

# Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership Board



## Review – Final report

June 2021

## Contents

Final Report – front cover .....	1
1. Background .....	3
2. How did VoiceAbility do this? .....	5
3. What we found out from reports .....	8
4. What we found out from other Learning Disability Partnership Boards .....	10
5. What we found out from meetings for people with a learning disability.....	16
6. What we found out from meetings for family carers.....	17
7. What we found out from meetings with parents of people with more complex needs .....	18
8. What we found out from the surveys .....	19
9. Our ideas for improvements.....	25

## 1. Background



VoiceAbility were asked to help Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership Board look at the way it works.

This is called a **review**.

We can also call the Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership Board ‘the Board’ or ‘HLDPB’ for short.



HLDPB wanted a review because:

- Some changes had happened - like new Co-chairs to run the meetings



- COVID-19 meant that meetings had to be held differently



- There had not been a review for a long time

The Board asked VoiceAbility to look at things like:



- How well does the Board reach people?



- How well does the Board share information?



- How good is the Board is at making sure people do the things they are meant to do?



- What stops people getting involved in the work of the HLDPB?



- Does the Board involve people from a wide range of backgrounds?



- What things are different and the same about the Carers' Partnership Board and the HLDPB?



- How well do the LIGs work?
- Is information easy for people with learning disabilities to find and understand?

## 2. How did VoiceAbility do this?



We found out how other Learning Disability Partnership Boards across the country work.



We looked at what has been written about Learning Disability Partnership Boards since they first started.



We looked at what the government said good Learning Disability Partnership Boards should be like.



We held:

- 18 workshops with HLDPB Reps
- 7 workshops with Parent Carers
- 2 workshops for Complex Needs
- 2 workshops for Service Providers
- 1 workshop for Hampshire Mencaps
- 5 mini workshops with LIGs

All were online due to COVID restrictions.



We gave support and training to 3 HLDPB reps with learning disabilities.

This meant they could use tablets provided by Hampshire County Council (HCC).



We met with a carers group. Talked with and emailed people with a learning disability and carers.



We met with Hampshire Police to find out how we might reach people with a learning disability from different backgrounds, including people who are LGBTQ.



We met with SENDIASS to talk about involving young people aged 14 – 25, and their families.



We co-produced a survey with the Board LD Reps about the Board and LIGs.

This was for people with learning disabilities in Hampshire to complete.



We co-produced a survey with a group of Parent Carers about the Board and LIGs.

This was for carers of people with learning disabilities in Hampshire to complete.

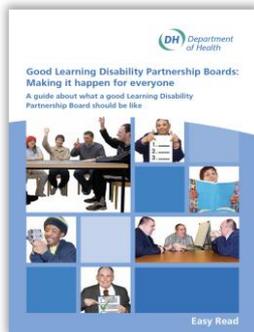


We supported the Board LD reps and some parent carers to meet online with people from other Partnership Boards.

## 3. What we found out from reports



There is not much new information about Learning Disability Partnership Boards. Most reports that we found were more than 10 years old.



We looked at a report from the government. It said what good Partnership Boards looked like.



There were some points on good practice that are still helpful today:

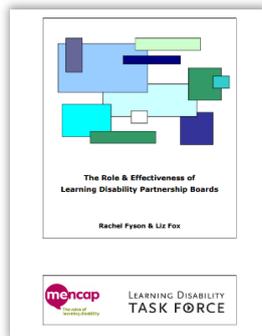


- Information should be in easy read

- Information should arrive at least 2 weeks before meetings



- There should be 2 people to run it – a person in charge of health or social care and a person with learning disabilities.



We looked at a report from the University of Nottingham, Mencap, and the Learning Disability Task Force.



It said there were things that Partnership Boards needed to do better:

- the voices of people with more complex needs were not well heard in many Partnership Boards
- Partnership Boards were not very good at involving people from different backgrounds

## 4. What we found out from other Learning Disability Partnership Boards



All Partnership Boards used to have local meetings called **Local Implementation Groups**.

We can call them **LIGs** for short.



LIGs were an idea for good practice when Partnership Boards first started.



Now, many groups work in different ways:

- Some have moved away from the Council to be more independent.
- Some pay people to feedback to the Partnership Boards. Some do not.
- Some have separate meetings for people with learning disabilities and for carers.
- Some have working groups that work on different things. They tell the Board what they are doing.



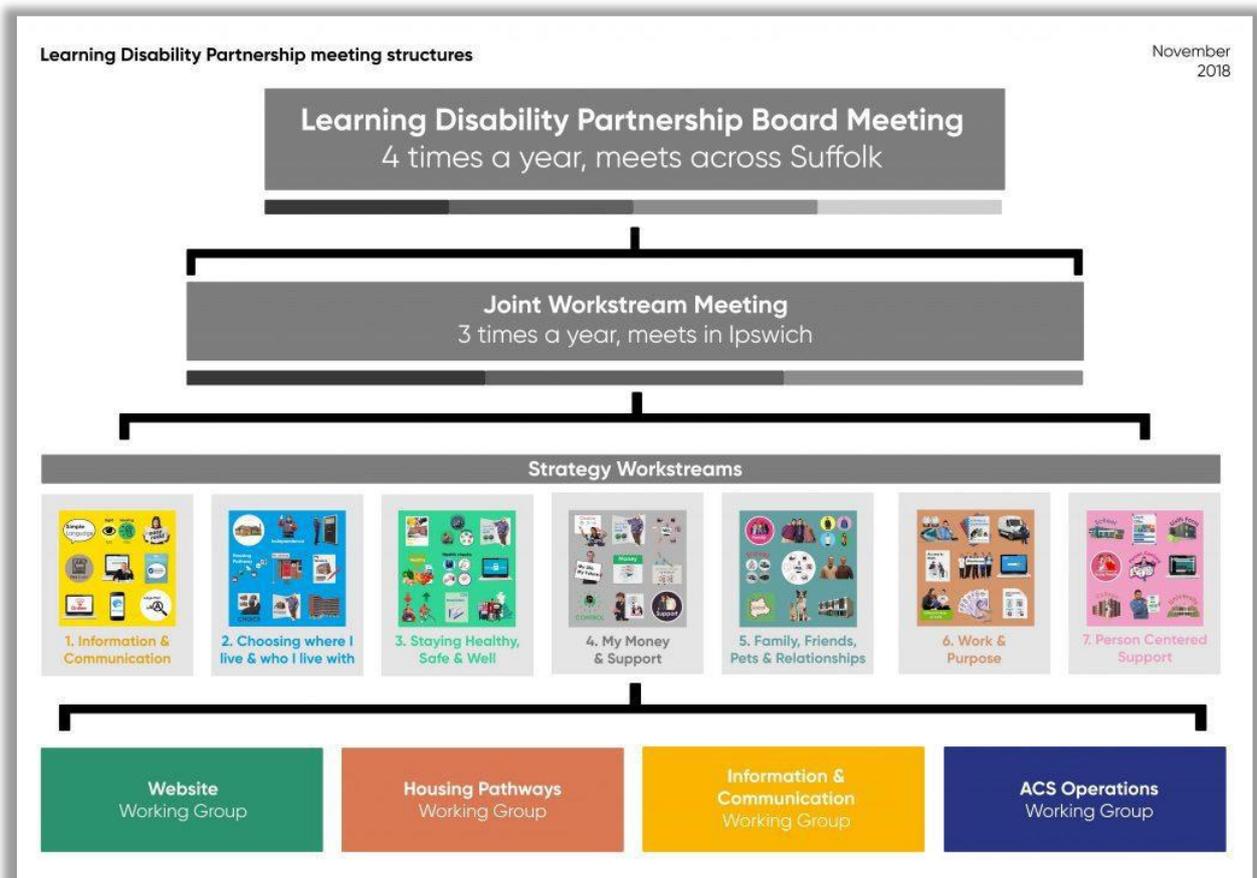


We met people from **Suffolk**.

They told us they used to have local groups. They changed to working groups a few years ago.



They say that working groups help them to focus and more things get done.



This picture shows how the Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership uses working groups.

## Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership

Suffolk also told us they took away the word 'Board' from their name.

People thought it sounded formal, boring and closed.



We looked at lots of Partnership Board websites.

We liked some things from all of them.



The best one we saw was for **Devon Learning Disability Partnership Board**.

Devon told us it was expressly made to be easy for people with learning disabilities to use.



We liked that it was easy to:

- change the size of the writing
- change the background colour
- find information – videos are helpful
- read the Easy Read menu



A picture of Devon's website.



People from **Norfolk** told us they have started a newsletter.

It tells people what the Partnership Board is doing.



It also tells people about activities and events that are happening in the area.

## LD Partnership Board newsletter June 2021



Welcome to our **tenth** newsletter!

We hope you enjoy reading the articles.

We plan to continue to send out these newsletters regularly, at least until we can all meet face to face again.

made with photosymbols®



## In this newsletter

 <p>Wellbeing Health and Wellbeing website links</p>	 <p>Community Gardening</p>
 <p>Wroxham Barns</p>	 <p>List of full links</p>

The theme for this newsletter is  
**'Health and Wellbeing'**

Here are some possible ways for you to take care of your health and wellbeing.

Pictures showing Norfolk's newsletter.



People from **Lincolnshire** told us about their regular **Voices For All** events.

They told us it is a good way to reach more people.



They said they are open to the public – anyone with a learning disability can join in. They have a mix of fun, active, and learning activities.



Voices For All events happen in different places. This means different people come along.



The Speak Out Council for **Cambridgeshire** told us they have a High Support Needs Speak Out Leader.

Some people also call this complex needs.



He is supported to reach people with high support needs, their carers, and providers. This helps people with high or complex support needs have a stronger voice.



We also like that they have a Social Care Forum.

This group can shape how social care works for people in the area.

## 5. What we found out from meetings for people with a learning disability

9



We spoke to 9 people with a learning disability who were HLDPB reps in our group workshop meetings.



- Buildings used are accessible for everyone but not always easy to get to.



- Local issues are important to people.
- Lots of people in Hampshire don't know about HLDPB.



- Meetings go too fast for people with learning disabilities. They need more time to think and speak about what matters to them.



- They feel their voice is not as strong as the voice of carers.



- It is hard to keep track of actions.
- The HLDPB website is hard to use and not up to date.

## 6. What we found out from meetings for family carers

15



We spoke to 15 people who were unpaid parent carers in our workshop meetings.

They told us things like:



- They don't feel that Hampshire County Council listens to them.

- Family carer involvement needs to be better. They have expert knowledge. They want more co-production.



- The LD Plan is not being printed and given out to people. This means people don't know about HLDPB.

- They liked the idea of a 'communication sub-group' to look at making communications, accessibility, and information sharing better.



- There are differences in the way that LIGS run. Communication and sharing between the LIGS is missing.

## 7. What we found out from meetings with parents of people with more complex needs



We spoke to 10 parents of people with more complex needs. Some of them also came to our meetings for unpaid carers.

They told us things like:



- There is not enough time or space to properly look at issues that matter to people with complex needs and their families.



- Unpaid / family carers are the best people to represent the people they care for who have more complex needs.



- Service providers can be helpful because they also know people well.



- They felt it was very hard for the reps with learning disabilities to fully understand and represent the issues faced by people with more complex needs.

## 8. What we found out from the surveys



We worked with carers and with people who have learning disabilities to make separate surveys for:

- People with learning disabilities (LD)
- Carers of people with learning disabilities

This is what people with LD told us:



More than half the people who filled in the survey do not know about HLDPB. Not many people know what it does.



There are a few things that stop people from getting involved:

- Not enough information or communication
- Feeling shy
- Not having the right support
- No access to transport



People said these things will help them to have their say:

- Sharing more information
- Having regular surveys
- Talking to their groups



The topics in the Hampshire LD Plan that are most important to people are:

- Health
- Care and support
- Staying safe

People said these things will make it easier for them to get involved:



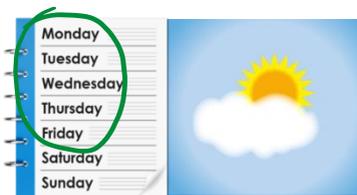
- Holding drop-in events
- Sending information to their groups
- Making newsletters and online information



More people with a learning disability want to come to meetings.  
Some are not sure.



Most people with want meetings to be in person.  
Many also said online meetings would work.



Most people want meetings to happen in the week, during the day.



The HLDPB website is hard to:

- Use
- Understand
- Find information



People get information from their:

- groups
- friends
- family



Some people want to know more about VoiceAbility and advocacy.

This is what we learned from the survey for carers:



Around a third of carers are caring for people aged 14 – 25.



Most of them have services from Hampshire County Council but have not seen the Hampshire LD Plan.



More carers have heard about the HLDPB and know what they do.



Carers get their information from:

- Carer's groups
- The internet
- Social media



Carers find the HLDPB website:

- easy to use and understand
- hard to find the information they want



The topics in the Hampshire LD Plan that are most important to carers are:



- Staying safe



- Care and support



- Health

These are the same topics that are important to people with LD.



Other important topics to carers are:

- transitions
- housing
- employment
- respite



Carers felt that having a named person at Hampshire County Council would be the best way to increase the voice of people with more complex needs.



The main things that stop carers getting involved are:

- It is hard to find the time
- Not having the information

No one said they did not want to get involved

Carers want more opportunities to get involved and have their say.



Some want advocacy support to help them get involved.

Helpful ways to get their information are:

- Online
- By email
- In regular newsletters



Most carers want meetings to be:

- Online
- Informal talking with other carers
- A mix of evenings and weekends

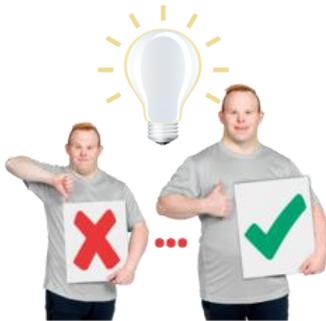


This is different to what people with learning disabilities want.

## 9. Our ideas for improvements



We studied all of the information to help us think about ideas for change.



These are the ideas that we think will help HLDPB to work better:



What name?

Change the name to the Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership



Close the LIGs and change to new topic working groups

Have these 6 working groups:



## 1. Communications

This group can work on things like the website, newsletters, and reaching out to people with learning disabilities in Hampshire.

This group is for self-advocates and carers.

## 2. Adult Social Care



To look at how social care can work better for people with learning disabilities in Hampshire.

This group is for self-advocates and health and social care professionals.

## 3. Health & Wellbeing



Living a healthy lifestyle and having positive wellbeing.

This group is for self-advocates and health and social care professionals.

## 4. Staying Safe



It can cover things like hate and mate crime, scams and the Safe Places scheme.

This group is for self-advocates and professionals like the police.

## 5. Carers Forum



People said it was a good idea for carers to be able to have their own space to discuss issues.

This can be a joint group with the Carers' Partnership Board.

## 6. Complex Needs



A group to focus on issues that affect people with more complex needs who cannot express themselves, even with advocacy support.

This group is for carers, health and social care professionals and service providers.



Ask an independent organisation (not Hampshire County Council) to run the Learning Disability Partnership

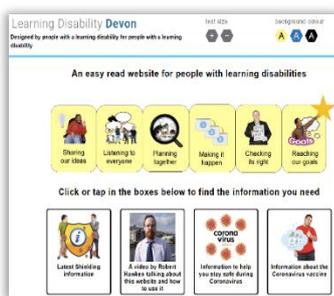


Hire someone to help more people get involved and work in new ways



Reach more people with learning disabilities and help them get involved by:

- Holding 'Voices For All' events across Hampshire
- Running Community Roadshows



Make a new website for the Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership - like the one for Devon



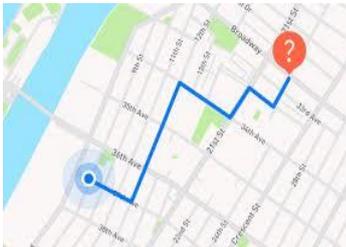
Use a 'You Said, We did' tool to record actions and 'outcomes' – what we managed to do better

## How, When, Where and Who?



### Partnership meetings should:

- Meet 4 times a year
- Move around Hampshire to help more people come
- Be held during the day with evenings sometimes for people who can't make it in the day
- Be both on-line and in-person
- Have named people from partner organisations like the Police or NHS
- Reps want to be called Self-Advocates
- Review roles in the Learning disability Partnership – how should advocacy help people get involved?



10



Keep the number of places the same for Self-Advocates on the Learning Disability Partnership



Self-Advocates should be given £50 a month for the work they do with the Learning Disability Partnership



Self-Advocates should be elected by other people with learning disabilities for 5 years

3



Reduce places for family carers on the Learning Disability Partnership to 3:

1. Chair – Carers Forum
2. Chair – Complex Needs
3. Member of Communications Working Group



People who run and provide services should have 2 non-voting places on the Learning Disability Partnership

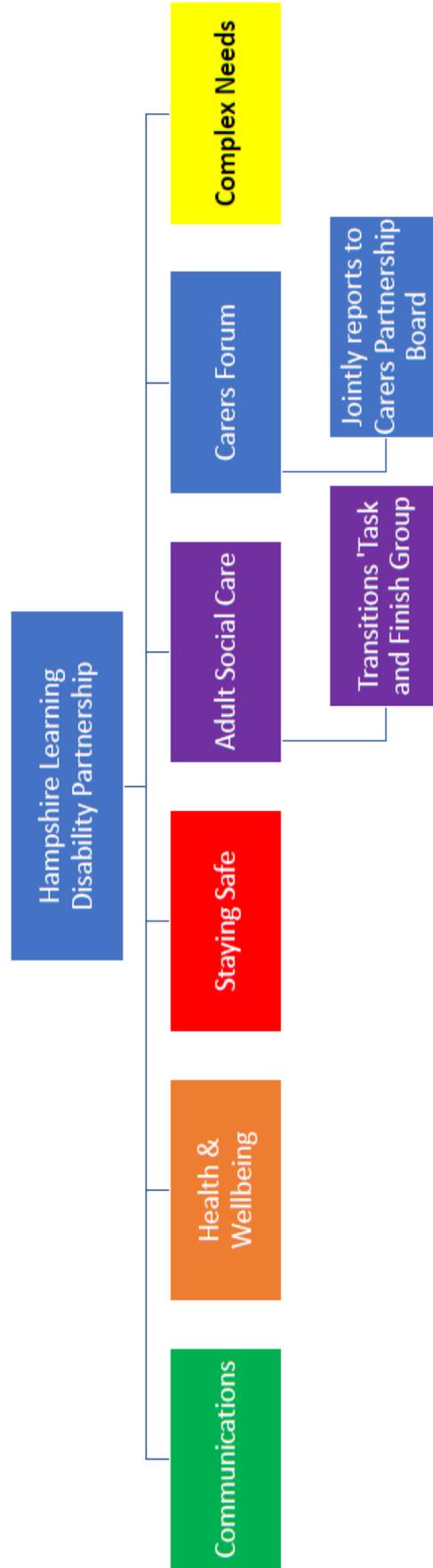


Diagram showing the idea of a new working model for Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership