Minutes of the Members General Meeting

Where?

Online using zoom

The meeting was recorded and can be watched here

When

6th December 2023 at 10am

Jodie welcomed everyone to the meeting

We asked everyone to fill in a poll to say which membership voice group they belonged to so that we could check that the meeting was quorate.

There needed to be 4 members from each voice group and 15 members at least.

There were:

- 6 self-advocacy voice group members
- 5 family or friends group members
- 10 paid supporter group members
- 1 person who was unsure

1. Who was there?

Trustees

Sarah Maguire (co-chair)
Jodie Williams (co-chair)
Paula Braynion
Lisa Hopkins

Representative Body Members

Tim Keilty
Jack Marshall
Marianne Selby-Boothroyd
Jan Walmsley

Members

Donna Calverley
Wendy Burt
Thomas Chalk
Lisa Clark
Sean Dempsey
Frank Lyford
Alison Giraud-Saunders
Karen Gregory
Karen Graham
Rob Greig
Helen Guest
Nicky Harding
Sharron Hunt
Marie Lovell
Hayley Matthews
Sue Rzepczynski
Katie Smith
Sarah Smith
Christine Towers
John Verge
Tania Woodhouse

Apologies - Who could not come

Liz Tilly –Trustee
Scott Watkin – Rep Body
Angela Catley – Rep Body

2. Minutes of the last AGM in March 2023

The minutes and recording had been sent in advance. They are also on LDE's website.
Jodie asked if there were any questions or concerns about them.

The minutes of the AGM in March 2023 were agreed as a good record.

3. Trustees report on the work and accounts from April 2022 – March 2023

Sarah talked about what we have done.

Learning Disability England exists to make life better for and with people with learning disabilities, and their families.

How we work

- Support others work
- Celebrate others action or achievements
- Lead when taking action together is best

We do this through

- Membership – for people and organisations creating stronger links together
- Influence and campaigning – speaking up and sharing others important work
- Solving problems together and sharing what works

- Sharing information and building networks so that we learn together

At the end of March 2023 there were

- 188 organisation or group members
- 537 individual members

Examples of what we have done:

Building Good Lives

In 2022-2023 we focused on:

- Members or partners using the framework for change
- Policy or government people using it or talking about their work
- People or groups supporting the framework adding ideas or examples, or challenging it

Bringing people to learn or act together

Challenging Racism and Health Inequalities

- Race Health Observatory project
- Leadership development or support

Some partnerships we carried on:

The Valuing People Alliance – one of six organisations working as part of the HWA that supports the NHS and Government to reduce inequality in health and social care

JMS Trust – continue to host a worker and collaborate

Sharing solutions

For and with members:

- Newsletters
- Network meetings
- Webinars to share learning

For everyone:

- Public events or webinars
- Consultations and campaigns
- Blogs and videos
- Sharing with people with learning disabilities and their families

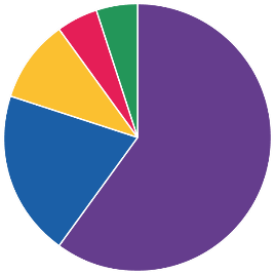
Accounts

Lisa explained that the Trustees have checked and agreed the accounts for 2022 - 2023.

An independent accountant (Polkadot & Ellis) has also looked at the accounts and confirmed that all the rules have been followed.

Total income for the year was £357,000. This came from:

- Grants
- Membership payments
- Donations
- Conferences and workshops



How we spent the money:

- Staff costs
- Conference costs
- External project costs
- Support expenditure/overheads

We are looking at membership as we are a louder voice together. Lisa asked everyone to invite people they know to join.

The Trustees have a policy on what reserves or savings Learning Disability England has and check that regularly.

The policy says that LDE will have six months' running costs in savings to manage big changes or unexpected problems.

LDE ended the year with £165,000 unrestricted reserves.

Sean said he thinks it is important that people and groups connect for People power. He said he is connected across the Northwest and the Trustees need to hear what he and others in the Northwest are doing
Sarah said that Trustees hear of the work of members in their regular meetings with the Rep Body

The accounts were agreed by the meeting.

4 The Representative Body work with members and plans

Tim, Ivan, Marianne, and James spoke about who the Representative Body are, what they do and their plans for the coming year.

Tim explained that the Rep Body is a group of people elected by members to:

1. Make sure Learning Disability England works on the things that are most important to members
2. Help make Learning Disability England member-led

Ivan explained about some of the work that the Rep Body had done in 2022 – 2023.

- They have been promoting Good Lives and making sure that policymakers and influential groups keep people with learning disabilities in mind.

- Mary is the Rep Body link to the all-party parliamentary group for social care and is an active member of the lived experience group.

- Marianne, Phil, Scott, and Angela represented members at the launch of the social care report by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. They have also spoken at conferences on members' work, and Good Lives.

- Alison is a member who regularly attends the continuing healthcare advisory board and provides updates to Learning Disability England members

- Scott represented Learning Disability England members at the National Capacity Act forum.

Ivan thanked all members of the Representative Body for the time they give and for their hard work.

Tim spoke about the Learning Disability Conferences which took place in March 2023

- We had three conferences in March 2023 – one in York, one in London and one online.
- We had 440 attendees
- 62 speakers shared how they are taking Action for Good Lives

James and Marianne talked about some of the work that has taken place this year in relation to our Good Lives Actions. We have:

- Continued to build a movement
- Collected examples of action and impact
- Created specific actions for people to get involved with (e.g. Letters to MPs)
- Continued to build our evidence base through the Good Lives Action collection
- Demonstrated the impact we can make when we connect

5. Appointment of Auditors

Jan asked if members support LDE keeping the same auditors.

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

6. Appointment of bankers

Paula explained that Learning Disability England's money is kept in different accounts to reduce risk.

The current account is with Cater Allen.

The savings are in the Charity Aid Foundation and Charity Bank.

The trustees have reviewed this, and all bank accounts are working well. The Trustees recommend that we keep using them.

The meeting supported that.

7.Future plans for Good Lives

Jan shared the Vision for Change Learning Disability England is using to guide its work

Priorities for change are:

1. LDE has, and models, a rights-based approach to everything it does

2. People of all ages with a learning disability and their families are living good lives

3. The way that people and society feel, think, and behave towards people with a learning disability has changed for the better

Jodie shared the poll and asked everyone to put the three choices in order of what they thought was most important.

Rob said that he did not think it was possible to prioritise one over the other as they are interlinked, and you cannot have one without the other.

Wendy agreed and asked if there was a way of noting this.
Jan and Jodie said they will take away this feedback and include in the work on a business plan.

8. Any other business

Jodie asked if there was any other business.

Sean reminded us of people power and how we want everyone to speak up together on what matters

Wendy thanked the Rep Body and Trustees for all that they do and said that the weekly newsletters from LDE were very helpful and informative.

Jodie thanked everyone for their support this year, and for attending the meeting. She wished everyone a Happy Christmas and and a Happy New Year.