



Learning Disability England

Learning Disability England Report and Accounts 2023 - 2024

About Learning Disability England



Learning Disability England exists to make life better for and with people with Learning Disabilities and their families.

Learning Disability England is 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.



Learning Disability England is the member-led national organisation. Membership is organised into 3 groups of different experiences or voice groups



People with learning disabilities and Self-advocacy organisations;

Family and friends and family carer organisations

Paid supporters and partners (including people and organisations working in social care, health, universities, policy or training)

Learning Disability England Trustee report



What this is about



This is the Annual Report from the Learning Disability England Trustees

It looks at the year from 1 April 2023 to 31st March 2024.



The report and accounts tell people about the work that Learning Disability England has done.

It also tells people how it has spent the money.



Learning Disability England must publish its report and accounts every year.

This is because it is a registered charity.



The report has been put together by the Board of Trustees of Learning Disability England.

[Find out more about the Trustees here](#)

The aims and objectives of Learning Disability England



Learning Disability England is a membership organisation.



Members can be people with learning disabilities, their families, friends, and paid supporters.

Organisations and groups can be members too.



Learning Disability England brings together members to:

- learn from each other.
- work out problems.
- be a louder, stronger voice.

Learning Disability England members share the same aims and values.

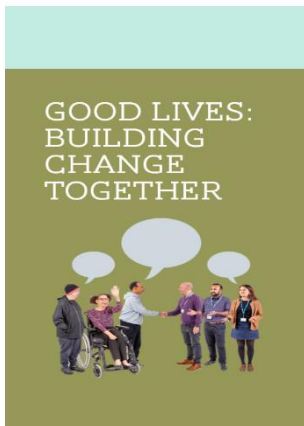
Members must agree with these aims and values when they join.

[Read the aims and values here](#)





Members work with each other on an equal basis to share knowledge and create a movement for change together.



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



At the end of March 2023 there were a total of 683 members.

This was 178 organisation or group members and 483 individual members.



[You can find out more about being a member here](#)



How Learning Disability England makes decisions



Learning Disability England has a [Board of Trustees](#).

The Trustees are responsible for governing the charity.



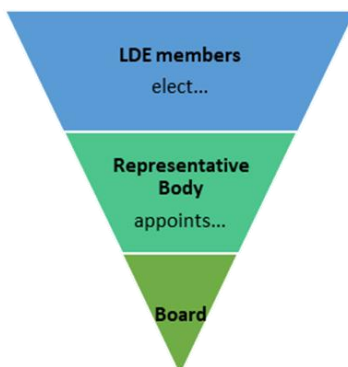
This means that they make the big decisions.

They make sure Learning Disability England works to the Charity Commission rules and the law.



The Board of Trustees works closely with the [Representative \(Rep\) Body](#).

The **Rep Body** makes decisions about what members will work on together.



The Rep Body are elected by members to represent them.

There are 12 Rep Body members representing the three different 'voice groups.

The Rep Body helps make sure Learning Disability England is led by members.



The Chief Executive works with the Trustees and Rep Body to lead Learning Disability England.

There is a small **staff team** of 8 people. Most of the team work part time and work from home across the country.

[Find out about the staff team here](#)



The big priorities Learning Disability England worked on in 2023 - 2024



The work Learning Disability England will prioritise is decided by the Representative (Rep) Body.

[Find out more about the Rep Body here](#)



In 2023 the Rep Body and Trustees worked together on [a Big Plan for 2024 - 2029](#)

It says what Learning Disability England will do to make the vision for change happen.

[Read the Vision for Change here](#)



Our Vision for the future is:

Learning Disability England is supporting a powerful movement for change, making sure that people of all ages with a learning disability are treated equally and are living their good lives.



All Learning Disability England’s work aims to move towards the vision.

The Big Plan says the action Learning Disability England will take and how we will check if we are making a difference.

Read the Big Plan [here](#)

There are 3 big priorities Learning Disability England will work on towards the Vision for the Future:



Rights based approaches are well used
Learning Disability England has and models a rights -based approach in all it does .



People with learning disabilities of all ages and their families are living Good Lives.



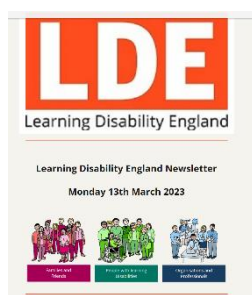
The way that people and society think and feel about people with a learning disability has changed for the better.

What Learning Disability England did between April 2023 – March 2024



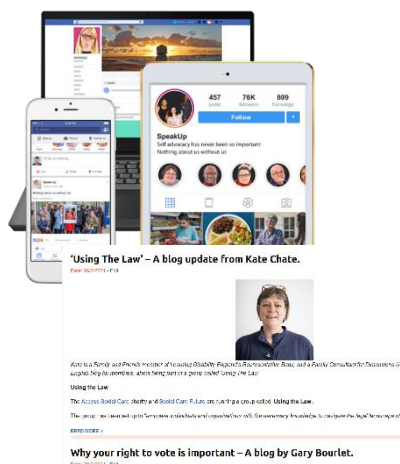
Informing and supporting members.

We helped the three 'voice groups' of our members get the information they needed and also heard from different people about their work or ideas.



We sent 49 weekly or special information newsletters to 2000 people who are members or part of a member organisation or group.

More than half of those people read the newsletter most weeks.



Learning Disability England shares information on the work of members and partners.

We also celebrate success.

Last year we did this through 14 blogs by members hosted on the website and posts on social media.

There were 43,000 visits to the Learning Disability England web site in the year.



Campaigning and influencing on what matters to people with learning disabilities to help people get a good life.



We helped members to be heard on consultations which were important to them. These included:

The Disability Action Plan the government wrote.



The Oliver MacGowan Mandatory training code of conduct

How Social Housing is allocated.



Closing Ticket Offices at train stations

Rules on visits to people living in care services.



Representing the members

As well as members working together on responses to consultations some members have been part of working groups or meetings to represent other members.



This year this included a member of the Rep Body being part of the group working on the guidance for the Down Syndrome Act.

The Social Care All Party Parliamentary Group



There were also member representatives on groups working on Continuing Health Care and Checking services with Care Quality Commission.



Representing members' priorities to inform policy and change attitudes.



[Good Lives](#) brings together people's ideas about what is needed for everyone with learning disabilities to be able to live their good life.

It is led by what people with learning disabilities say is important.

It is a vision for change with actions for everyone who wants to get involved, by campaigning or changing how they work now.



This year Learning Disability England 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

The Good Lives Manifesto



More than 400 Learning Disability England members were part of making the manifesto.

It is built from a number of campaigns and actions, bringing people and organisations together on what they think are the most important priorities for the next government to take action on to make [Good Lives](#) possible.



Supporting good practice and finding solutions through the 'voice groups' working together.

We bring members together to learn from each other or understand new ideas or research together.

This year we held:

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



More than 700 places were used at the meetings.

These meetings were about research findings, information on rights, or members sharing their work.



There were three Learning Disability England conferences in March 2024.

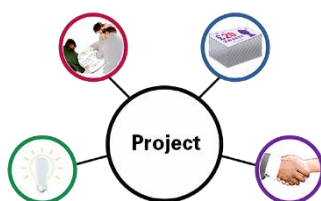
550 people came to the 3 conferences.

At the conferences 56 different speakers shared what they are doing to support Good Lives.

People shared work and ideas on

- Getting involved in politics.
- Campaigning together
- Action for Good Lives health chapter

You can find out more and see the recordings [here](#)



Learning and supporting partners through projects or research.

Learning Disability England works with partners and members to help them get involved in issues which members think are important.



[Annual Health Checks for people with learning disabilities from Black Asian and minoritised ethnic groups](#) was a partnership with the Race Equality Foundation.



It builds on other projects about the experiences of people from ethnic minority communities with learning disabilities and their families.

At Learning Disability England, we will be carrying on working to support the inclusion of people with learning disabilities from ethnic minorities by changing how we work as well as promoting the voice of people from ethnic minorities.



Learning Disability England is one of six organisations in the [Valuing People Alliance](#).



As one of the members of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance, they work with the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, and the UK Health Security Agency. They help to ensure policies and plans include people with learning disabilities.

There was also work on:

- Including people in research projects as part of a project called [No Research About Us Without Us](#)
- Housing choices and rights
- Advocacy and people being heard



Partnerships are important to Learning Disability England

Most of our work is done in partnership with members or other partners.



JMS Trust is an important partner, and we share a worker with them.



Learning Disability England is part of different groups and memberships to help members learn about or join in with others work.



This includes [Citizen Network](#) and [Inclusion Europe](#)



Risks

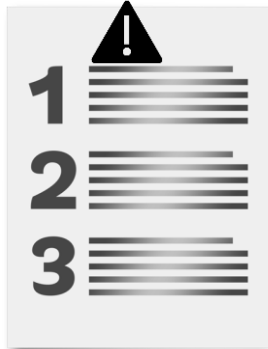


The Trustees look at the risks Learning Disability England might face.

Risks are the things that might go wrong.



Then they decide what they can do to make it less likely that these things happen, or to protect Learning Disability England if they do happen.



The biggest risks Trustees have worked on this year are:

- How many memberships are joining or staying part of Learning Disability England
- Having the right jobs in the organisation so Learning Disability England is strong and makes a difference.
- The economic and political changes that are happening.



To try to keep Learning Disability England strong the Trustees decided to

- Recruit an operations Manager to lead on the administration and finance including managing memberships.
- Invest in a new system for managing memberships so it is easier to join and help all members renew.



About the money



The total income for the year was £297,257

Income is the money that came into Learning Disability England.



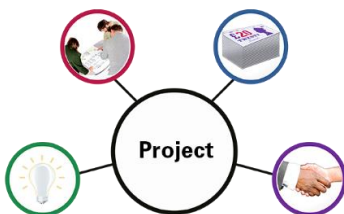
£103,114 came from grant funding.

£131,431 came from membership payments.

£12,037 came from donations.

£36,972 came from conferences, workshops, and advice.

Learning Disability England got money from/for these grants and projects:



- JMS Trust
- VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance
- RTR Foundation and Bailey Thomas Foundation



The biggest things Learning Disability England spent money on were:

- £171,069 on staff costs
- £38,668 working on projects and events



The total funds that were brought forward were £205,921.

This means money that Learning Disability England still had money in the bank at the end of the year.



Review of an independent examiner



Each year our annual accounts must be checked by an independent examiner.



An independent examiner is someone who is a qualified accountant and separate from the organisation.



The independent examiner has checked these accounts.

They found that these accounts followed all the rules.



More information



You can find out more by looking at the website.
<https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/>



If you have any questions, please email
info@LDEngland.org.uk or phone 0300 111 044.