



Minutes of the Members General Meeting

Where?

Online using zoom

The meeting was recorded and can be watched [here](#)



When

3rd December 2024 at 10am

Jodie welcomed everyone to the meeting

Jodie welcomed three new trustees. Parmi Dheensa, Jordan Smith and Kristiina Cooper joined the Board of Trustees in October.

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 that means it could make decisions

There were:

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





1. Who was there?

Sarah Maguire	Trustee (co-chair)
Jodie Williams	Trustee (co-chair)
Paula Braynion	Trustee
Jan Walmsley	Trustee
Parmi Dheensa	Trustee
Kristiina Cooper	Trustee
Jordan Smith	Trustee

James O'Rourke	Rep Body
Scott Watkin	Rep Body
Angela Catley	Rep Body
Ivan Olbrechts	Rep Body
Marianne Selby-Boothroyd	Rep Body
Phil Hughes	Rep Body
Liz Wilson	Rep Body
Tim Keilty	Rep Body
Jack Marshall	Rep Body
Jan Walmsley	Rep Body

Karen Hughes	Member
Alex Rowland	Member
Amber Perkin	Member
Emma Pierssene	Member
Matthew Smith	Member
Sebastian Reeve	Member
Vicky Forfar	Member
Abul Kasem	Member
Anup Upadhayaya	Member
Mari Stephenson	Member
Nigel Joseph	Member
Alison Giraud-Saunders	Member
Ben McCay	Member
Fiona Walker	Member
Helen Harverson	Member
Mollie Mattingley	Member
Marsh Stitchman	Member
Karyn Kirkpatrick	Member
Steve Chapman	Member

Apologies - Who could not come:



Lisa Hopkins
Liz Tilly
Kate Chate

Trustee
Trustee
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 2023 – March 2024

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



- Influencing 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 2024 there were

- 178 organisation or group members
- 483 individual members



Examples of what we have done:

Building Good Lives

In 2023-2024 we worked with members to take action for Good Lives by:

- Sharing examples of Action Towards Good Lives
- Speaking about Good Lives at 14 different events
- Building the Good Lives Manifesto together. More than 400 Learning Disability England members were part of making this manifesto



Sharing Solutions

We bring members together to learn from each other or understand new ideas or research together. This year we held:

- 10 member network meetings
- 7 member only webinars
- 3 public webinars

More than 700 places were used at these meetings.

Speaking up together



- Responded to 6 consultations with members, including the Government Disability Action plan, Oliver McGowan Mandatory training code of conduct, and the consultation on ticket offices.
- Supported campaigns led by members and partners
- Hosted 14 blogs by members on the website and posts on social media
- There were 43,000 visits to the Learning Disability England website
- Members were represented by other members on policy groups or advisory groups

Bringing people together to learn or act together

We have been part of research with the Race and Health Observatory, the Race Equality Foundation, Manchester Metropolitan University, The University of Central Lancashire, and Changing our Lives.

We worked in partnership with others on projects including:

- Annual Health Checks for people with learning disabilities from Black Asian and minoritised groups. This is a partnership with the Race Equality Foundation.
- Including people in research projects as part of a project called 'No Research About Us Without Us.'

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 on their work on Supported Living led by families.

Action towards Good Lives

We held three conferences in February 2024

550 people came

58 different speakers sharing what they are doing to support Good Lives

In our feedback, 90% of people felt more connected as a result of the conference.

Accounts



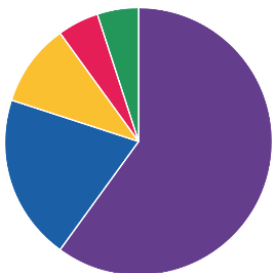
Lisa explained that the Trustees have checked and agreed the accounts for 2023 - 2024.

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 £297,257 This came from:

- Grants
- Membership payments
- Donations
- Conferences and workshops



Paula explained that we are trying to move away from grants and towards more of our income from membership.

How we spent the money:

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

We had a surplus of £40,000



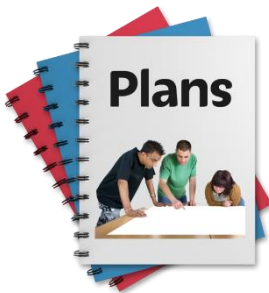
The Trustees have a policy on what reserves or savings Learning Disability England has and check that regularly.

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 £205,951 unrestricted reserves.



The accounts were agreed by the meeting.



4 Report from the Representative Body

Sarah introduced the report by giving an example of how the Representative Body work when they made the decision that Learning Disability England would move away from Twitter to Bluesky.



Angela, Philip, and Scott spoke about who the Representative Body are, what they do and their plans for the coming year.

Philip explained that the Rep Body is a group twelve people elected by members to:

- Make sure Learning Disability England works on the things that are most important to members
- Connect to members and feedback

Representatives come from all three voice groups

- People with a learning disability and self-advocacy groups
- Family and friends, and family/carer groups
- Paid supporters



Angela explained about some of the work that the Representative Body had done in 2023 – 2024. There are more things than what is listed below, but this is a selection of what some of things we have been doing.

Scott told us about the following things.

Work to influence Government and people who make decisions



- Met Disability Minister Tom Pursglove
- Helped develop a new online resource on 'do not resuscitate'
- Worked with the Nursing and Midwifery council (NMC) on the regulation of 'advanced practitioners' to make sure that they are hearing from people with learning disabilities and their families



- Attended stakeholder events for the Mental Health bill which is going through parliament at the moment and is likely to become law in 2025.
- We were part of 2 CQC Expert Advisory Groups
- Tried to influence the new Down Syndrome Act and guidance to try and get our members' points across
- Part of the APPG on social care
- Worked with Skills for Care on 'Delegated Healthcare Activities' done by support workers and personal assistants

Angela spoke about the work which the Representative Body has been doing around Good Lives.

- There has been a lot of work on promoting Good Lives and the Good Lives framework and Manifesto at different conferences and events.
- There has been much work to develop the Manifesto and get it published.
- Representative Body members have been part of the NICE People and Communities Network
- We have been part of the Valuing People Alliance
- We have been part of the work which the People's Voice Media organisation have been doing as part of their hackathon. A hackathon is an event where people come together to work together on solving problems, finding solutions, or developing new ideas. One of their strands of work is focussing on people who do not use speech.

- Representative Body members have also been contacting their MPs to tell them about Good Lives.

Philip told us about what we need to help Learning Disability England run and do well. We need:

- Trustee Recruitment
- A membership sub-group to ensure we are attracting more members and a variety of members
- Annual Conferences
- Meet the Rep events

We are working on Representative Body terms.

- Proposing to change how long Representative Body members serve, raising the term from 3 years to 4 years.
- The whole Representative Body agreed this was a good idea
- We need to consult all of our members about the change
- We have developed a survey which is going out in the newsletter and members will have a month to respond.

Angela thanked Philip and highlighted the survey to the meeting as we would like as many people as possible to respond.

5. Appointment of Auditors



Sarah asked if members support LDE keeping the same auditors.

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

6. Appointment of bankers



Paula explained that Learning Disability England's current account is with Cater Allen. The trustees check that the bank we use is in line with our values and that we get some money in terms of interest.

We also have a savings account with the Charity Aid Foundation and Charity Bank.



It was proposed that we continue using these bank accounts and this was agreed but the meeting.



7. Future plans for Good Lives

Gary and Amanda talked about the Good Lives refresh.



- We are updating all the Good Lives chapters with updated examples of good practice
- We are going to try to make it more inclusive by adding views from people from minority ethnic groups and people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities
- We are adding a new chapter on Health and also one on Transport. There will probably be more additions in the future as well.



Gary asked everyone to fill out the survey which is open until early 2025.

The membership meeting which was scheduled for last week had lots of examples of members doing good work around Good Lives, but it had to be cancelled due to illness. Amanda and Gary asked whether the meeting should be before or after Christmas. It was decided that it would take place early in the New Year.

Good Lives Actions

- Continue to build movement
- Collect examples of action and impact
- Create specific actions for people to get involved with
- We are looking to build our evidence base through the Good Lives Action collection.
- Demonstrate the impact we can make when we connect

Gary said that he and Amanda would love to hear from members if they had any ideas about chapters for Good Lives that we do not have yet.



8. Any other business

Sarah asked if there was any other business.

Mari Stevenson asked about how Learning Disability England thinks the Down Syndrome Act will impact on what is possible for people with Learning Disabilities generally and for people with Down Syndrome.



Sam Clark replied that we do not know yet. She said that the Government are writing the statutory guidance at the moment and are going to consult on that early in 2025. Once that is known we will have a better idea.

Alex Kaye from Brighton and Hove Speakout told the meeting about their campaign

Jodie thanked everyone for attending and also thanked the speakers. She thanked the staff for their work. She thanked Sam for all that she does for Learning Disability England. She thanked all the members and hopes to see you all at the conferences.

Sam closed the meeting by thanking Sarah and Jodie for chairing.