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**Learning Disability Member Meetup - 27.07.2021**

**On Zoom**

**Attendees:**

Alex Watson - DHSC

Carol-Ann Reed - Health For All

Danielle Martin - People in Action

John Rozenstein - Chapeltown CAB

Jessica Duffy - Time to Shine

Ann Wilson - SLATE

Helen McEwan - Hamara

Julie Atha, Helen Hargreaves - Age UK

Jude Woods - CHANGE

Erin Hodson - Caring For Life

Jonathan - Linking Leeds

Kieran Fowler - Hft (Luv2meetU)

Linda Craven - Reed, Aspire

Tina Turnbull - People Matters

Verity O’Hara - Asset Based Community Development Officer - LCC

Victoria Treddenick - NHS Leeds CCG

Deanne Dixon - The National Lottery Community Fund

Carley Stubbs - Pyramid

Lou Cunningham - Aspire CBS

Paul Downes - Sense

Aqila Choudhry - Love in Care

Madeleine Fahy - Connect in the North

Tanya Bish - Carlshead Farms (Living Potential Care Farming)

Jez Coram, Kelly Bishop, Sarah Wilson, Karl Witty, Damian Dawtry - Forum Central

1. **Welcome / Intros**

Jez welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jessica from Time to Shine who was co hosting the meeting.

This meeting was part of a series of sessions that Time to Shine are hosting this year to share the learning from their six-year project working with diverse communities to test and learn approaches to reducing social isolation in Older People.

The aim of the session was to share information on engaging older people with learning disabilities who may be lonely and/or isolated.

1. **Summary of learning from the Bee Together Report and Member Meet Up workshop**

The attendees were shown a presentation from Jessica ([presentation linked here](https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Time-To-Shine-Bee-Together-Slides.pptx.pdf)), Time to Shine’s Learning Facilitator, on the learning from the Bee Together project, the project that looked at engaging isolated older people with learning disabilities. There is also a link to the full report within the slides and a list of more resources.

The Time to Shine project comes to an end at the end of March and the Bee Together project has already ended. It would be great from today to get some answers to questions to circulate to older people’s organisations and inform you all also.

Carol-Ann Said that Anna-Marie’s work within the project was a triumph especially considering how hard it was to engage people and said that the report is a brilliant read. She also suggested that people could also organise their own meetups in cafes and said that local is best.

Jude Woods is now working at CHANGE ([here are more details of their LGBTQ project for people with autism and/or learning disabilities](https://www.changepeople.org/our-work/lgbtq-inclusion-project)). Jude did some work when they were at Time to Shine with dementia cafes and this model might be useful to learn from also. If there are dementia cafes already up and running it might be best to link in with those. It also might be good to link in with the Friendly Communities project.

Tina said that there are real parallels with the current project around younger people leaving education. People Matters used to run a social group for over 45s that would meet in the pub. Once the funding ran out this still kept going for a number of years but attendees were reliant still on having a member of staff there and this led to staffing cost issues. Highlights we need to focus on making groups independent also.

1. **Break Out Rooms**

At this point in the meeting, attendees were invited to choose to join one of three breakout rooms to share stories, good practice and learning from their organisations work on three topics from the learning from the Bee Together project.

The focus of each breakout session was as follows:

**Room 1 (led by Jessica Duffy)** - There is a Neighbourhood Network organising activities for older people in every part of Leeds. What would they need to do to make their activities welcoming and interesting for older adults with learning disabilities?

**Room 2 (led by Sarah Wilson)** - How do you think older people’s organisations (or other organisations in local areas who offer activities for older people) could share their information about activities? How would people find out about it? posters/leaflets/social media/referral? Who is key to signposting?

**Room 3 (led by Jez Coram)** - How do we link local community and social groups, with special interest services so there is a variety of choice and a joined-up offer for an older person with a learning disability? How do you feel about this?

1. **Feedback from breakout rooms - Key Points**

**Room 1:**

* Often people find it hard to know what’s happening in community based orgs. When they do they enjoy things like arts and crafts and films but sometimes miss what is going on.
* People need support to join in and often this is hard with current staffing and they need time to build up relationships also.
* Can people be engaged digitally? Paul said this has worked well in South Yorkshire but not Leeds. Organisations need to be well equipped and educated around this. ALaDDIN network is up and running and they will be looking specifically at older people.

**Room 2:**

* Importance of tapping into existing networks.
* Challenges of lack of access to spaces during Covid.
* Not being able to hand out leaflets a barrier.
* Some really successful videos have happened - e.g. Through the Maze’s lateral flow video and this seems a good way to go.
* Need to keep up to date info circulating on posters etc.
* Social media is a useful tool, though there are obviously still barriers of access to this for some people.
* The importance of producing accessible information. Working with older people with learning disabilities to produce them, and ensuring easy read resources are clear and truly accessible.

**Room 3:**

* Sustainable long-term projects and meaningful engagement needed
* Disconnect in sharing ideas and knowledge between groups – joining up information needed
* Assumptions on digital exclusion and inclusion and needing clear data as evidence
* Services for older people disconnected from Health Care – Better Signposting needed
* Meaningful and inclusive approach using social model, with cultural and left shift
* ABCD model of community builders, richness of knowledge and expertise in communities of interest
* Learning Disability Awareness Training needed
* Support and staff needed in groups for sustaining relationships and navigating life changes and difficulties

1. **Next Steps**

Jez outlined that the next steps would be:

* Review the notes from the sessions today
* Link the work into Being Social Task Group/Health Task Groups and the aims of the Being Me Strategy
* Time to Shine and Volition will publish the learning from the Bee Together Report along with a short recommendations document for organisations and commissioners wanting to take this work forward.

1. **AOB**

Paul Downes (Sense) - Online session upcoming for all people - Chair based exercises on Zoom. If you know any groups that would like to get involved please get in touch. [Here is the poster](https://forumcentral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Chair-Based-Exerecise-poster-Final.pdf)

Ann Wilson (SLATE) - Ann has concerns about how many fully vaccinated people with learning disabilities are (or are not) getting out from their supported accommodation. She is getting concerned about the deprivation of liberties for people (e.g. ‘I know the risks, I'm home and being careful but do I go out …’) and said that their team members aren't. Madeleine also said that some people are not being allowed to leave their accommodation still. Linda reiterated that people with learning disabilities got vaccinated too late and described how the people in some accommodation she works for (in one instance 9 out of 12 residents) got Covid before being vaccinated. Victoria thinks that some of the measures coming in re: mandatory vaccines etc. should help this situation. Tina said that this was discussed a while ago and the vaccine promotion work has been ongoing too. There is something around vaccine uptake and also that people have been told they are high risk so are being careful. Professionals are also probably understandably risk averse - Jez will look at bringing this issue to the next meeting.

1. **Close**

Jez thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday September 15th 1:00 - 2:30 pm

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89353584834?pwd=aWlYeUlSbFhpRlRoeDhRQXZsZnYxdz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89353584834?pwd=aWlYeUlSbFhpRlRoeDhRQXZsZnYxdz09)

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