

Cross Party Group on Learning Disability



Notes from the 1st meeting on 11 May 2022. 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
- **Heledd Fychan MS** – Member of the Senedd
- **Samantha Williams** – Learning Disability Wales, Secretary
- **Zoe Richards** - Learning Disability Wales
- **Grace Krause** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Wayne Crocker** – Mencap Cymru
- **Joe Powell** – All Wales People First
- **Kelly Stuart** – All Wales People First
- **Sara Pickard** – Mencap Cymru
- **Paul Hunt** – Mencap Cymru
- **Julian Hallet** – Down's Syndrome Association
- **Kirsty Rees**
- **Ryland Doyle**



People who said they could not come to the meeting

- Mandy Powell – Cymorth Cymru
- Kate Young – All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
- Mike Hedges MS – Member of the Senedd
- Rhun ap Iorwerth MS – Member of the Senedd

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 9**.

1. Welcome and introduction



Zoe from Learning Disability Wales welcomed everyone to the meeting.



Zoe explained that a group of organisations had decided to start this Cross Party Group for Learning Disability.

They want the group to look at the issues that people with a learning disability in Wales face in their lives.

The organisations who decided to start the group are:

- All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
- All Wales People First
- Cymorth Cymru
- Down Syndrome Association
- Learning Disability Wales
- Mencap Cymru.





Wayne from Mencap Cymru said that England, Scotland and Northern Ireland already have Cross Party Groups on learning disability.

It is really good that Wales now has a group too.

2. Voting for the secretary of the group



Zoe asked if the group wanted to vote for Samantha Williams from Learning Disability Wales to be the **secretary** of the group.

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

The group voted for Samantha.

3. Voting for the Chair of the group



Samantha asked the group if they wanted to vote for Member of the Senedd Sioned Williams to be the **Chair** of the group.

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

The group voted for Sioned.

4. Why we started this group



Joe from All Wales People First gave a presentation about why we started this group and what we hope to do.



He said that there are lots of things that affect people with a learning disability in different ways to other people. This includes other disabled people.

Joe talked about some of the problems for people with a learning disability in Wales:



- **Health.** People with a learning disability often have worse health than other people. Sometimes they are not treated fairly or properly by health services.



- **Housing.** People with a learning disability are sometimes sent to live a long way from their family, friends and community. They are also sometimes sent to live in hospitals.



- **Parents and carers.** Parents and carers of people with learning disabilities also need the right support.



- **Restrictive practice**. This is sometimes used by people who work with or care for people with a learning disability.

Restrictive practice is when people try to control your behaviour by stopping you from doing things. It can be things like holding you down. Or putting you in a room alone.

Restrictive practice can be very upsetting. Sometimes it can hurt or even kill people.



- **Voice, choice and control**. People with a learning disability need to be able to speak up for themselves. Or if they cannot speak up for themselves, they need an **advocate** to speak up for them.

There is not enough money for **advocacy** and **self-advocacy** services for people with a learning disability across Wales.



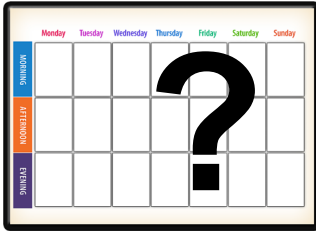
An **advocate** or **advocacy** means someone who speaks up for someone else. For example, about rights or what the person needs.

Self-advocacy means speaking up about what is important to you.

5. Future meetings

The group talked about:

- how often they want to meet
- when they want to meet
- where they want to meet
- what they want to talk about at future meetings.



The group decided to have at least 4 meetings each year.

If there is something important, then the group might have an extra meeting to talk about it.



The group decided to hold some of the meetings online.

They also said they would like to have at least 1 meeting that is **not** online so that people can meet in person.



The group decided that future meetings would be open to everyone.



At least half of the people who give presentations at meetings will be people with a learning disability.



The group agreed that at the next meeting they will talk about health.



The group will ask people with a learning disability what else they want the group to talk about in future meetings.

Hard words

Advocate or **advocacy**

An advocate or advocacy means someone who speaks up for someone else. For example, about rights or what the person needs.

Chair

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

Restrictive practice

Restrictive practices is when people try to control your behaviour by stopping you from doing things. It can be things like holding you down. Or putting you in a room alone.

Secretary

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

Self-advocacy

Self-advocacy is speaking up about things that are important to you.