



# EASY-READ MINUTES

**Friday 30 August 2024**

The Library in Ellesmere Port

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**The Learning Disability Partnership Board is people working together to make things better for people with learning disabilities.**



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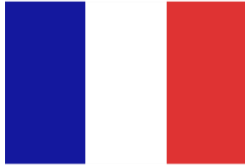
## People at the meeting

### Name

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Claire Ashworth   | Cheshire and Wirral Partnership   |
| Emily Balmer      | Speech & Language Therapist   |
| David Biddle      | CW&C - Commissioning Manager Learning Disabilities  |
| Kevin Booth       | Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street<br>(supported by PA Chris)                     |
| Jill Cooper       | NHS - Reasonable Adjustments and Learning Disability<br>Co-ordination                               |
| Sean Donnelly     | NHS Cheshire and Merseyside - Cheshire West Place -<br>Learning Disability & Autism Project Manager |
| Roger Fenton      | CW&C Senior Manager Learning Disability / Mental Health   |
| Michael Gentle    | Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street<br>(supported by PA Simba)                     |
| Jessica Gibson    | Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group   |
| Jackie Goldstraw  | People's Choice Group and See Communications  |
| Peter Grime       | CW&C - Senior Access Officer  |
| Hannah Hopley     | Vivo Support Worker   |
| Gina Hulme        | CO CHAIR & Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group  |
| Jan Hutcheson     | Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street  |
| Alistair Jeffs    | CHAIR - Vivo - Director   |
| Dorothy Jump      | Parent-Carer  |
| Jan Kolita        | CW&C - Employment Support   |
| Sheila Little     | CWAC - Councillor   |
| Ali McAvoy        | People's Choice Group and See Communications  |
| Jo Moss           | Parent-Carer  |
| Tracy Parry       | Vivo - Minute Taker   |
| Gail Rathbone     | Learning Disability Nurse - Learning Disability Team  |
| Rob Robertson     | Parent-Carer  |
| Penny Scott       | Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street  |
| Vimal Solanki     | Vivo ICT and Business Support   |
| Jennifer Williams | CW&C - Employment Support Officer   |



## Co-Chair Report **SPECIAL OLYMPICS** By Gina Hulme



Gina talked about Paris Paralympics starting. And that she liked the Olympic gymnastics best.



She said she loves seeing people with disabilities representing our country. They have trained really hard. Since 2008 the Paralympics are just after the Olympics. The athletes use all the same facilities and are supported well. Games for people with disabilities started in 1948 to help injured soldiers. They were officially named the "Paralympic Games" in 1984.



In 1996 athletes with learning disabilities competed in athletics and swimming.

In 2000 some Spanish basketball players pretended to have learning disabilities when they did not.



They won gold but were found out. Their medals were taken away and people with learning disabilities were banned from the Paralympics.



**CORRECTION** - People with learning disabilities were allowed to compete again after 2009.



**The Special Olympics is just for people with learning disabilities to compete. Against other countries and teams in other areas. It gives people a chance to do sports activities.**

**2025**

**The next Special Olympics World Games are in Winter 2025 in Italy.**

**Then Summer 2027 in Chile.**



The World Games are every two years.  
In the winter one time then summer the next.



Volunteers help with luggage and unpacking.

We have breakfast and training before the competitions. We go out for meals and discos and buffets. **We make friends with other teams.**



**The opening ceremony is exciting, and the closing ceremony and party are good too. Team members, volunteers, coaches, judges and friends all celebrate together before packing and going home.**



The first International Special Olympics was in 1968 in Chicago. 1000 athletes from USA and Canada competed in over 200 events. To show how sports improve health and what people with learning disabilities can do. To encourage research, education and support for people with learning disabilities.



In 1988 the International Olympic Committee officially recognised the Special Olympics.

In 1995 US President Clinton opened the games. And people with learning disabilities took part as certified officials for the first time.



**The Special Olympics are more than just races. There are local training events, competitions and demonstrations for children and adults. They give health care to athletes in more than 130 countries. And free sports kits to schools for children with and without disabilities.**



**They teach people about learning disabilities, [inclusion](#), acceptance and respect.**



Over a million athletes with and without learning disabilities compete in their Unified Sports events.



The first Special Olympics Global Development Summit was in 2013. They talked about how to make sure people with learning disabilities are more included. And how to help them out of poverty.



## GOODBYES AND WELCOMES



- Everyone wished Roger Fenton a very happy retirement.
- Karen Bunnagar will also be retiring soon. There were best wishes for her too.



- Welcome to Gail Rathbone. She is a newly qualified Learning Disability Nurse on the Cheshire West Learning Disability Team.
- Welcome to Jennifer Williams. She is a Commissioning Support Officer in the Learning Disability Employment Team.
- Welcome to Jill Cooper. She is in charge of Reasonable Adjustments and Learning Disability Co-ordination for the NHS.



### Updates on Actions from the last meeting and Ongoing Actions



#### ! ACTION 49 - Northwest Learning Disability Conference ongoing

Michael Gentle will update at the next meeting about the Northwest Learning Disability Conference.



Costs have gone up at the hotel he previously used. Alistair will see if someone else from the board can go as well.

! **ACTION 48 - Virtual Tours** ongoing

Mark from Bartex Design will give a **virtual tour** presentation at the next meeting.

! **ACTION 47 - Rent issue** ongoing

Jackie Goldstraw asked David Biddle to update about the rent issue. When there are 53 not 52 weeks in the year **Housing Benefit** does not cover this. People get an arrears letter with no explanation which causes distress. People need a letter explaining before it happens again.

! **ACTION 43 - workplace videos** ongoing

James Holden to share videos of people in work.

! **ACTION 42 - Accessible Homes** ongoing

Jo Moss asked David Biddle to update about **Accessible Homes**, and if a site visit can be organised.

! **ACTION 41 - EDI Board** ongoing

Jill Cooper will send details of the **Equality Diversity and Inclusion Board**. So someone can attend and **report** back to us.

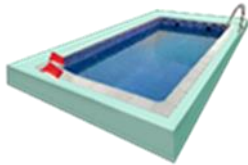
! **ACTION 35 - You're Safe Here** ongoing

Tracy Parry will ask James Morris to update about **You're Safe Here** at the next meeting.



### ! ACTION 34 - Sports Day ongoing

The Sports Day could not go ahead this year due to money. It will be next year on one Sunday at Ellesmere Port Sports Village.



### ! ACTION 18 - Hydrotherapy ongoing

Dorothy Jump asked Sean Donnelly about the Willows Hydrotherapy pool closing.



Sean said everyone using the pool has been given other services. Hydrotherapy is not in the NICE guidelines which means they don't have to provide it. It is an extra service.

Dorothy said that some people have been assessed as needing hydrotherapy. And they are not getting the support they need.



Claire Ashworth said CWP are asked a lot for Hydrotherapy by people who need it but can't find a pool. Alistair said he wants to see the Quality Impact Assessment.

### ! ACTION 50 - Hydrotherapy Service -

Dorothy Jump to chase up the Quality Impact Assessment with Sean Donnelly.



It was suggested NHS Commissioners hear from people who use or need Hydrotherapy. So they can understand the need and explain why these things matter. And review and give update.

### ! ACTION 16 - Hospital Assessment and Treatment Units ongoing

Sean Donnelly to give an update on Hospital Assessment and Treatment Units at the next meeting.







## Update

Some of the **Sub Groups** did not **report** at this meeting because there was not enough time.



## Sub Group Update **SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE HOMES** from David Biddle



David said they are finding out how many people need houses. Some people had to move to other areas and might want to come back.



There are 234 people on the list who need houses at the moment. They are not homeless but where they live now is not right for them.



Gina said it's important to have a choice of where you want to live.

David said money is a problem. And there are laws they have to follow too.



They are working on 24 different housing schemes at the moment. Some are new builds with bungalows and apartments. Some are adapting existing properties.



These will provide homes for at least 129 people. And maybe up to 135 people. They should be finished within 3 to 18 months.



Jo Moss asked how many people moved into a new home in the last year. How has the list changed and are the numbers going down?

David said people have been getting new homes and providers are opening new properties. Jo asked to visit some of the new properties.



David said they are **planning homes where people with complex physical needs can get Nursing led Care. And for people younger than 55 who have dementia.**



They have been looking at an old factory site as suitable land to build a house, but there is a difficulty with a scout hut lease.

Dorothy Jump asked if people with learning disabilities are involved in making decisions.



David said they work with people with disabilities, Support Workers, and Carers.

Sean said Healthcare staff look at different needs for the **consultation** process too.

Disability Positive are also working with the Council on **co-producing** housing services.



They would like people to join in this focus group who are meeting on 2 October. Details sent out with the previous easy read **minutes**.



**Sub Group Update  
ALL AGE AUTISM  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
from David Biddle**



Alistair is now **Co-Chairing** with Oliver Downing. The next meeting is on 11 September. Anyone wanting to go is welcome.



## Sub Group Update

# REACHING OUR POTENTIAL

From Jan Kolita



Jan Kolita gave a presentation about Supported Employment and [Independent Travel Training](#).



The **Skills and Employment Team** are working with 112 Adults. 58 people are in paid jobs.

They have a good Team of Employment Support Officers and Job Coaches, finding the right job for the person and helping them keep it. The team work with the persons line manager to make sure everyone is supported well.



They have Employers and Job Roles at Leighton Hospital, a riding school, care homes, gardeners, joiners, accounts apprentice, major shops and supermarkets, medical practices, warehouses, construction, and Chester Racecourse.



They help unemployed adults diagnosed with a Learning Disability or Autism. Who are actively seeking work or to progress in life and work.

They update on social media about their services.



They now also deliver [Independent Travel Training](#). They teach them to be safe and confident on the actual route at the actual time they will be travelling. It is face to face, one to one support to suit people for as long as they need it.



Jackie Goldstraw asked if they have a postcard that a person could hand into a workplace, if they would like to work there. To explain the support the Employment Team can give. Jan to look into this.



Jackie also offered to help produce an easy read version of the Travel Training Document.

**! ACTION 51 - easy read travel training leaflet - Jan and Jackie to work on easy read travel training leaflet.**



## Sub Group News

### PEOPLES CHOICE GROUP

by Jessica Gibson, Martin McGuinness, Pauline Oultram, Ali McAvoy, and Jackie Goldstraw



Since the last meeting we shared easy read information about dental health, the election, staying safe online, Covid and OCD, feeling at home, riots and demonstrations, end of life and bereavement.

Our social groups are for anyone aged over 16.



The Winsford Friendship Group made displays for the Town Park and Saint Andrews Church for Cancer Awareness, Pride and Learning Disability Week. As well as for UK Thank You day and International Friendship Day. And we made get well cards for a group member who is poorly.



Our Winsford drama group performed Murder we Wrote and along with St Andrews we raised £173 for Mind. Onto our Christmas play next!

Northwich Grub Club and Book Club and Winsford Singing group are going well.



At the last book group one member gave a report about a book about how to sort things out after getting cross and how to manage feelings.



It got us all chatting and giving each other tips on staying calm and speaking up too. **Feelsy is a phone app one group member recommended for stress relief.**



The **Chester Singing Group** is going well at the Den in Storyhouse. And the **Chester Yarn Crafts Group** is finishing work on cancer awareness. And trying new things like cross stitch and latch hook, using scraps from pompom making. They are **sharing skills with new group members.** Dial House is displaying our work and easy read.



The **Chester Games Night** is going well with Uno and Snakes and Ladders still favourite. We now have sponge dice that are silent! Ali has **helped one of the members find support with job interviews.** He is a full time student. He wants a paid weekend job but struggles with interviews.



**Around 60 people are going to the Cinema and Review Club.** Sometimes including a group from Ascent College in Merseyside. It is an Autism Specialist College for adults aged 16 to 25.



The **Drumming and Sound Sessions at Live are great.** It's a small group that use drums and other instruments like shakers and bells. We also dance and always end with a relaxation session. To give people ideas to use at home to help with sleep, stress and anxiety. The following day one member says he 'had the best sleep last night'.



**Ali finished her food hygiene course and has been working on healthy snacks with the group at Ellesmere Port. We are hoping to start a new Food Project soon, more news to follow.**



Ali passed on bus issues from the **advocacy** group in Ellesmere Port. And made an easy read poster about the information provided by the bus company in reply. Reminding everyone that people using wheelchairs have priority over prams. We've been working with member Gemma on other easy read documents to share soon.



The Kaleidoscope festival in July was fantastic!

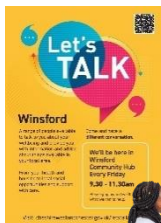
One of our members was part of the Inspirers Panel, talking about the sports they take part in. And some of our group attended the cinema in the evening to watch Champions. The fashion show by Hanan was brilliant. The models chose their outfits and everyone looked brilliant.



Ali helped a group member complete an application form for a bus pass. And introduced some group members to the Calm Coffee space at the old Autism Hub in Chester. People can go in for a chat and cuppa. It is a wellbeing hub and offers different sessions including one to ones.



And Ali and Jackie gave a talk at the NorthWest Care Cooperative Conference about what we do. And Jackie went to Winsford Lets Talk.



Our working group has worked on mate crime as part of the Disability Positive Safeguarding Reference Board. And gave Autism and Learning Disability Awareness training to volunteers and staff at Age Concern in Northwich.



Jackie and Martin went to **Suso** for a meeting with the David Project about getting older and talking about planning for things like wills and funerals. It was a sad subject but great session.



We are hoping to link in more with **Suso** for the **Oliver McGowan training** and self **advocacy sessions** too, more news soon.



Jackie and Gemma worked with Cheshire Disabled Peoples Panel on the Housing **Review Co-Production** to run the focus group sessions together. And Gemma, Jess and Tom helped with the **easy read report**.



We have **done a summer survey** to find out what group members want. And have **been working to secure funding** for the future of Peoples Choice.

Canal Street **Advocacy Group** had a Sports and Hawaii themed summer party and raised £300. They have raised £4,000 towards a minibus. It is a fantastic effort but not enough for a minibus. The money must be spent by March.



They are taking part in a sunflower competition run by **Voices 4 Choices**. One of theirs is already 8ft 6 and they are feeling very confident!



## Sub Group Update **CARERS GROUPS** from Dorothy Jump



Dorothy said she was **concerned about housing adaptations not being done quickly or to a high enough standard**. Some work done in a bathroom was faulty and there was more work to sort it out. Work needs to be checked.



She asked about the **Housing Improvements Agency group**. They have not met in our area since **January 2023**. They might have had a national meeting for lots of different areas.



Alistair said they won the contract as they said they would listen to local service users.

**! ACTION 52 - Housing Improvement - David Biddle to contact Housing Improvement Agency ForHousing about meetings.**



**Sub Group Update  
Profound Intellectual and  
Multiple Disabilities Group  
from Claire Ashworth**



Claire said the name is changing to PIMD+. To include people with complex physical needs too. They want more people to join the group.

Claire asked if anyone knows of music therapists please send her their details.

Email Claire - [Claire.Ashworth3@nhs.net](mailto:Claire.Ashworth3@nhs.net)



**Other items  
ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
from Alistair Jeffs**



Thank you to Gina for being **Co-Chair**.  
**Co-Chair** for the next meeting is Kevin.

Alistair said there will be a **Learning Disability Conference next year**. It is held every two years because there is not enough money to do it every year. The Friendships and Relationships Group will decide a date and place. **Possibly Ellesmere Port Civic Hall in Spring**. A one day event with a **Gala Dinner**. They want **Volunteers**. They are working with Health and linking it to the Learning Disability **Strategy**.







## NEXT MEETING INFO



### Date

Friday 18 October 2024



### Place

Ellesmere Port Library  
Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG



### Meet

9.45 for catch up and refreshments  
(starts at 10.30am)



### Finish

12.30 in the afternoon



For more information ask **Tracy Parry**

Email: [Tracy.Parry@VivoCareChoices.co.uk](mailto:Tracy.Parry@VivoCareChoices.co.uk)



These easy read **minutes** were made by:  
Ali McAvoy and Jackie Goldstraw from  
**See Communications**. Janet Hutcheson  
and Penny Scott from **Canal Street Advocacy**  
and Georgina Hulme of **Peoples Choice Group**.