

Learning Disability Carers Reference Group
Friday 1st May 2020
Notes from the meeting

Attendees	Apologies
Madeleine Fahy, Through the Maze Lynn Bailey, Family Carer Louise Mills, Leeds City Council Pat Hardwick, Family Carer	Kausar Iqbal, Sibling Carer Maureen Lumb, Family Carer Shirley Evison, Family Carer Ann Seaton, Family Carer Jackie Hartley, Family Carer
1. Agenda and purpose of the meeting	
Due to the Corona virus lockdown, a skype meeting was held instead of the regular building based meeting. The purpose was to enable carers to connect with each other and share information. This was the first time the group had tried a skype meeting and whilst not everyone could participate, those who could reported that it was great to see and hear everyone. Participants can join a meeting from a computer, mobile device or phone. Support/training around using skype may be available to enable more carers to communicate during the lockdown or for future meetings, for example, if a carer is unable to attend a building based meeting but wanted to join in. Action: Carers interested in further support to contact Louise.	
2. Covid 19	
There was a lot of discussion around the impact of the virus lockdown on people with learning disabilities and family carers. Some of the key concerns were around trying to help loved ones understand the lockdown rules and manage their expectations of when things will get back to normal, and what 'normal' may look like. The media handling of the news had also added to people's anxiety. It was good to hear that group members had been in regular contact with each other. Praise was also given to some of the organisations for the way they have adapted their services and support provided to people with learning disabilities.	
3. Business round-up	
Dates for the calendar Many meetings and events have been removed from the calendar, including those in learning disabilities week. However, one or two event organisers are looking at alternative ways of holding the events. The Through the Maze website has information about what is happening. Learning Disability Partnership Board – At the March meeting, Councillor Khan stepped down from his role as Co-Chair to take up position of Lord Mayor in June. As a result of Covid 19, a decision has been made that most council appointments/committee positions will now roll over into the new municipal year. We are waiting to hear what will happen with the Lord Mayor position. Inclusion North – Leeds is no longer a member of Inclusion North. Carers talked about how helpful the Ribby Hall courses had been to them.	

Scams – Covid -19 related scams and door step crime are on the increase. The [West Yorkshire Trading Standards](#) have further information about scams and trading practices but as new scams are being created all the time, everyone has to be extra vigilant.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from 14th February were not checked. So that they can be added to the Through the Maze website, carers are requested to check them for accuracy and let Louise know of any errors by 15th May.

5. Next meeting

The next carers reference group meeting is scheduled for August but given the ever changing situation, it was agreed another skype meeting will be arranged sooner.