

Easy Read

# Cross Party Group on Learning Disability

March

30

Notes from the fourth meeting on 30 March 2023. The meeting was on Zoom.



## People who came to the meeting

- **Sioned Williams MS** – Member of the Senedd, Chair
- **Mark Isherwood MS** – Member of the Senedd
- **Sam Williams** – Learning Disability Wales, co-Secretary
- **Sara Pickard** – Mencap Cymru, co-Secretary
- **Zoe Richards** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Wayne Crocker** – Mencap Cymru
- **Joe Powell** – All Wales People First
- **Julian Hallet** – Down's Syndrome Association
- **Alexandra Badwi** – Hft
- **Bill Fawcett**
- **Dean Clarke**
- **Debra Cooper**
- **Georgina Barton** – Pembrokeshire County Council
- **Ishbel Hansen** – Swansea Parent Carer Forum
- **Kathryn Morgan** – Shared Lives

- **Kelly Stuart** – All Wales People First
- **Kirsty Rees** – Office of Mike Hedges MS
- **Lisa Brown** – Foster carer
- **Lucy O’Leary** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Marg McNeil** – See Around Britain
- **Megan Thomas** – Disability Wales
- **Nadine Tilbury** – Working Together with Parents Network
- **Nickie Morries** – All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
- **Rhian Stangroom-Teel** – Leonard Cheshire
- **Robert Messenger**
- **Rosie Turner** – Cardiff University
- **Sacha Davies** – Careers Wales
- **San Leonard** – Social Firms Wales
- **Sarah Frost** – Department of Work and Pensions
- **Sarah Griffiths**
- **Stacey Williams** – Vale People First



**People who said they could not come to the meeting**

- **Mike Hedges** – Member of the Senedd
- **Gwen Anslow** – All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers

## About this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word. You can see what all the words in **blue** mean on **page 14**.

# 1. Welcome and introductions



Sioned Williams, Member of the Senedd and **Chair** of the Cross Party Group, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The **Chair** of the group is the person in charge of the meetings.

Sioned explained that there was a change to the agenda.



Marg McNeil would speak for a few minutes at the start of the meeting about the See Around Britain app and website.

# 2. See Around Britain



Marg told the group that the See Around Britain app and website has information and photos about public places in the UK.

It helps disabled people know how accessible places might be for them.



Marg explained that See Around Britain needs money to keep it going.



Sioned said the group would write to the UK Cross Party Group on Disability to ask them to help See Around Britain get the money they need to keep going.

### 3. Annual General Meeting or AGM

Sara Pickard from Mencap Cymru explained that the next part of the meeting would be the **Annual General Meeting** or **AGM**.



An **Annual General Meeting** or **AGM** is a special meeting that a group, company or organisation must hold each year.

There are normally rules about what must happen during the meeting.

The group had to vote to decide who would be the **co-Secretaries** and who would be the **Chair** for the next 12 months.



The **Secretary** is the person or organisation in charge of organising the group. For example, booking meetings and sending out agendas.

A **co-Secretary** is when more than 1 person shares the job of **Secretary**.



Sioned asked if anyone would like to be the **co-Secretaries** of the group for the next 12 months.



Sara Pickard from Mencap Cymru and Sam Williams from Learning Disability Wales said they would like to be **co-Secretaries** again.



The group voted for Sara and Sam to be the **co-Secretaries** for another 12 months.



Then Sara asked if any Members of the Senedd would like to **Chair** the group for the next 12 months.



Sioned Williams said she would like to **Chair** the group again.



Mark Isherwood Member of the Senedd and other members of the group voted for Sioned to **Chair** the group for another 12 months.

## 4. Annual report



Sam Williams told the group that she would be sending the Cross Party Group's annual report to the Senedd after the meeting.

The annual report must say:



- How many meetings of the group have been held in the last 12 months
- Who came to the meetings
- What the meetings were about
- How much money has been spent by the group.



Sam will send the annual report to Sioned for checking before sending it to the Senedd. It will then be added to the Senedd website.



## 5. Presentation by Vale People First parents' group



Stacey Williams is a parent with a learning disability and **ADHD**.

**ADHD** stands for **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**. A person with **ADHD** can sometimes find it difficult to concentrate. Or they might concentrate too much on something.



Stacey is a member of the Vale People First parents' group.



She talked about what it is like to be a parent with a learning disability.



She said that social workers need to understand how to support parents with a learning disability.





She said that sometimes parents need more time to understand what they are being told.

Meetings with social workers are often very rushed and there is not enough time to go through everything.



Information needs to be more accessible so that parents with a learning disability can understand everything.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Sam Williams explained that we are waiting for Welsh Government to send out guidance for social workers on how to support parents with a learning disability.



The guidance was written for Welsh Government by researchers at the University of South Wales.



We are waiting to find out from Welsh Government when the guidance will be ready to send out.

## 6. Questions and ideas



After the presentation some people asked questions and shared their ideas.



Wayne Crocker from Mencap Cymru said that research was done before the guidance on supporting parents with a learning disability was written.



The research looked at how many parents with a learning disability in Wales had their children taken into care and why.



Sam agreed to ask Welsh Government for a link to the research so that members of the group could read it.



Wayne also asked if there is any Welsh Government money to help reduce the risk of parents with a learning disability having their children taken into care.

Sioned agreed to write to the Minister for Social Services to ask:



- When will the guidance on supporting parents with a learning disability be sent out?
- How much money is there to help reduce the risk of parents with a learning disability having their children taken into care?

## 7. Any other business and ideas for future meetings



Sioned told the group that the Children, Young People and Education Committee in the Senedd is looking at how accessible education is for disabled children and young people in Wales.



The Committee will be looking for evidence about this soon. Members of the group might want to contact them to share their experiences.



Sioned asked the group if they had any ideas for things to talk about at future meetings.



Some of the ideas that people had were:

- Housing support
- Childcare for children with additional learning needs
- People with a learning disability in the criminal justice system
- Healthy lifestyles for people with a learning disability.



Sioned, Sam and Sara will talk to the other members of the group about dates and ideas for the next 4 meetings.



They will let everyone know about the next meeting as soon as possible.



Sara thanked everyone who spoke at the meeting.



Sam said that the easy read notes of the meeting will be on the Learning Disability Wales website and the Senedd website when they are ready.



You can find all the agendas and notes of the Cross Party Group here:

<https://www.ldw.org.uk/project/cross-party-group-on-learning-disability/>



If anyone has any ideas about important things to talk about at future meetings, you can email Sam Williams: [samantha.williams@ldw.org.uk](mailto:samantha.williams@ldw.org.uk) or Sara Pickard: [SaraE.Pickard@mencap.org.uk](mailto:SaraE.Pickard@mencap.org.uk).



Sioned, Sara and Sam thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

## Hard words

### Chair

The Chair of the group is the person in charge of the meetings.

### Annual General Meeting or AGM

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### Secretary or co-Secretary

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A co-Secretary is when more than 1 person shares the job of Secretary.

### ADHD

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