



# Impact Report 2024/25



# Stronger, louder, together.

Learning Disability England exists to bring people and organisations together in a movement for change. It aims to unite people with learning disabilities, families, friends, and paid supporters on an equal basis, working towards a society where people of all ages with a learning disability are treated equally and live good lives (as defined by members).

Formed in 2016, Learning Disability England connects individuals and organisations to share knowledge, solve problems, and create positive change, ensuring that every member has an equal voice and influence, regardless of size or status.

Learning Disability England is the only national organisation where people with learning disabilities, self-advocates, families, and paid supporters collaborate as equals. This shared commitment strengthens the voice of people with learning disabilities, making lived experience central to decisions, policy, and practice.

This impact report shares examples of how Learning Disability England and its members are working for change - through data and stories that highlight the differences made in people's lives. It recognises the contribution of all members working together to make good lives (as defined by members) a reality.

**The vision guiding this work is a society based on rights, respect, and inclusion, where people with learning disabilities live good lives and where attitudes, systems, and communities change for the better.**



**The movement  
is built on the  
principle of**



## Foreword from the Co-chairs

As Co-Chairs of the Learning Disability England Representative Body, it gives us great pleasure to introduce this Impact Report. It is so powerful to see what can be achieved when people, formal organisations and families/friends come together with a shared purpose. It also demonstrates how every contribution and individual effort, no matter how small it might feel at the time, counts towards the real possibility of positive change.

It is a comfort for us to be part of Learning Disability England because it means knowing that a dedicated group is working together to drive change. We witness thoughtful, truly co-productive discussions within the Representative Body. We talk about different views from across the sector and always find a way to agree, without arguments or upset. This respectful teamwork is amazing and gives us hope that we really can be stronger together.

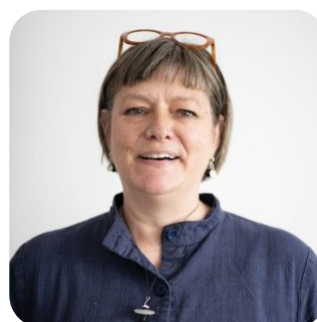
The impact shown in these pages is something every member should be proud of. For all of us who have been elected to represent our organisations, families, and friends, this report is a welcome reminder. It shows that even just by being one of the people who help Learning Disability England exist and thrive, we are part of making change happen. Seeing the big difference the organisation makes, through the eyes of its members, makes us feel very proud. Thank you to every member and representative for your ongoing enthusiasm and hard work towards this movement.



Jack Marshall  
Self advocate Rep



Tim Keilty  
Paid Supporter Rep



Kate Chate  
Family and Friends Rep

# Putting Good Lives on the Government Agenda

**Over the past year, Learning Disability England members have made sure that the experiences, priorities, and rights of people with learning disabilities are heard directly by decision-makers. From the Good Lives Manifesto to joint letters and consultation responses, members' voices have shaped national conversations on issues such as digital inclusion, health, supported housing, and pathways to work.**

The Good Lives Manifesto, co-produced with over 450 people and organisations, set out the changes people with learning disabilities, their families, and supporters want to see in government. Twenty-three members reported taking direct action using the manifesto, including contacting local and national political leaders and asking questions at hustings.

Members have also shared information directly with decision makers. For example, the Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) Rights and Information Pack, developed with Turning Point and Paradigm, was shared at a government roundtable on End of Life planning, hosted by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman. More than 2,000 people have since downloaded or used the resource.

Mary, James, and Marianne, Learning Disability England members' representatives on the Social Care All-Party Parliamentary Group, attended several parliamentary meetings to highlight what matters most for people and families around social care. Learning Disability England members are helping shape change, ensuring that the vision of good lives (as defined by members) for people with learning disabilities is recognised and acted on by government.



Mary (far right) at a Social Care APPG meeting in Parliament

**10**   
**consultations  
and open letters  
responded to**

# Member stories

## James, of the FairOak Owls tenant board

### Using the Manifesto to Speak Up for Change in Our Community

Earlier this year, a group of us tenants from FairOak went to the Learning Disability England Conference in Leeds, where we heard about the Good Lives Manifesto and its call for an inclusive election. We agreed it was important that our voices were heard by local MPs.

When the General Election was announced, we contacted all the local candidates to ask if they would support the manifesto. We had positive replies from the Labour, Green, and Liberal Democrat candidates. Pippa Smith, the Labour candidate, visited our office and answered our questions about supported housing, social care, and fair benefits. We really felt listened to.

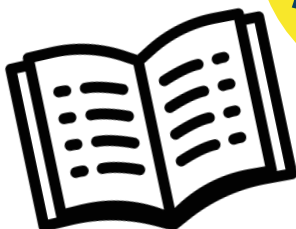
We then held group discussions about the different parties' manifestos, and on Election Day six of us voted for the first time. Everyone said it felt great to take part and have a say in how the country is run.

After the election, our local MP Tim Farron came to visit. He followed up our conversation by contacting local health leaders, who have since trained staff and invited one of our tenants to join the Patient Participation Group.

The Good Lives Manifesto helped us speak up and influence the issues that matter most to us.

**8,500**

people viewed  
or downloaded  
the Good Lives  
Manifesto



Tenants from FairOak Housing with MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, Tim Farron

# Member stories

## Peter and Tristan

### Building Connections with MPs for Good Lives

I'm Peter, and along with my friend Tristan, we attended a local election hustings in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton in June 2024, where all six candidates were present. Using the Good Lives Manifesto, we asked the very first question of the evening about how candidates would ensure people with learning disabilities can live good lives (as defined by members) locally and nationally. We also asked if they would read the manifesto and meet with the local learning disability community six months after the election.

By the end of the session, all six candidates promised to read the manifesto and meet with the community. Honouring that promise, the Conservative candidate (now MP) Alison Griffiths met with people from L'Arche and Aldingbourne Trust in May 2025. We held preparatory meetings to ensure all key points were covered, using the relaunched Good Lives Framework as the basis for discussion.

Over an extended hour, we talked about health, disability-aware communities, work, social care funding, continuity of care, supported housing, and even the assisted dying bill. The session broadened Alison's understanding of learning disability issues nationally and locally and helped build stronger links between the MP, local organisations, and the community, with plans for ongoing engagement, including community lunches and further conversations.



Peter asking a question at his local election hustings

# A Growing Movement in an Uncertain World

**Learning Disability England is the only membership that brings together people with learning disabilities, families, and organisations nationally to build a powerful movement for change. In a year marked by uncertainty and financial pressures, the membership has continued to stand strong.**

Membership growth has been achieved while keeping fees at the same level, recognising the cost challenges many members face. This commitment has helped to ensure that everyone, regardless of financial pressures, can stay connected and continue to be part of the movement.

The value of being part of this network has been especially clear this year. Members have spoken about the unique chance to connect with others working towards the same vision, and to respond together when challenges arise. For example, support provider members shared figures on the impact of the National Insurance rise, which were brought together into a briefing for government and councils that included the voice of people drawing on social care alongside organisations affected by the changes.



# Member stories

**TURNING  
POINT**  
inspired by possibility



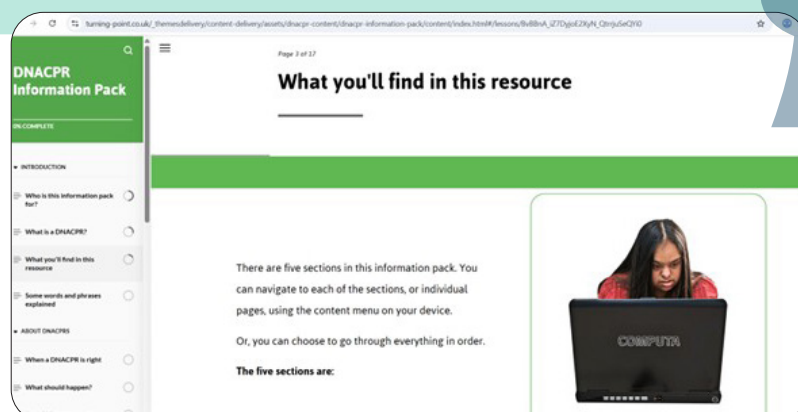
## Turning Point

### Supporting People to Understand and Speak Up About DNACPR (Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Decisions

“ Together with Learning Disability England, we co-produced a guide to help people with a learning disability and their families understand and advocate for themselves about DNACPR (Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) decisions. The LeDeR review found in over a third of cases, the correct steps for making DNACPR decisions for people with a learning disability were not being followed.

We knew it was essential to work directly with self-advocates and family carers. Their insight shaped every part of the guide, making it clear, practical, and relevant. The project also benefited from collaboration with NHS England, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and the National Mental Capacity Forum, helping turn complex medical and legal language into straightforward guidance that builds confidence and safety. It acts as a practical tool to help people understand their rights, challenge unfair treatment, and raise concerns when needed.

We are proud to have worked with Learning Disability England on this project. Their support connected us with key national networks and ensured the resource is reaching those who can benefit most. This work is an important step toward tackling inequality and promoting dignity, safety, and fairness for people with a learning disability.

”

# Member stories



**Yazz Davies**

## Linking Local Voices to National Change

I work with My Life My Choice, a self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities. Being part of Learning Disability England keeps us connected to what's happening nationally. It means we hear about new opportunities, know how to get involved, and can make sure our voices are part of wider change. For me, that connection makes our local work stronger because it links what we do to a bigger movement for equality and inclusion.

**98%**



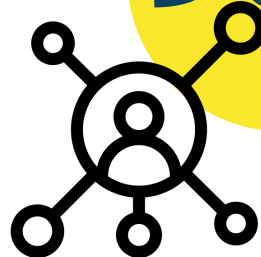
**of organisations and groups stayed members in 2024 – 2025**

(as of March 2025)



Over

**90%**



**of respondents\* said the conference helped them feel more connected**

(\*to our conference feedback survey)

# Creating the Space for Learning, Connection and Change Together

**Good Lives tells us that being connected makes a real difference for people and their families. Over the past year, Learning Disability England has created spaces for members to connect, learn and act together. Through online events, the annual conferences, and regular network meetings, members have found a sense of belonging and the chance to share experiences and learn from one another.**

Webinars and the weekly newsletter help people make informed choices and take action to support themselves and others to live good lives. Members often tell us that reading the newsletter is how they start their week — a place to find accessible, useful information and opportunities from across the membership as well as updates from public bodies.

These spaces are not just for conversation; they lead to real impact. Members have used what they learned from webinars to make real changes in their lives, work and communities. Following our 2025 conference, 75% of participants said they would do something differently as a result of attending, such as thinking and prioritising differently in their work and campaigning on the issues raised. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected movement for change.



“It was easily the best conference I’ve ever attended. Serious, important, joyful and activist.”

The 2025 in-person conference

# Member stories



**Jordan Smith**

## **Knowledge Is Power: How One Webinar Helped Me Reduce My Care Charges**

I went along to the webinar and found it really useful, and it came just at the right time as I was almost due to review my charges with my support provider. In the webinar, they explained what counts as disability-related expenses – something I've never heard directly from my council. It was so good to know what we can legally claim.

I shared the webinar directly with my team at Dimensions, and when it came to my review, we put all the Disability Related Expenses that applied to me down. If I hadn't gone, I wouldn't have known what I could claim for. As a result, I was able to renegotiate my social care charges and get a reduction. The webinar made a real difference.



**Weekly Members Newsletter has an average open rate twice the rate of similar newsletter**

**LDE's is**

**50.4%**

# Member stories



## Ramandeep Kaur

### Working together so all voices and experiences are heard and valued

I was pleased that parents' and carers' voices were included in the 'We Deserve Better' report and that I was able to share my experiences as a mother. Too often, we are excluded from research and LDE and the Race Equality Foundation understood the importance of listening to us too. The report was discussed at the NHS Confederation conference in Manchester, and I was asked to speak at the panel event with other members of LDE. By taking part in projects such as this and sharing them with people who work in the NHS, we can only improve health outcomes for people like my son.

Learning Disability England understands the importance of co-production and ensuring it is at the heart of the work they do. When an opportunity arose to deliver some training to civil servants, and I was delighted to be asked to be one of the co-trainers. LDE facilitated these sessions with people with lived experience and ensured that we were fully involved in designing the sessions and delivering them. It was great to work with other parents and carers and with people with a learning disability and to share our experiences. If policy makers hear directly from people like me, it can be more impactful than just sending out a report or a professional trainer. Our voices make a real difference.



Jabeer Butt, Chief Executive of the Race Equality Foundation presenting at the 2025 conference

# Amplifying Voices Where It Matters

**Change happens when people with learning disabilities and their families are listened to in the right places. Learning Disability England has created opportunities for members to be heard in national and international projects - sharing their experiences, influencing research, and shaping policy decisions.**

Over the year, member representatives have been part of or partnered in 22 research or improvement projects on topics including learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, digital inclusion, influencing DNACPR decisions, and self-advocacy. Many of these projects included paid roles for people with learning disabilities and families, ensuring that their time, knowledge, and expertise were properly recognised and valued.

**Elected Member Reps from the Representative Body attended**

**17**

**events or meetings to represent all LDE members including:**

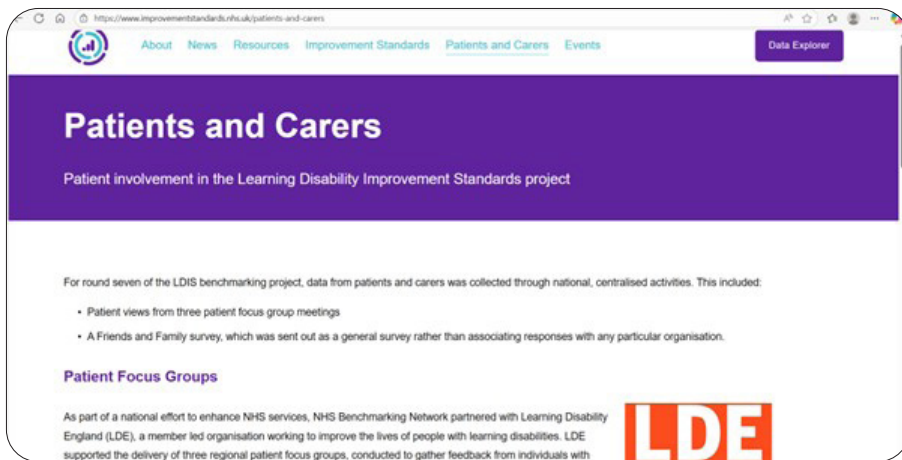
- Meeting Stephen Kinnock – Social Care Minister several times**
- Sharing members’ priorities with Director General Social Care Michelle Dyson**
- Representing members on the Down Syndrome Act Advisory Group**
- Attending the launch of the NHS Change consultation**



Phil Hughes, Self advocate Member Rep with his sister Karen Hughes

Learning Disability England has also supported members to play an active role in shaping more inclusive and effective healthcare. Through work with the NHS Benchmarking Network, members shared their experiences as patients and families to help improve how services understand and respond to people with learning disabilities. Members also contributed directly to the development of the NHS Change 10-Year Plan - taking part in focus groups, member sessions, and all three phases of the consultation. In total, 66 members shared their ideas and priorities. Members were also represented in NHS Partners Council meetings, as Family Reps Ivan and James attended the plan's launch alongside ministers and the Prime Minister.

The reach of Learning Disability England's voice has even begun to extend beyond the UK. The Good Lives message was shared internationally through close alliances with Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe. Self-advocacy member representative Jack and Scott brought the Good Lives message as far as Cuba - connecting with people with lived experience there who were planning to set up a facility to support disabled people and wanted to learn from the UK's experiences.



Self-advocate representative Kumudu Perera sharing his Good Lives action at the 2025 conference

# Member stories

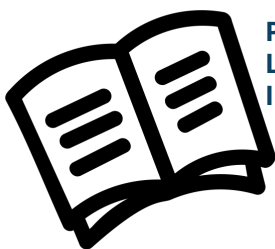
## People's Voices at the Heart of NHS Improvement

Learning Disability England worked with NHS Benchmarking to support the voice of people with a learning disability be heard in the 2024 – 2025 Learning Disability Improvement Standards. These NHS Improvement Standards started in 2018. Since 2018, some NHS Trusts have been using the standards to check how their services support people with learning disabilities.

In previous years, there had been a paper survey for people with learning disabilities to give feedback on their care in hospital. Learning Disability England worked with 3 community or self advocacy members to try a new way of getting feedback from people with learning disabilities. Those local self-advocacy or community groups held meetings to get feedback from people. They spoke with people with learning disabilities who have used a hospital service in the last year. This could be people who went to outpatient appointments as well as people who needed to stay in hospital.

**“ I really feel it's helped put the work into perspective for our team in terms of the impact and importance of what we're trying to achieve. ”**

NHS Benchmarking



**Patients and Carers  
Learning Disability  
Improvement Standards**



Ivan Olbrechts (Family and Friends Rep) with Wes Streeting at the 10 year plan consultation launch event

# Member stories

## Jack Marshall and Kumudu Perera

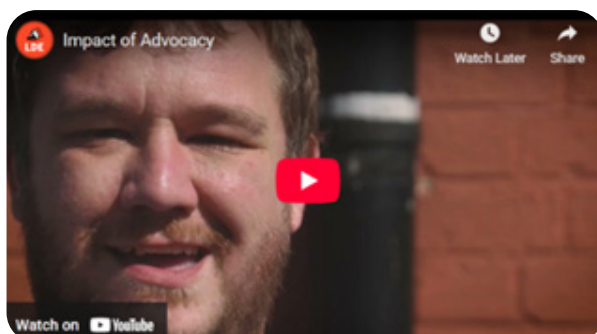
### Championing Leadership and Inclusion Beyond the UK

We were invited by Inclusion Europe to go to Brussels, Belgium, to share how we do things at Learning Disability England and to learn from people from across the world. Everyone shared their experiences, the problems they face, and the solutions that work for people with learning disabilities.

We talked about how LDE is structured, with our Representative Body and Board of Trustees, so that people with learning disabilities have a real say in decisions. One thing that really stood out to us was that in many countries, people with learning disabilities are not seen on boards or as trustees — the same as often happens in the UK. We hope that by sharing how LDE works, we showed that with the right support, people with learning disabilities can be leaders and decision-makers, just like anyone else.



Kumudu, pictured second from the right, in Brussels with Inclusion Europe



'Impact of advocacy' film screenshot

**Impact of Advocacy Film – put together with Speakup Self advocacy has been viewed**

**1500**

**times through our website**

Be part of a **movement for change.**  
**Join Learning Disability England.**



Learning Disability England is England's only national movement where people with learning disabilities, families, friends and people in paid supporter roles come together on an equal basis.

That's because we are stronger and louder together! Together we work towards people with learning disabilities having good lives with equal choices and opportunities as others.

#### **As a member, you can:**

- **Be part of a strong collective voice influencing change**
- **Connect with others who share your values**
- **Receive updates, resources, and opportunities to get involved**
- **Support national campaigns led by people with lived experience**
- **Help shape a positive future for people with learning disabilities**

## How to Join

Find out more and join online at:  
**[www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/membership](http://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/membership)**

If you'd like help signing up or want to talk about membership, please get in touch.

Email: [info@LDEngland.org.uk](mailto:info@LDEngland.org.uk)

Phone: 0300 111 0444

Address: c/o Anthony Collins Solicitors, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES

## Stay Connected

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with news from Learning Disability England and the membership

#### **LinkedIn:**

@learning-disability-england

#### **Facebook:**

Learning Disability England

#### **Bluesky:**

@learningdiseng