign up [here](#).

You can join that or e mail us what you think we should tell the government about the Disability Action Plan.

You can send in your feedback to the government [here](#).

## **Support to Work**

We told the Minister that the number of people with learning disabilities working in the last 10 years has gone down.

A lot of people with learning disabilities want to work but might need to do that with support or adjustments to the hours or the job.

We said there are lots of reasons for this including:

- There is not enough of the right support to help people get and keep a job. This includes job coaches as well as job carving for example.
- The benefit system makes it hard to work.
- People are afraid to try work or new skills if it might mean they cannot afford to live.
- Young people in school or education are not always helped to think about or get ready for work.

We also said that we do not want people to be forced to look for jobs or do that might make them ill or very stressed.

Some people might not do paid work but can still make a difference through voluntary work or live a good life.

The Minister said that he knows that some people might not do paid work. The system should understand that.

He said the government want to change the rules on people being reassessed and the Work Capability assessment. He said the [Disability White Paper](#) will be a positive change for disabled people.

He also said that he would like the government to do more to make sure people with learning disabilities are included in projects like [The Health Adjustment Passport](#) or [Universal Support](#).

Also there are trials on having different people check if disabled people can work under the Work Capability assessment.

In some areas people with expert knowledge on the person's health condition or disability are doing the assessment. The government want to know if this makes the decisions they make better.

### **What do you think?**

**We want to know what you as Learning Disability England members think works to help people do paid or voluntary work**

**Are there examples we should tell the government about?**

**What about benefits? Have you told the government what you think needs to happen for people with leaning disabilities to live with enough money?**

### **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

We asked why the Government had not gone to a meeting about the UN Convention. The meeting was for the United Nations to ask questions about how the government supports disabled people in this country.

The Minister said the government does not agree with the United Nations on what is happening in this country.

He says though the government will still work with the United Nations committee. They will be going to a big meeting in March 2024 to share an update on what the government is doing in the UK.

## **We finished with our big messages:**

- Equality of voice for everyone – not want hierarchy amongst disabled people
- Most of the solutions to the problems exist and many LDE members can help them
- Inclusion works

We would love to know what you think. If you cannot join a meet the reps session this month please do e-mail us or join a members network meeting which you can find the links to [here](#).