

Cross Party Group on Learning Disability

September

27

Notes from the sixth meeting on 27 September 2023.

The meeting was on Zoom.



People who came to the meeting

- **Sioned Williams MS** – Member of the Senedd, Chair
- **Sara Pickard** – Mencap Cymru, co-Secretary
- **Sam Williams** – Learning Disability Wales, co-Secretary
- **Andrea Meek** – Cardiff University
- **Carys West** – Wrexham County Council
- **Coryn Jones** – NHS Wales
- **Debbie Oliver** – Cardiff County Council
- **Deborah Lomas** – parent
- **Debra Cooper**
- **Emma Alcock** – RCT People First
- **Gail Devine** – BAVO
- **Glenda Lloyd Evans** – Welsh Government
- **Grace Coppock** – All Wales Forum
- **Hannah Offord** – Powys County Council
- **Ishbel Hansen** – Swansea Parent Carer Forum
- **Jackie Grice**
- **Jan Webster** – Mirus
- **Janice Managhan** – Pembrokeshire County Council

- **Janis Griffiths**
- **Jenny Powell** – Tudor Street Campaign
- **Joe Powell** – All Wales People First
- **Jonathan Davies** – Powys County Council
- **Kai Jones** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Kate Young** – Mencap Cymru
- **Kathryn Morgan** – Shared Lives
- **Kelly Stuart** – All Wales People First
- **Marg McNiel** – SEE Around Britain
- **Mena Kasem** – PA
- **Natalie Ballett** – NHS Wales
- **Nichola Jones** – Mirus
- **Paul Hunt** – Mencap Cymru
- **Rachel Roberts** – Powys County Council
- **Rachel Stinchcombe** – Mirus
- **Rhian Jones** – Drive
- **Ron Woods** – Innovate Trust
- **Sandra Spratt** – Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
- **Sarah Griffiths** – Tudor Street Campaign
- **Simon Rose** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Sion Jones** – Mencap Cymru
- **Wayne Crocker** – Mencap Cymru
- **Zarah Kaleem** – Cardiff People First
- **Zoe Richards** – Learning Disability Wales



People who said they could not come to the meeting

- **Jane Dodds** – Member of the Senedd
- **Julian Hallett** – Down's Syndrome Association (Wales)

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 19**.

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.

2. Mencap's report on day services



Sara Pickard and **Paul Hunt** talked about Mencap Cymru's report on day services.



The report was about what people with a learning disability and their families had said in a survey about their day services.



The survey asked people questions about their day services before and after the Covid pandemic.



Most day services closed in the pandemic.
Many of them have not opened again.



People said they were not asked what they
thought about their day services closing.



They also said they were not told when their day
services would open again.



When day services have opened again, lots of
people said they could not go for as many hours
as before the pandemic.



Sara said that local councils should work
together with people with a learning disability
and their families to plan services. This is called
coproduction.



Coproduction means people who use services
are included in all decisions. They are seen as
equal partners with the staff working in services.

Coproduction is not always easy.



Staff working in services might find it hard share power and control.



Some people might need support to share their ideas, especially if they have never been asked for their ideas before.



But working together can help make services better. It also gives people choice and control in their lives.



In the pandemic, lots of people used technology like video calls, apps and websites to stay connected.



But people need to have choices about how they want to connect with others and use services.



Some people still want to meet others in person and go to activities in the community.



Friendships and relationships are very important. When day services close, it can be hard for people to see their friends.



If people cannot go to day services anymore, they must still be able to see their friends and the people they care about.



It is not enough to just support people to go to different places like cafes or leisure centres.



Some day services are finding it hard to get enough staff. This might be because staff working in day services do not get paid enough money.



Some local councils are looking at letting people choose day service activities that last for 6 weeks each time.



This might make it difficult for some organisations that run day activities to keep working. They might not have enough money.



Paul said that Mencap Cymru are going to send out the survey again to find out if anything has changed for people.

3. Campaign to get Tudor Street day service open again



Sarah Griffiths and **Jenny Powell** talked about the **campaign** to get Tudor Street day service in Abergavenny to open again.



A **campaign** is a way to tell people about something important. Or to try to change something, like a policy or the way people think.



A day service called My Day My Life used to support people with a learning disability in a building on Tudor Street in Abergavenny.



The building closed in the pandemic and has never opened again.



The council said that the building was not needed anymore.



They said that there were not enough people who need support to keep My Day My Life going.



And they said the building needed a lot of work to be done before it could be used again.



People were very angry that the council had not asked them what they thought about closing Tudor Street.



They said the council should have done a full review of the service and asked people what they thought.



The council said they would do a review.

Questions

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure

They asked a small number of people who used My Day My Life and their families what they thought about the service.



People said they liked lots of the activities they used to do before Tudor Street closed.



They were sad that the building was closed and lots of the activities were not running anymore.



They were also sad that they did not get to see their friends from the day service anymore.



They said people who use the service should help plan the activities and choose what they want to do.



They would like more activities and more choice.



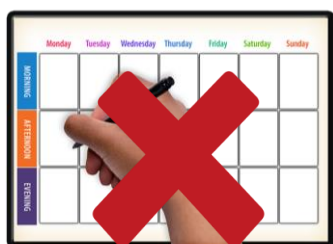
They also asked the staff who worked for My Day My Life what they thought about the service.



The staff said the day service had not been as good since the pandemic.



Some activities are hard to run when it is just 1 person and 1 member of staff.



Sometimes staff do not have enough time to plan activities.



Staff need to see people's care plans so that they can make sure they understand their needs.



The council has looked at what people said in the review. But they still have not opened Tudor Street day service.



A group of people who want Tudor Street to open again have been **protesting** outside the building.



Protesting is a way of showing that you do not agree with something. You can **protest** in lots of different ways like going on a march or putting up posters.



The group are angry that the council is not listening to what people with a learning disability and their families who live in Abergavenny want.



The group said they would help to fix the building and make it ready to open again.



They also said that they could work with the council to find ways to make Tudor Street better for the whole community.



But they do not feel that the council are listening.

4. Questions and ideas



After the presentations, some people asked questions and shared their ideas.



Wayne Crocker from Mencap Cymru said that Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan has asked for a review of day services since Covid.



The report from the review will be looked at by the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group.



We hope that the report will also be looked at by Members of the Senedd.



Rachel Stinchcombe from Mirus said that they had asked people with a learning disability they support about their day services after the pandemic.



Lots of people told Mirus that they did not want to go back to their old day services anymore.



Instead, Mirus is supporting people to take part in activities in their communities.



It is important that people with a learning have choices about what they do and how they are supported.



Sioned will write to the Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan to ask her to speak to the Welsh Local Government Association about **coproduction**.



The letter will explain that **coproduction** is very important for people with a learning disability and their families.



But **coproduction** is more than just asking people what they think. It must be done in a way that people can take part properly.



Local councils should **not** be closing services for people with a learning disability **without** asking them and their families what they think.

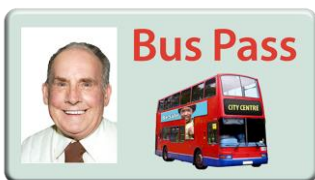


People with a learning disability and their families should be part of any plans to change or make new services.



The letter to Julie Morgan will also ask if everyone will be able to read the report on the review of days services. Not just Welsh Government and the Senedd.

5. Any other business and ideas for future meetings



Sioned said she will write to Lee Waters the Deputy Minister for Transport again about the problems people with a learning disability have had with getting a new bus pass.



She will also tell the Deputy Minister that drivers working on buses need better training about working with people with a learning disability.



The Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee is trying to find out if disabled children and young people have the same chances to access education and childcare as children who are not disabled.



You can find out more about what the Committee has found out and how you can share your views on the Senedd website: <https://business.senedd.wales/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=40923>.



Sioned thanked everyone who spoke at the meeting.



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



The next meeting will be on Zoom on 12 December 2023 at 12.15pm.



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/>

Hard words

Chair

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

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Campaign

A campaign is a way to tell people about something important. Or to try to change something, like a policy or the way people think.

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