

# Learning Disability Wales

The combined voice for learning disability



Learning Disability Wales  
Anabledd Dysgu Cymru

**We want Wales to be the best country in the world for people with a learning disability to live, learn and work.**

**Strategic plan 2019 - 2024**



## How to keep in contact

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learningdisabilitywales

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## Our values

**Our values are based on a belief that we are all born with equal rights**

We believe that as a child, young person or adult with a learning disability you have a right to:

- Be valued and respected
- Have a meaningful life
- Be able to learn, develop and have access to meaningful education and training throughout life
- Be seen, heard, included and have a voice
- Be in control of your life
- Have friendships, relationships and a social life
- Work
- Be a contributing citizen.

These values are underpinned by the UN Convention and Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



## Our aims

# Our aims support our vision of Wales becoming the best country in the world for people with a learning disability to live, learn and work

- An inclusive education system that people with a learning disability feel part of.
- A workforce that includes people with a learning disability.
- A society that includes, values and respects people with a learning disability.
- Laws, policy and practice that are co-produced by people with a learning disability.
- People with a learning disability have a voice and contribute to issues that affect them.



## Our priorities

Our 3 priorities for the next 2 years will enable us to work towards the Wales we want for people with a learning disability

Health and well-being

Being healthy and happy

Employment

Being able to contribute to life in Wales

Education

Growing and learning in an inclusive Wales

We will also respond to other issues that may affect the lives of people with a learning disability.



## Key facts

## What we know about people with a learning disability in Wales

- There are approximately 15,000 adults with a learning disability known to social services in Wales and potentially at least a further 60,000 people with a learning disability who are not known to social services.
- People with a learning disability are living longer than ever and there are increasing support needs.
- There are over 100,000 children who have an additional learning need. Many of those children have a learning disability. There are almost 5,000 pupils in special schools in Wales.
- Children and young people have a more limited choice of inclusive education.
- Funding for non-statutory services has seen a significant cut in the last 5 years.
- More people with a learning disability are living independently.
- People with a learning disability still face significant stigma in society.
- One third of families who have a disabled child are living in poverty.
- Only 6% of people who have a learning disability in the UK are in employment.

## Welsh policy

### Making the most of the Welsh laws and policy framework

There are many policies in Wales supporting how people with a learning disability live their lives.

We want to make sure we are part of creating and shaping how these policies support people with a learning disability and others to have the best lives, in a Wales that can celebrate its success.

We recognise the key policies and initiatives over the next 5 years include:

#### Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

This law emphasises:

- Voice and control – putting the individual and their needs at the centre of their care; giving them a voice in, and control over, reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.
- Prevention and early intervention – increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.
- Well-being – supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.
- Co-production – encouraging individuals to become more involved in the design and delivery of services.



## Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

This law emphasises:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A more Equal Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales.

## Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

3 main objectives of this legislation:

- A unified legislative framework to support all children of compulsory school age or below with additional learning needs.
- An integrated, collaborative process of assessment, planning and monitoring that facilitates early, timely and effective intervention.
- A fair and transparent system for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals.

## Learning Disability – Improving Lives Programme 2018

Focussed outcomes on:

- Early years and children
- Housing
- Social care
- Health and well-being
- Skills, education and employment.

## Prosperity for All: economic action plan 2017

For people in Wales to be:

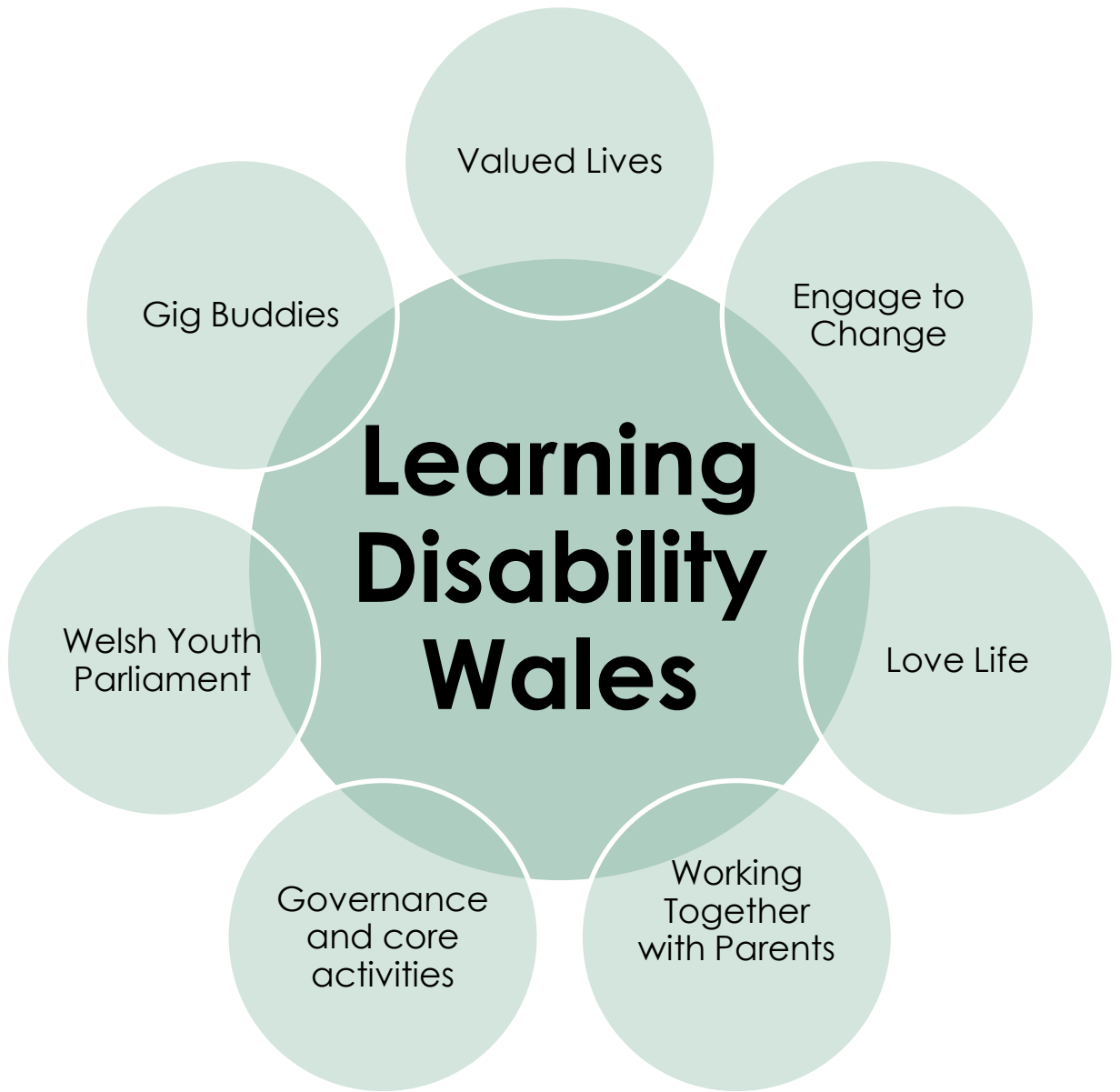
- Prosperous and secure
- Healthy and active
- Ambitious and learning
- United and connected.

## Improvement Cymru

Improvement Cymru is the national improvement service for NHS Wales delivered by Public Health Wales.

**Our  
work  
now**

**We have many projects and  
activities**



## Projects at a glance



Our Valued Lives project delivers our key activities:

- Communication and information
- Training and events
- Representing
- Innovating.



The Engage to Change project supports young people aged 16-25 across Wales with a learning disability and/or autism into paid work placements lasting 6-12 months. The project offers 1-to-1 job coaching and specialist employment support to both the young person and the employer. To deliver the project we are working in partnership with a consortium consisting of 4 other organisations:

- Agoriad Cyf
- All Wales People First
- Cardiff University
- ELITE Supported Employment.



Gig Buddies tackles loneliness and social isolation, and improves well-being by matching people with and without a learning disability who share the same interests so they can go to gigs and events together.



The Working Together with Parents Network is a partnership project improving support for parents with a learning disability. We work with key stakeholders from mainstream and family services to work towards a common vision and joint ways of working with parents with a learning disability.



Love Life is a collaboration of 7 partner organisations throughout Europe. It aims to enable people with a learning disability to become trainers in healthy relationships in order to deliver training and train others to become trainers in each of the 7 European countries.



Welsh Youth Parliament is made up of 60 elected members. 40 are elected from their constituencies and another 20 are elected from partner organisations. Learning Disability Wales is a partner organisation and will support 2 young disabled people to represent others as part of the Youth Parliament.



Our Easy Read service has been helping people put information into Easy Read for people with a learning disability for 17 years. This includes documents, websites, consultations, policies, guides, posters, videos and leaflets. We also help others develop Easy Read skills by providing our free guide 'Clear and Easy' and offering 2 levels of training courses on making information accessible.



The delivery of our projects is supported by our internal services:

- Finance
- Human resources
- Governance.



Our work and success relies on working with a wide range of partners across Wales

# Learning Disability Wales

Third sector	Public sector	Members and individuals	Private sector	Funders
Learning disability organisations	Welsh Government	Full members	Care & support providers	Grant making bodies
Other disability organisations	UK Government	Associate members	Arts & entertainment venues	National and local government
Housing & support providers	Local authorities	People with a learning disability	Utility providers	Donations
Parent & carer organisations	Education	Family carers	Technology companies	Customers of our services
Children & young people organisations	Health	Staff, trustees & volunteers		

## What we do well

We will continue to work in the following ways to make Wales a better place for people with a learning disability

People

Bring people together at our Annual Conference

Training

Hold training and events on our priority themes

Information

Share information on relevant issues and contribute to the policy agenda

Accessible

Promote the use of accessible information

Easy Read

Create Easy Read documents

Partnership

Look for partners to share our knowledge

Projects

Create new and exciting projects



## Informing our work

How we will ensure our work is relevant to the people of Wales

### Engagement

We will publish our engagement strategy including consultation events, and an open event for priority setting.

### Membership

We will make sure our membership offer is attractive by consulting and finding out what people find useful.

### Network

We will host topic networks across Wales.

### Conversation

We will hold regular social media conversations.

### Face to face

We will have contact with our members.

### Policy

We will hold policy consultation events.

## Looking forward

### How we will develop our work in the future

Campaign

We will run 1 major campaign per year.

People

We will employ more people with a learning disability.

Diversity

We will increase diversity on our Board of Trustees.

Brand

We will rebrand.

Communities

We will reach out to more communities in Wales and have a better national presence.

Change

We will create more partnerships for change.

Friends

We will create more Gig Buddies opportunities throughout Wales.

Policy

We will develop our contribution to policy debate and development in Wales.

Refresh

We will review our training, easy read and communication services.

Connections

We will recruit more members and diversify our connections.



## Milestones to success

What success will look like over the next 5 years

	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create campaign map for 3 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 policy officers in post including 1 person with a learning disability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale public awareness campaign</li> </ul>
Training & events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate current service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share good practice through our annual conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share good practice through our annual conference</li> </ul>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate current service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ a social media team member who has a learning disability</li> <li>• Rebrand</li> </ul>	

# Year 1

# Year 3

# Year 5

Gig Buddies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure 3 year funding programme to work in 6 local authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a regional presence throughout Wales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host 'Stay Up Late' network with all-Wales project presence</li> </ul>
Working Together with Parents Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create guidance on 'Working with parents with a learning disability'</li> <li>Create North Wales post for network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government either adopt guidance or create guidance for roll out</li> </ul>
Youth Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a reference group of young people to support Welsh Youth Parliament Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the way forward.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure representation from young disabled people</p>
Easy Read service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research possible models to support the development of the service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Profit of £25,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A duty for public bodies to train staff who produce information in level 1 Easy Read</li> </ul>

## Year 1

Governance and core activities

- Adapt current board structure to better represent the membership

## Year 3

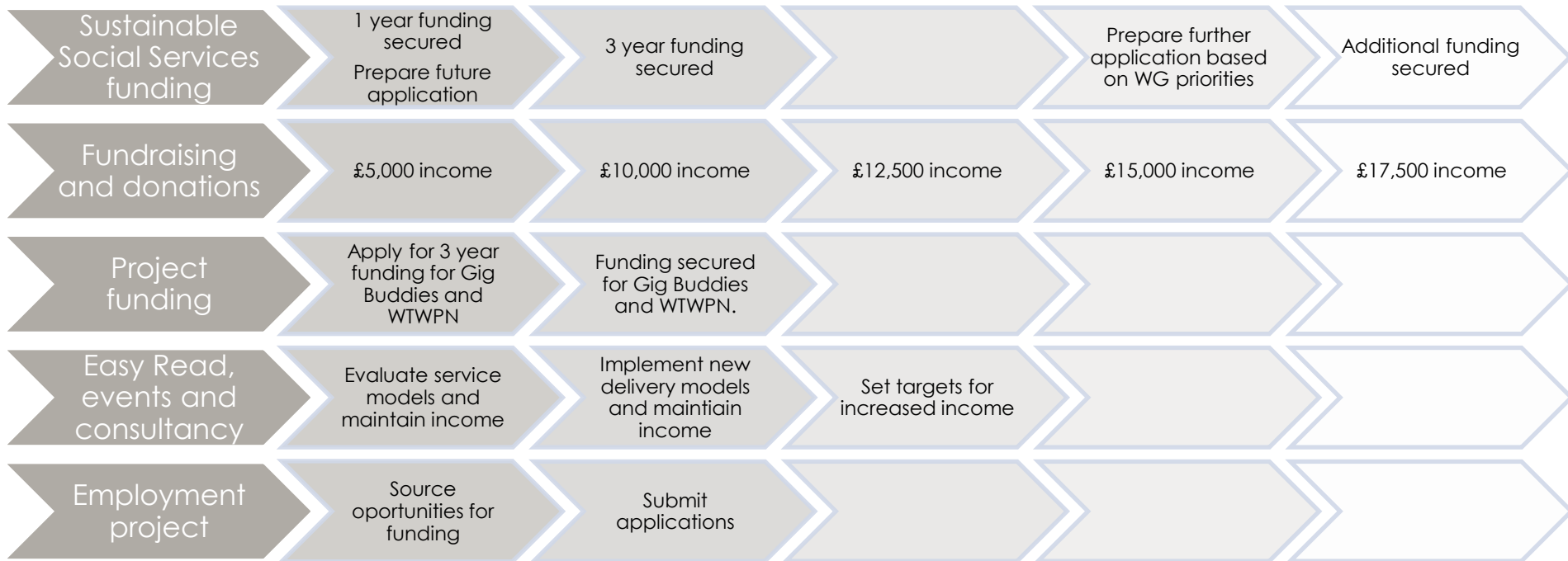
- Increased diversity on our board
- Review of core overheads
- Create business development resource
- Update Memorandum and Articles to better reflect direction of organisation

## Year 5

- Quality checking of governance management processes

# Our finances

We are working to diversify our income to become more sustainable



## Current trustee and staff structure

