



EASY-READ MINUTES

Friday 13 June 2025

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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Separate Document	Difficult Words: Words in blue are explained in separate document. Please ask if you need these.
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People at the meeting

Name	Where From
Steve Arnold	CWAC - Childrens Services
Claire Ashworth	CWP - Advanced Speech and Language Therapist
Mark B	Self Advocate - Healthy Living Centre
Kevin Booth	Self Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street (supported by PA Jeff Hunt)
Jill Cooper	NHS - Reasonable Adjustments and Learning Disability Co-ordination
Sean Donelly	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside - Cheshire West Place - Learning Disability & Autism Project Manager
George Ebbrell	Vivo - Minute Taker
Mark F	Self Advocate - Healthy Living Centre
Michael Gentle	Self Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street (supported by PA Simba)
Jackie Goldstraw	People's Choice Group and See Communications
Jimmy	Self Advocate - Healthy Living Centre
Peter Grime	CWAC - Senior Access Officer
Charlotte Halpin	Vivo - Support Worker HLC
Alistair Jeffs	CHAIR - Vivo - Director
Amy Jones	Vivo - Support Worker HLC
Dorothy Jump	Parent Carer
Councillor Sheila Little	CWAC - Councillor
Ali McAvoy	People's Choice Group and See Communications
Martin McGuinness	Self Advocate - People's Choice Group (supported by PA Kayla)
Tracy Parry	Vivo - Minute Taker
Sarah Powell	Vivo - Service Supervisor
Kate Salvoni	CWAC - Senior Manager Prevention and Wellbeing
Ruth Robinson	CWAC - Commissioning Manager
Vanessa Usai	Parent Carer Forum



WELCOMES



Alistair welcomed everyone to the meeting.



Alistair shared memories of **Jan Hutcheson** who has sadly passed away. And details of her funeral.

She was a **Self Advocate**, a member of the Canal Street **Advocacy** Group and the Peoples Choice Group. **She did a lot of amazing work and everyone will miss her.**



Sub Group Update HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE **ADVOCACY** GROUP By Mark, Amy, Charlotte, Mark and Jimmy



Service users and Support Workers from the group are joining the Partnership Board. They told us about their group. They are a positive and upbeat group. They all love what they do.

They fundraise for their wishing tree fund.

Group members have each written a wish.

They are working together to make the wishes happen. Mark went to a **Bryan Adams** concert and got a **plectrum** as a keepsake. A **plectrum** is used to play a guitar. Jimmy wants to go to the **Guinness factory in Ireland** hopefully next year.





The fundraising events include 3 parties a year. And a drama show every January. The drama group rehearse every Friday throughout the year. Next year the show will be Sleeping Beauty.

They use donated costumes and sound equipment. The Civic Hall next door lets them use their space to practice and put on the drama show for free.



The group is fighting for the Healthy Living Centre to stay open.

Vivo said it had to close. The Advocacy group have been speaking up. They say that Nothing About Us Without Us has been ignored.

Alistair said that the group had lots of energy and good ideas.

He asked Jimmy if he will be Co-Chair at the next meeting. Jimmy said yes.



Updates on Actions from the last meeting and Ongoing Actions



! ACTION 66 - completed.

Learning Disability Conference information shared.



! ACTION 65 - completed.

Council Customer Service easy read questionnaire shared.

! **ACTION 64 - completed.**



We Said You Did

We asked for an **MP** to speak to us about **Health and Disability Benefit changes**.

Andrew Cooper **MP** for Mid Cheshire is coming to the August meeting.

! **ACTION 63 - completed.**



We Said You Did

Canal Street **Advocacy** Group wanted **Advocacy** Group meetings made better.

Alistair and Sarah visited the group and helped them make a 4 week plan of activities. This now includes drama and community sessions to check access. And also talking about issues and skills. They will go through their emails each week and keep coming to Partnership Board meetings.



! **ACTION 62 - completed.**

To link with people from Children's services. Vanessa from the Parent Carer Forum and Steve Arnold share news and issues.



! **ACTION 60 - completed.**

Annual Health Checks Update.

Helen said **GPs** will still get funded to do **Annual Health checks**. Sean said that 87 % of people in our area have had them. This is over the target. He will keep **reporting** figures to us.



Some people do not like how health checks are done. Helen said she will **report** back Dorothy's concern that **Postural Care** is sometimes missed.

The NHS make sure all GPs get training about **Reasonable Adjustments**.

CWP Health Facilitators are supporting them too.

❗ **ACTION 49 - closed.**

North West Disability Conference.
Michael and Alistair will discuss this.

❗ **ACTION 41 - completed.**

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Board.

Jill from the Countess of Chester comes to our meetings and can share news and issues.

❗ **ACTION 40 - completed.**

Hospital Best Practice Ideas. Jill from the Countess of Chester comes to our meetings and can share news and issues.

❗ **ACTION 35 - completed.**

We Said You Did

Pettypool students asked for something like **Safe in Town** to be done again.

Paul and James did a presentation at the Conference. The **You're Safe Here scheme** will start very soon. Peoples Choice Group gave information to help make the handbook. The handbook is given to staff in places that are part of the **You're Safe Here scheme**.



❗ **ACTION 30 – closed.**

Care Charges and Financial Assessments.
Anyone can email Alistair or Charlotte Walton with questions if this is worrying them.



❗ **ACTION 16 – closed.**

Hospital Assessment and Treatment Units.
We asked Sean and Helen for the latest figures at the August meeting. They will give us regular updates.



❗ **ACTION 61 – ongoing.**

Day Service **Review**.

(Action 55 is included in this)

Alistair said there are still 100's of people to have **reviews** before any changes. He will give an update at the next meeting.

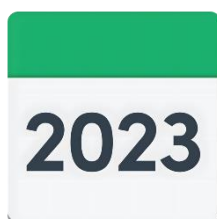


❗ **ACTION 52 – ongoing.**

Housing Improvement Agency Meetings.

(Actions 42 & 36 are part of this)

We believe that regular meetings were part of the housing improvement **contract**. For people to give feedback about **adaptations** in their home. And how the service can be improved. But the last one was in January 2023. Alistair asked Ruth to find out about this.



Ruth talked about the Housing **Prospectus** that they share with **Housing Associations** and **Developers** and **Care Providers**. It tells them what accommodation is needed. It includes peoples wants and needs. And what housing is available already.



Ruth said the **Advocacy Groups** could have a look and get involved too. People seemed very keen!



Claire Ashworth said more housing is needed for people who have health needs as well as learning disabilities. And more housing for people with learning disabilities and **dementia**.



Kate Salvoni said people want their own front door not always shared accommodation. And good support and nice neighbours.



Ruth said there are 200 people in shared accommodation now. They are planning to help at least 100 of those people get their own home instead.



! WE WANT Ruth to share the new Housing Prospectus. So Advocacy groups can help develop better accommodation - ACTION 67.



! ACTION 43 - ongoing.

Workplace Videos

Tracy has emailed James to ask him to share these with the Board.



Sub Group Update

PEOPLES CHOICE GROUP

by Martin McGuinness, Ali McAvoy
and Jackie Goldstraw



Martin, Ali and Jackie shared their **report** with news about social sessions. And what the working group has been doing -



We shared lots of information including Rainbow easy read booklets that help people understand **LGBTQ+** identities and words.



Our Friendship Group made displays for Mental Health Awareness Week. And **Pride month** and **Neurodivergent** and **Autistic Pride Days**. And for Learning Disability Week.



Jackie and Gemma helped on the Advisory Board for Books Beyond Words Book Club in a Box.



Jackie's **Neurodivergent** Group social sessions are helping people. And they go to the All Age Autism and **Neurodivergent** Partnership Board.



Ali's Drumming and Sound group finished in May but will restart in September.



The Working Group delivered Learning Disability and Autism training to Storyhouse. And talked to local groups and the council about a possible **training collective**.



We joined Disability Positive's **Safeguarding Group** meeting. And helped Cheshire West with Easy Read Home to School and College transport leaflets.



We started our Government **consultation** reply about **Health and Welfare Benefits** changes.



Jackie met with the ex **Suso** Friends Group in Macclesfield. They are working out how to keep their Self **Advocacy** Group going. We are keeping in touch to support them.

Jackie joined the **Lived Experience Community of Practice** and Cheshire Disabled Peoples Panel Meetings.



Our **healthy cooking project** started with sessions in Ellesmere Port and Winsford. Lisa from All About Greens is leading them for us. Ali works with the group about health.



Issues we have come across -

- Funding is more difficult to find.
- Not enough staff or drivers.



Hope we have come across -

Groups and people working together and sharing news and resources. Because we all care.



And being asked what we think about services more often. And people that have had bad experiences being so brave and **willing to talk to people.** To make things better for others in the future.



Sub Group Update

CARERS GROUPS

from Dorothy Jump and Vanessa Usai



Dorothy said it is **Carers Week**.
Only 2 carers were at the last Vivo Carers meeting. Alistair said Vivo will keep promoting the meetings. The next one is 17 September.



She said Mencap have a Campaign for Learning Disabilities week - Do you see Me? To help people with a learning disability be seen, heard and valued.



Parent Carer Forum - Vanessa Usai

Vanessa said the Preparation for Adulthood meeting at the Holiday Inn was on 14 May. They talked about things like Moving out, Schools, Colleges, Supported Living and Independent travel. Lots of service providers were there talking about what they do. There were talks from people with lived experience. And Question and Answer sessions.



Parents could talk to each other and to **Professionals**.



Alistair said he heard the meeting was good. A **Self Advocate** who uses Vivo services talked about her experiences.



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



Claire talked about TaSSeLs. This stands for Tactile Signing for Sensory Learners.

This is Hands-on Makaton. A system of touch-speech cues for people with **profound and multiple learning disabilities** including people with sight loss. There are **free resources** and a manual will cost £100.



Signs can be **adapted** for people and staff teams can get funding to be trained. It can really make a difference.



Claire said anyone is welcome to join the PIMD group.



Update Thoughts about the Learning Disability Conference From Everyone



Michael Gentle said he would have liked to hear more about the benefit changes.



Helen Walton said she loved the performances and the Makaton choir and thought it was all brilliant. Her team want to learn signs now.



Dorothy said she really enjoyed Elvis and the Let's Dance Project video.

Kevin Booth said he loved the dance. The lady in the wheelchair dancing had a big impact on him. He thought they were lucky to have someone to help them move. And the Makaton DJ was incredible.



Claire Ashworth said some people would benefit from 1:1 dance sessions but it is too expensive. Staff could be trained so they can deliver the sessions themselves. They are looking for funding.



Alistair said the food was fabulous and service users worked hard on the buffet. Wanna Dance and Vivo's got talent's performances were great. And Pettypool and Live Cheshire!



The HLC group said they were disappointed the Question and Answer session didn't happen. Alistair said they ran out of time as so many people wanted to talk.



People sharing their stories makes a difference. And it is hard to get to everyone's questions. People did do what they said they would do at the last Conference.



Michael Gentle said there used to be a separate meeting for Question and Answers. It worked well and can we do it again.



! WE WANT Alistair to set up a Question and Answer Session with the Council Leadership Team - ACTION 68.

Helen Walton said there were lots of questions on the feedback forms that people wrote on at the conference.



! WE WANT Alistair to share the list of questions from the Conference with us. And with the Health and Wellbeing Board - ACTION 69.



Alistair said some people thought the stage was not **accessible** enough.

They want to hear what people thought about the Gala dinner and the Venue. Please email him with any more thoughts. And thank you to everyone involved.



Update NHS News From Helen Walton



Helen Walton said there is a long wait for people with **ADHD** to get medication. They are trying to make it quicker for people.

They have trained 10 GPs to do **reviews** to give people medication. Either face to face or by telephone call.



The GPs will start the Medication **reviews** in July. Children and young people will be helped first. Then adults that have been waiting the longest time, **CWP** will sort the medication out for people who have issues.



Helen told us about **This is Me**. It is a document that explains information about **Neurodivergent** children. This means conditions like Autism and **ADHD**. It suggests help the children can be given while they wait for an assessment. So it makes sure they get **Early Help**.



50 schools are being trained to use it. The schools were chosen as they have lots of children who might be **Neurodivergent**. Or schools in poor areas. They are **working on easy read** information and will share it soon.



In the future each team of GPs will have someone trained to do **Neurodivergent** assessments. And some **locums** will be trained as well.

! WE WANT Helen to share the easy read This is Me document with the Board when it is ready - ACTION 70.



Update LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN From Jade and Jack



Jade and Jack talked about improving Transport in **Cheshire West and Chester**. They have a vision of what transport will be like in 2040. They want to know what people think about their ideas.



The **consultation** will be from 20 June to 17 August. They will share the easy read **consultation**.



They have 5 priorities

1. To reduce pollution and be ready for climate changes like heat and flooding.
2. To be fair and affordable for everyone.
3. To help people stay healthy, making walking and cycling easy. And reducing pollution and accidents.
4. To help local businesses do well.
5. To help local areas be great places to live.



Alistair said transport is an issue for lots of people. Gemma and Kevin have shared stories about public transport that we can pass on.



The HLC group said Plus Bus is reliable but not flexible about drop off places. And the Council Fleet Buses are flexible with times but not reliable. Some people are being dropped off late at the centre and miss out. Sometimes people are forgotten about. One person was left until after 6pm and staff had to drive them home. This can cause a lot of distress.



Jeff said travelling on public transport when school pupils are going home is not good. There are crowds of children pushing. Older people and others can find it frightening. Schools should monitor the behaviour. And teach pupils how to behave when travelling home on public transport. Drivers should also get training.



Councillor Little said there is a weight limit for mobility scooters to be taken on the bus. People have to be trained and assessed and have a [permit](#). Not many people are aware of this. Alistair said Shop Mobility would be the best people to share that news.





Jade and Jack said **people sharing their stories is powerful**. They can note down that people need reliable buses. But that does not have the same impact as someone saying how it affected them.

They encouraged people to give feedback for the **consultation**.

WE WANT the link to the Local Transport plan to be sent round so people can have a say - ACTION 71.



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



Ideas to make the meeting better

Jackie asked to have a **half a minute gap between each subject** talked about. People can finish thinking about the last subject or look up the next subject.

Councillor Little said it is **easier to hear people talking if they sit at the front**. And while people were moving that would give a gap.



Public Toilets

Kevin said he went to see **Only Fools and Horses** at the **Liverpool Empire**. It was so funny and the songs were good. **The toilets were terrible because they were so busy**. They went by bus it took 1.5 hours to get there. **The toilets at the bus station were closed**.



Jeff said planning journeys has to include **backup plans incase toilets are closed**. This adds to the stress of planning a journey.



Jackie said there is a free **Just Can't Wait** card. This can help people get access to non public toilets in some places.

<https://www.bladderandbowel.org/free-just-cant-wait-card/>



UPDATE

Peter Grime found out the **Chester Bus Station** toilets were closed because of anti social behaviour. If people ask at the counter they will open the **accessible** toilet for them. They should be open Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 5pm. And 8.30am to 2pm on Sundays.



Brio

Alistair said he will invite Paul Francis from Brio to the next meeting. They are **working to make Brio more inclusive**. He can give us an update about staff training and classes. **He wants to hear what we think.**



The Ellesmere Port Sports Village multi-disability sports sessions on Wednesday afternoons shows **inclusive** sessions work well. We can tell him what other sessions would be good. Like Dance, Aquafit and Clubercise.

! WE WANT Alistair to invite Paul Francis from Brio to speak about making Brio more inclusive - ACTION 72



Jimmy from the Healthy Living Centre will be the next **Co-Chair**.



NEXT MEETING INFO



Date

Friday 15 August 2025



Place

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



Meet

10.00 till 10.30 - catch up time

10.30 till 12.30 - LDPB meeting



Meeting Feedback Time

12.30 till 1.00 in the afternoon



For more information ask **George Ebbrell**

Email: George.Ebbrell@vivocarechoices.co.uk



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