



Learning Disability England

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026



Kumudu Perera
Marianne Selby Boothroyd
Member Reps



Floor 4

- Co-pro Zone
- Lunchtime band
- Workshops
- Lunch

Floor 3

- Welcome
- Keynotes
- '10 Years Time' all day drop-in
- Events over lunchtime
- No-food floor
- Workshops

Floor 2

- Registration
- Lunch
- Stalls
- Workshops
- Lunchtime band



Simon Bottery

Senior Fellow

The Kings Fund

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026



Lord Paul Scriven

Life Peer

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

**LORD PAUL
SCRIVEN
WORKING
TO HELP
PEOPLE BE
SEEN**



**MYLES
EDWARD
SCRIVEN**

**IS NOT A
MEDICAL
STATISTIC**



**I CAN
AMPLIFY
VOICES
USING MY
PLATFORM**



**HOLDING PEOPLE
TO ACCOUNT.
IT'S ABOUT
DOING IT**



NEXT STAGES

**IMPACT
MATTERS**





Gary Bourlet
Learning Disability England

Being Seen, Being Heard
LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

GOOD LIVES

In



Learning Disability England



10

years time



How it all began...

For a long time, people with learning disabilities have not been seen or treated as equals

I tried to change this by setting up People First England

Supported by Housing & Support Alliance

People First England and Housing & Support Alliance wanted to do more - something new.



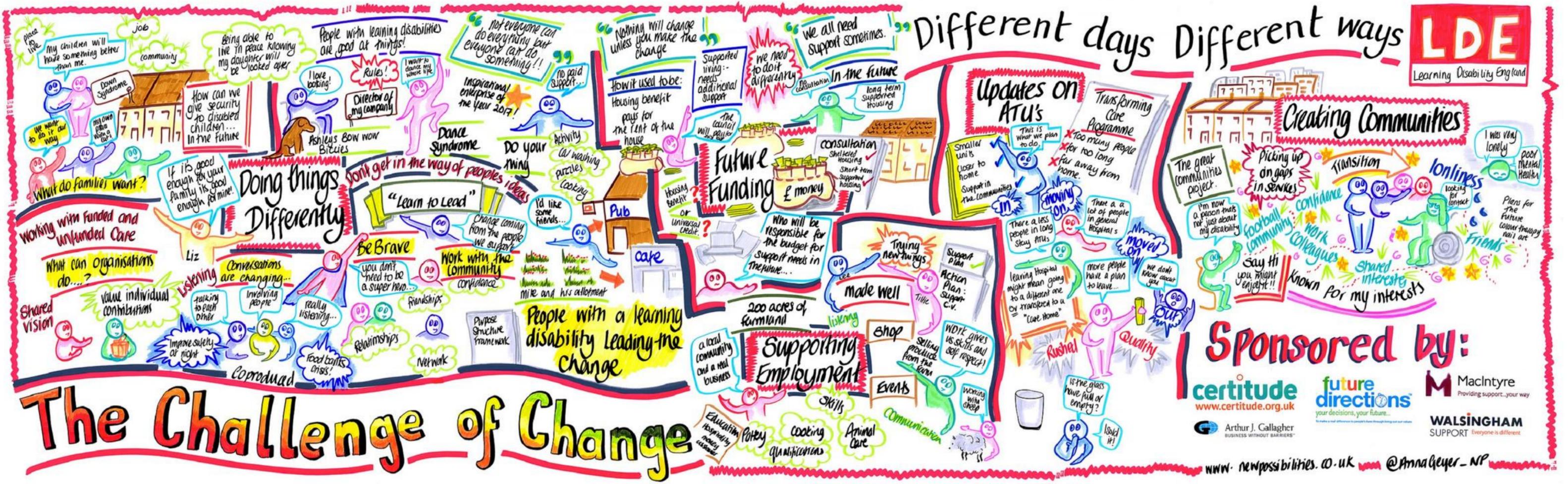
How it all began...

Change wasn't happening fast enough because people weren't working together.

Gary and the Housing and Support Alliance brought like-minded people together to create a movement for change.

These self-advocates, families and organisations worked with Gary and the Housing and Support Alliance to build Learning Disability England.





Sponsored by:

certitude www.certitude.org.uk
 Arthur J. Gallagher BUSINESS WITHOUT BARRIERS

future directions your decisions, your future...

MacIntyre Providing support... your way

WALSINGHAM SUPPORT Everyone is different

www.newpossibilities.co.uk @AnnaGeyer-NP

Learning Disability England is Founded

2016

- Learning Disability England will be Led by people with learning disabilities, families and allies
- It was launched at the House of Lords.



Conference and Setting up

2017

- The annual conference was held in Birmingham.
- The organisation was still finding it's feet - people, families and supporters were not used to working together yet and finances were tight.



Supported Self-Advocacy Together

2019

Learning Disability England started working with 5 self-advocacy or human rights organisations as 1 of 7 **social movements for better health** that **Nesta** supported for a year.



The Covid-19 Pandemic Hit

2020

- Fortnightly online sessions helped members stay informed, connected, and resilient.
- Members successfully campaigned for people with learning disabilities to be higher priority for vaccination.



The First Rep Body Elections

2017

To help ensure the organisation could be member led, a representative body was set up to guide priorities and make decisions.



The Rep Body Recruit Trustees

2018

- The 1st Chief Executive is recruited
- A new board of trustees was set up to help make sure Learning Disability England is well managed and meets its purpose.



The First Good Lives Meeting

2020

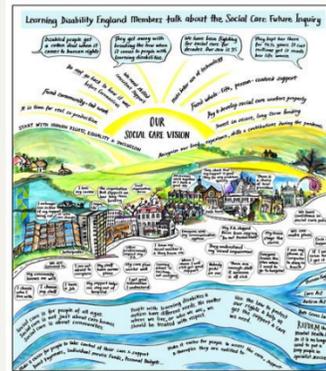
40 self advocates came together in Birmingham to speak about what it will take for everyone with learning disabilities to be able to live their good life.



Members Contribute to the Social Care Future Inquiry

2021

The shared vision and actions were used to influence and contribute to the work of the Department of Health and Social Care, including development of the Health and Social Care White Paper.



The 'We Deserve Better' Project Begins

2022

Looked at the barriers that trigger people with a learning disability from ethnic minority backgrounds to die at an average age of just 34. It made recommendations for policy, practice and research.



Co-leading on No Research About Us Without Us

2022

- Gary Bourlet becomes Colead on a project examining the barriers that stop research from including people with a learning disability.
- Produced tools and guidance to be used to help people carry out and take part in inclusive research.



Campaigning to stop misuse of DNAR and the Development of LeDeR

2020

- Members identified misuse of DNAR notices, partnered with the British Institute of Human Rights and created a DNAR toolkit with Turning Point.
- Members views were gathered to ensure the new LeDeR policy prioritised sensitive and authentic communication with bereaved families

The Good Lives Framework shared

2021

Lays out what people said they need to live well with ideas for change and examples of good practice.

The Valuing People Alliance continues, One of the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance



Creation of the Cost of Living Hub and Housing Guide

2022



Three National member Conferences are held

2023

Learning Disability England held three national conferences in London, York and online with 440 attendees 62 speakers focused on Good Lives.

Annual conferences have continued to help make connection and change happen for members.



Big Organisational Priorities in a Vision for Change 2023

Rep body and trustees work together on a big plan that includes 4 big priorities Learning Disability England will work on to move towards it's vision for the future.



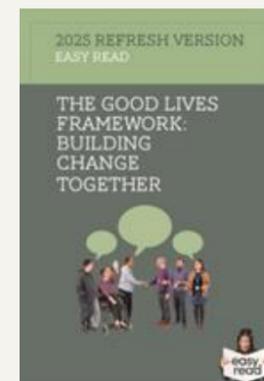
How We Survive and Thrive Project Begins 2024

Looks at how we can ensure people with learning disabilities are in the best place to survive and thrive if there is another pandemic.



The Good Lives Framework is Refreshed 2025

The Good Lives Framework, grounded in rights, lays out what people said they need to live well with ideas for change and examples of good practice.



Celebrating 10 years at the Being Seen, Being Heard Conference 2026

At the fastest-selling conference in Learning Disability England history, members celebrated how people with learning disabilities are being seen and heard in their communities..



The Good Lives Manifesto is produced 2024

- 400 members were part of making the manifesto, 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.



New Trustees are Recruited 2024

Jordan Smith, Parmi Dheensa, Kristiina Cooper join as new trustees and Debbie O'Neil stands down.



Learning Disability England has 785 members 2026

Learning Disability England reaches 785 members - that's 785 organisations and individuals coming together to work towards good lives. This is a 45.9% increase from 2020.



Members 10 Year Timeline



We want to hear what members remember from the last 10 years.
Can you share your memories?



Can you remember anything you and Learning Disability
England did together since 2016?



You can use the post-it notes to add your memories to the timeline.

Looking forward...

We also want to look forward at what the next 10 years might look like.

Can you think about this question:

In 10 years' time, what would you like to see happening for yourself or others? How will we get there?



What will we use this for?



It will be written up and shared with members after.



What we hear will shape and inform the future work of Learning Disability England

It will help us to know what matters to people



We will share it with the government and other organisations

How to get involved...



Please visit the Good Lives 10 years time session, taking place in here all day

Write your ideas onto the postcards and stick them onto the posterboards.



Don't worry if your ideas are big or small!

You might want to think about an 'ideal world' where all people with learning disabilities are living good lives.

Take part online...

You can also add your ideas to the online Menti boards.

Here is a QR code to access them...

You can also find this on posters and screens throughout the conference all day.

We will share the results afterwards.



Question reminder

Can you remember anything you and Learning Disability England did together since 2016?

(add to the timeline all day)

In 10 years' time, what would you like to see happening for yourself or others? How will we get there?

(add to the posterboards all day or the online menti)



Workshops
The card says
the floor and
room



Floor 4

- Co-pro Zone
- Lunchtime band
- Workshops
- Lunch

Floor 3

- Welcome
- Keynotes
- '10 Years Time' all day drop-in
- Events over lunchtime
- No-food floor
- Workshops

Floor 2

- Registration
- Lunch
- Stalls
- Workshops
- Lunchtime band



Learning Disability England

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

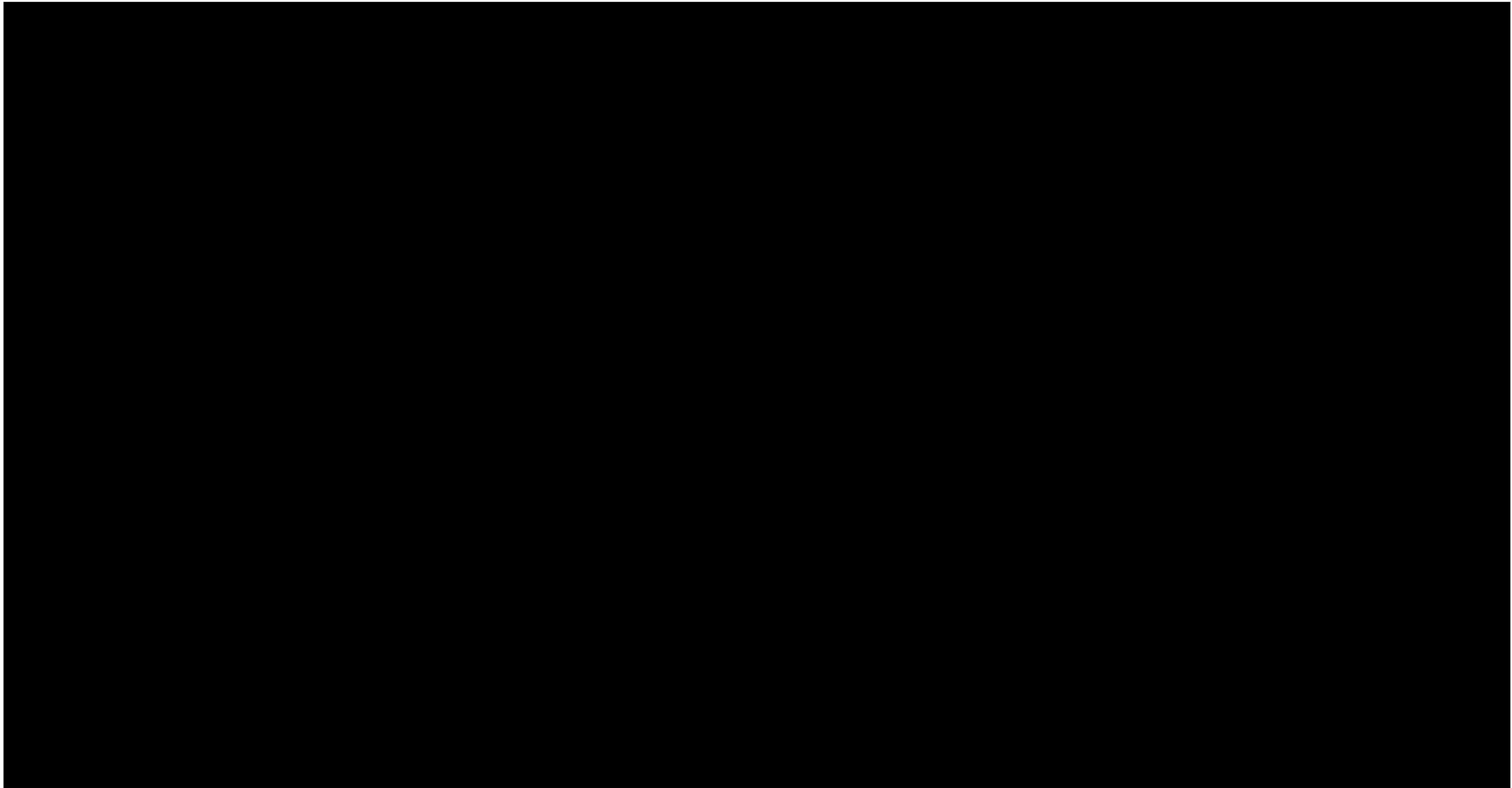


Simba Ngwarati

Musician

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026





Simba Ngwarati

Musician

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026



Workshops
The card says
the floor and
room

Floor 4

- Co-pro Zone
- Lunchtime band
- Workshops

Floor 3

- Welcome
- Keynotes
- '10 Years Time' all day drop-in
- Events over lunchtime
- No-food floor
- Workshops

Floor 2

- Registration
- Lunch
- Stalls
- Workshops



George Webster

Author

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Being seen,
being heard



This is me, I am George.

My eyes are sparkly,
just like my mum.

Like my dad,
I'm determined
and brave,

and like my sister,
I'm FULL OF FUN!





I have an extra ingredient -
a sprinkling of
magic inside me.

Some people, they say
that I'm special,
but that's not what
I think, you see . . .



We're made of
different ingredients,
that help us shine
- like a star.

My glow is what makes
me who I am,
and yours will make
you who you are.



Sometimes, we might need a little help
to find out what makes us glow.



We can try
new things,

have lots of fun . . .

why not give everything a go?





CBeebies



Our voices
need to be
heard



When I was a little bit smaller,
I struggled to make my words clear.

So, I learnt to use my hands to talk
and sign language filled
me with cheer.

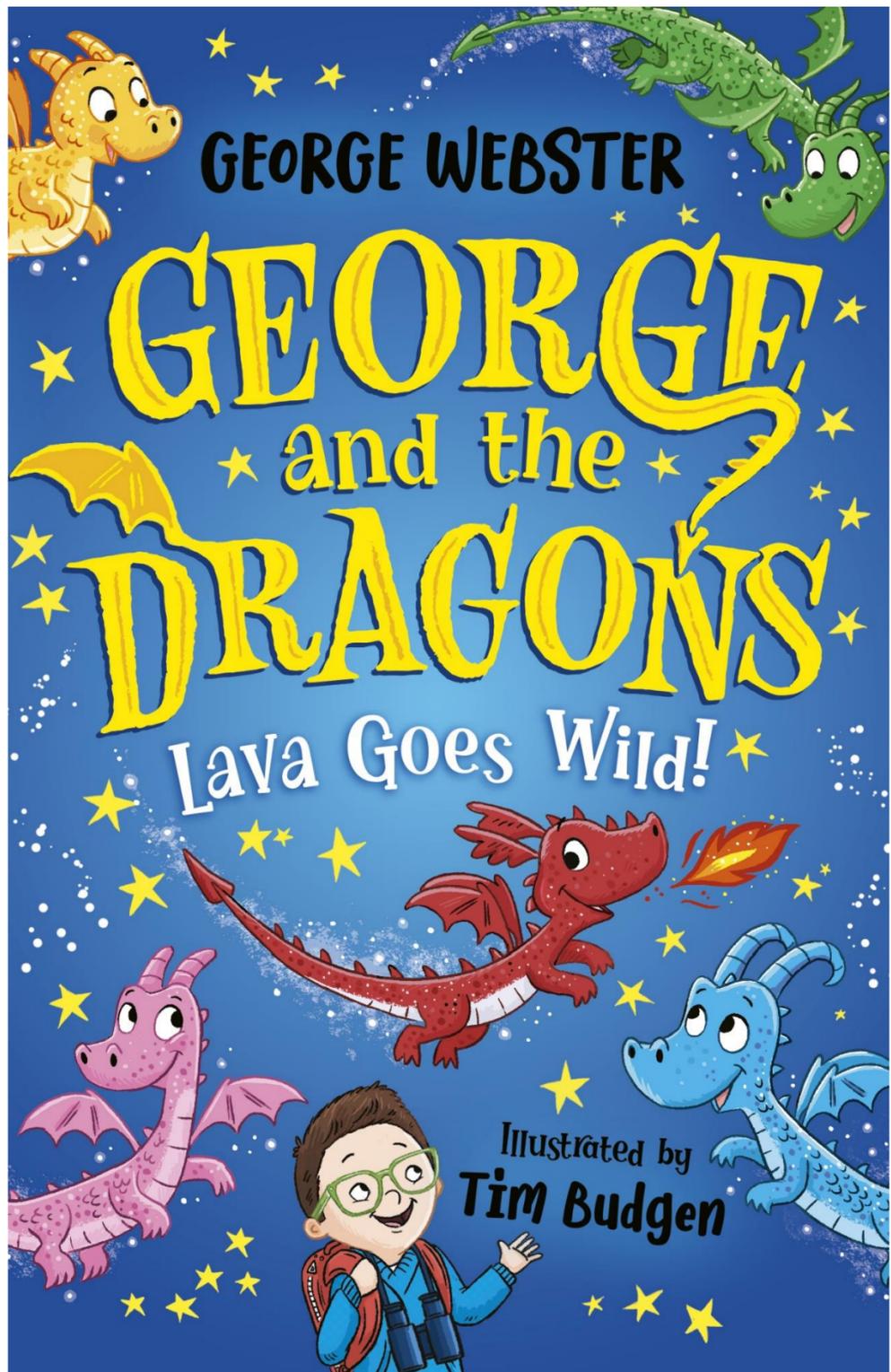


My little sis, Lauren, signed with me –
so she could speak **my** special way.

“More food please!”
– that was our favourite.

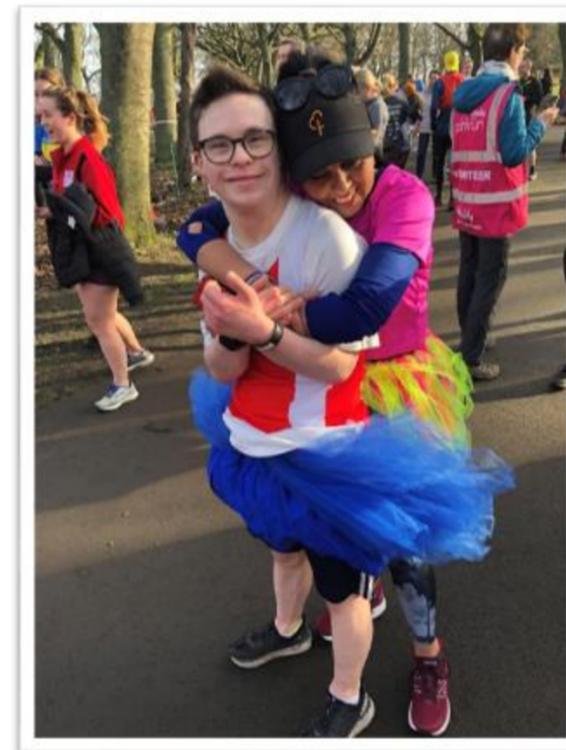


“More! More! More!”
together we’d say.





Advice



George Webster
Why Not?



Claire Taylor

 SCHOLASTIC

Tim Budgen

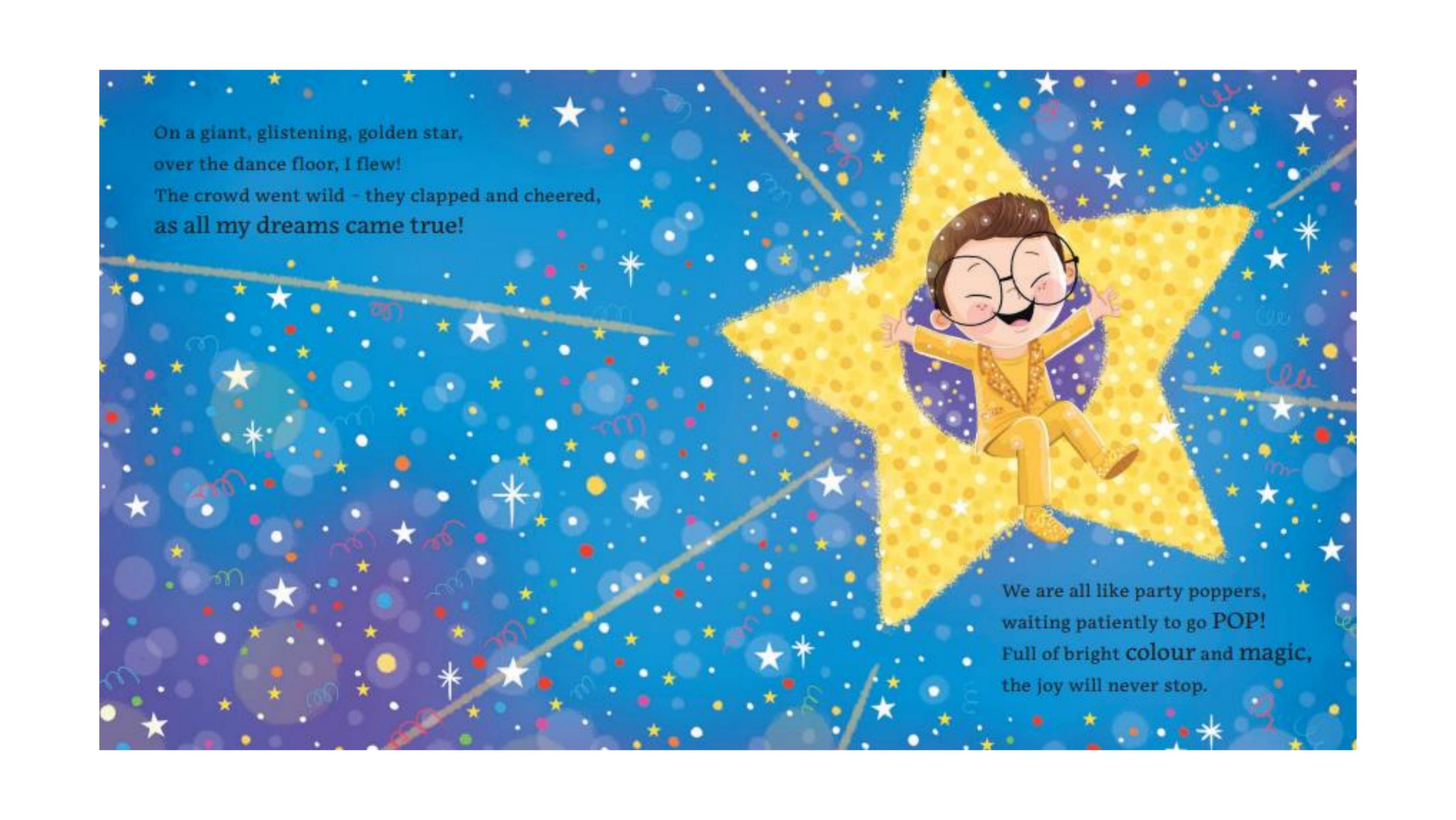
Mum says I was born with jazz hands.
Why not give dancing a go?

I practise with my friend, Emily.
We love to put on a show!



Emily gets me moving.
With her super wheels she spins,
wowing all the judges,

“Why not keep dancing?”
my mum grins.



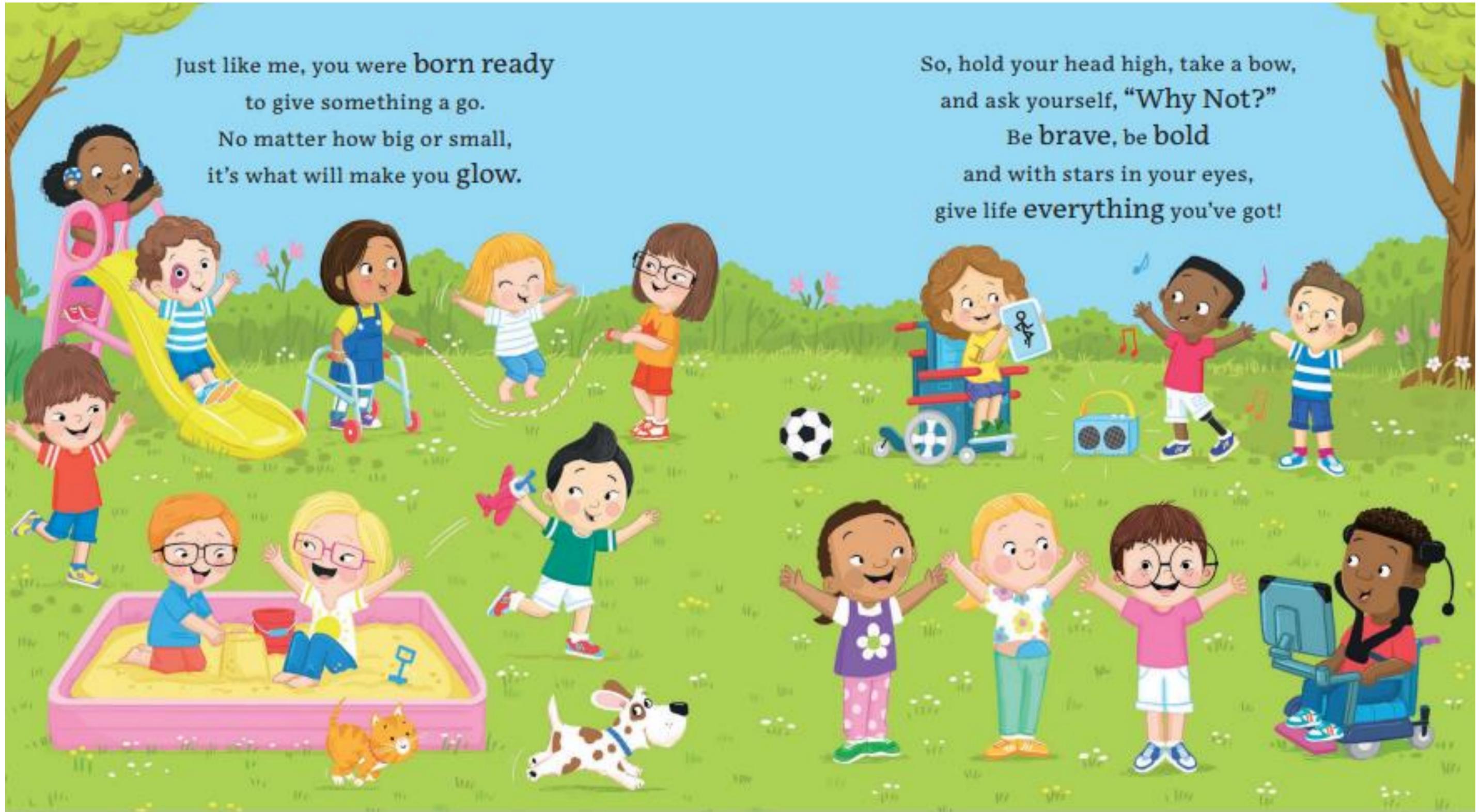
On a giant, glistening, golden star,
over the dance floor, I flew!
The crowd went wild - they clapped and cheered,
as all my dreams came true!

We are all like party poppers,
waiting patiently to go POP!
Full of bright colour and magic,
the joy will never stop.



Just like me, you were **born ready**
to give something a go.
No matter how big or small,
it's what will make you **glow**.

So, hold your head high, take a bow,
and ask yourself, "**Why Not?**"
Be **brave, be bold**
and with stars in your eyes,
give life **everything** you've got!



Questions



Thank you!

Please take a moment to let us know how you found today here:



www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRVTH55



Thank you

Being Seen, Being Heard

LEARNING DISABILITY ENGLAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026