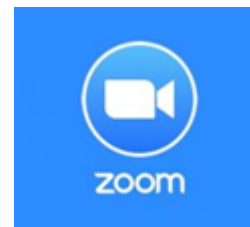




Learning Disability Partnership Board
Being Connected - Social
Tuesday 16 July 2024
10.30 – 12.30 on Zoom
Minutes



	Welcome and introductions – the co-chairs Councillor Kevin Ritchie and Em Pearson welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Cllr Ritchie paid tribute to Sharon Burke who was a previous co-chair of the meeting. We're really pleased that Sharon will continue to attend in her role as Leeds Involving People representative.
	The meeting agreed the minutes from the last Learning Disability Partnership Board on 16 April 2024. Cllr Ritchie reminded members of the meeting about the Post 16 travel consultation and that it is important to take part. The link for this is https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/D35YCT/ This survey ends on 23rd July so has also been sent out prior to this via email.
	What stops people with learning disabilities going out on an evening Presentation – Jimmy Knott & Sarah Wheatley



The People's Parliament shared what was said at their last meeting.

Support for people going out after 5pm was raised as an issue as well as people with learning disabilities being refused access to leisure centre classes.

Peer support safety groups has been raised as a possible solution, but this could require funding. Small Sparks funding could be applied for for group travel for outings potentially.

People want to go out and want to have a social life. Transport can be an issue if buses stop early, also bus staff don't always treat people with learning disabilities kindly. There is a lack of support available at night, plus anti-social behaviour is a barrier to people feeling safe at night.

We discussed that West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) are going to be re-contracting the bus transport and there will be consultation surveys available for people to give feedback on. Please complete these when they're available.

We also reminded everyone about the work done with First Bus – training for bus drivers and the videos created – which we discussed in more detail last meeting.

The overall feeling is that people with learning disabilities don't feel included.

What's on your doorstep



Presentation – Thomas Chalk - Through the Maze

Thomas shared a presentation about local Community Centres and how Through the Maze has been set up to help people find information on what events, groups and activities are taking place at their local community centre.

Not all community centres are on their website currently. The Through the Maze team are working to update this by visiting centres and asking them what is on.

Local community centres are a great way to be social and bring people together. Building relationships with them could bring about new groups and activities.

Through the Maze website link is here

<https://www.through-the-maze.org.uk/>



The Hall Lane Disco

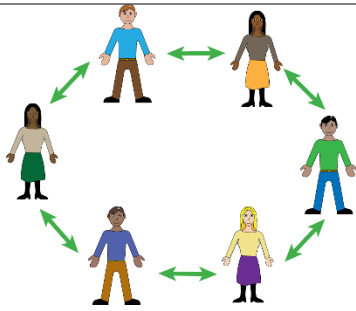
Majella Dean – Creative Support

Majella spoke about the initiative that received funding which has created a disco at the Welcome In Community Centre, 55 Bedford Drive, LS16 6DJ. It takes place on the 1st Thursday of every month. £3 general entry and £1 for carers/support. The next disco will take place on **1st August 2024 6pm – 9pm.**

There is a tuck shop available, along with raffles and bingo. There is a room which provides a quieter space away from the disco.

	Majella would welcome feedback from anyone who attends. Sharon Burke discussed the possibility of creating sessions to discuss and co-produce a series of events that meet needs and demands.
tea or coffee  Linking Leeds	10-minute Coffee and Comfort break Leeds City Council and Linking Leeds social prescribing service Bushra Javed - Project Development Manager – Leeds City Council Bushra spoke about a project she and her colleagues work on which creates groups and activities when a need is identified. They work with volunteer networks to set up groups in the local area that meet a need or demand. Some examples were given such as gardening groups, book clubs and a mums group. There is a team to cover all of Leeds and would welcome any contact for support to set up a new group or to link in with any existing groups. Questions were raised by members of the meeting regarding employment or volunteering. Bushra confirmed the team can help people connect with local job shops. Job shops are available at all the Community Hubs across Leeds. https://www.leeds.gov.uk/jobs-skills-and-training/jobshops

	To discuss Linking Leeds, please contact on ProjectDevelopmentTeam@Leeds.gov.uk
	Small Sparks Lynn Bailey – Better Action for Families What is Small Sparks and how it can be used to set up small community activities locally? Small Sparks is an Asset Based Community Development project. Funding of up to £250 can be applied for to start a new group or activity. The aim been to share a skill or idea with your local community. Gifts of the head - knowledge Gifts of the hands – skills Gifts of the heart – passion The funding cannot be used to pay for a support worker or a venue. Please contact Lynne at baff2007@hotmail.co.uk for further information and an application, support is available if needed to complete the application form. A question was raised regarding the application form been an easy read document, it was advised that no it isn't. Cllr Ritchie was going to raise this with the EDI team in LCC as it is a LCC document.



Collaborative working updates

- William Merritt Centre
- Older People's Network
- Physical and Sensory Impairment Network
- Royal Mencap
- Pyramid

Unfortunately no one was able to attend to cover this area, therefore no updates were available at this meeting.



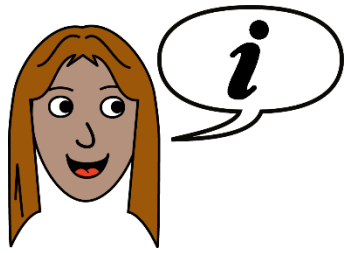
Carers Reference Group - feedback

The group discussed people living in supported living going out at night, this is challenging as support isn't available at night, unless there is a prearranged activity.

Response: This was also discussed at the Council Takeover and feedback was given. Gwen advised this is something that can be raised with the service and also with the person's social worker and ask them to review the package of care and when support is required.

Some issues were discussed around transport on a Sunday evening as carer's are having some respite on Sunday afternoons and been finding transport home from White Rose challenging.

Response: It was recommended that this feedback is sent to the bus companies (can use complaints form) as they are always reviewing feedback and altering services. Alternatively, as Sundays are quite a tricky day for buses (often fewer services running and wait times between buses are longer) to consider another time or another location for this outing, where bus routes are easier for getting home.



Any Other Business

The carers reference group raised that when groups or events are set up it is important to be mindful of dietary requirements, for example halal. It was discussed that if there is catering, people can often submit dietary requirements also.

Sarah Wheatley mentioned that the updated “Being Social” leaflet will be sent out.

Sharon Burke raised the point that there should be a seasonal offering of activities, for when there are lighter nights.

Cllr Ritchie asked for the invites to be sent to him for the Peoples Parliament meetings.

David raised the point that if people are skilled enough to be volunteers, then they should be skilled enough to be employed.

Actions:

Cllr Ritchie was going to raise this with the EDI team in LCC about the Small Sparks application form being made available as an easy read, as it is a LCC document.

Future Meetings

Date and time	Theme	Location
15 October 2024 10.30am – 12.30pm	Being Connected Employed	Hillside 279 Beeston Rd Holbeck

		Leeds LS11 8ND
14 January 2025 10.30am – 12.30pm	Being Well	Zoom
15 April 2025 10.30am – 12.30pm	Being Safe	To Be Confirmed
15 July 2025 10.30am – 12.30pm	Being Connected - Travel	Zoom
14 October 2025 10.30am – 12.30pm	Being Connected - Social	To Be Confirmed
14 January 2026 10.30am – 12.30pm	Being Connected Employed	Zoom