



West Sussex Learning Disability Partnership Board 10th February 2022 (Zoom Meeting)








Who came:

Amanda Jupp – Cabinet Member Adults Services (Co-Chair)
Nicola Smith – Self Advocate (Co-Chair)
Mike Smith – WSCC Commissioning Officer
Lisa Loveman – WSCC Commissioning Manager
Casper Beade Rioseco – Co-production Manager, Aldingbourne Trust
Harriet Wilson – Team Leader, Impact Advocacy
Debbie Elleston – Impact Advocacy Supporter Speakabout
Liz Holmes – Impact Advocacy People Come First
Daniel Arundel – Self Advocate Voice Self Advocacy Group
Ron Little – Self Advocate Speakup Self Advocacy Group
Hollie Ferrie – BSL Interpreter
Sarah Maynard – BSL Interpreter
Sue Cousens – Health Facilitation Team
Faye Delaney - Impact Advocacy Supporter
Tim Claydon – DEA Lead Coastal, DWP
Helen Lambert – Community Learning Disability Health Team
Tracey Light – WSCC Communities Team
Sheryl Bunting – Carers Support West Sussex
Paul – Self Advocate Voice Self Advocacy Group
Mark Taylor – Self Advocate Strawfords
Jo Fever – Self Advocate Strawfords
Karen Meredith – Self Advocate Strawfords
James Coux – WSCC Strawfords Day service
Neil Rogers – WSCC Strawfords Day service

Guests:

Alison Cornell – County Councillor
Rachel Benson – Workaid, Aldingbourne Trust

Liz Miles - Workaid, Aldingbourne Trust
 Paul Richards – Stay Up Late
 Bernie – Wild Rainbows (part of Stay Up Late)
 John Hammond – Switchboard
 Jo Baldwin – WSCC Commissioning Officer

	<p>Minutes and Workplan</p> <p>A copy of the minutes and workplan will be posted on the council’s webpage here.</p> <p>The workplan includes actions agreed in each meeting.</p>
   	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Amanda and Nicola welcomed everyone and went through how the online meeting will work.</p> <p>The theme for the meeting was ‘LGBTQ+’. This is Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning. + is added because there are many other ways that people identify. This theme is a priority area in the Boards workplan 2021-2023.</p> <p>The meeting focussed on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising awareness. 2. Collecting feedback which can help organisations when reviewing staff training and personal relationships policies. 3. Contributing to Aldingbourne Trust’s LGBTQ+ survey. <p>The Chair said that we know there needs to be an improvement in how people with learning disabilities are supported with their personal relationships. How relationships are supported was a key theme during the consultation on the Adult Social Care</p>



Strategy. For people with a learning disability who identify as LGBTQ+ this can be even more challenging.

Guests were welcomed: Paul and Bernie from The Wild Rainbows group; Rachel and Liz from Aldingbourne Trust; and Alison Cornell Member for Langley Green & Ifield East.



Self-advocate film

Heard from a self-advocate who is transgender. She told the Board about the Claire Project – a transgender group based in Brighton that supports people with their gender identity.



She told us 'The group gets together and talks to each other who we are and where we are going. We go to Brighton and Hove Pride and have Trans Pride in Hove Park. Once a month we meet to have a meal together. I haven't been going for about 2 months because I need support to get and I can't use the train with my mobility scooter. An advocate is helping find someone to take me.'



Wild Rainbows

Presenters – Paul Richards and Bernie

- [Link](#) to Wild Rainbow slides



Bernie was one of the first members of Wild Rainbows which started 5 years ago. It is supported by a staff member who identifies as LGBTQ+ but they couldn't come today.

Wild Rainbows does 3 things:



1. Advises Stay Up Late, a charity, about the best ways to support people with lived experience of LGBTQ+. Helping the charity think about its activities and the way it runs projects to make sure it includes the LGBTQ+ community. This includes Gig Buddies which is a West Sussex funded service.
2. Shares information. This could be people coming to talk to the group. For example, Sussex Police came to talk about hate crime. Giving feedback or signposting people to other support or help.
3. Goes to events including Lady Boys of Bangkok, Gay Men's Chorus, Queer Film's Night, Pride Parade and Quiz Night.

Paul read a [poem](#) by a Wild Rainbows member which was written as part of the Rightfullives Exhibition.

Wild Rainbow combines serious stuff and campaigning with lots of fun as well.

Bernie said the group is important to him so that he doesn't feel alone, can meet other people like him, come out and be proud.

Bernie is good at needlework and is making some 'out there' costumes for this year's Pride.

Wild Rainbows meet in Brighton but people from West Sussex are members.

Tracey said that she will share information about Wild Rainbows with her contacts.

Helen asked if Wild Rainbows could talk to the Community Learning Disability Health Team as it is important that her colleagues



are aware of the issues and support available.

Faye said she would like to share information via social media. Here are Wild Rainbows contacts:

- Twitter and Facebook = @stayuplateuk
- Instagram = @gigbuddiesuk

Liz from Aldingbourne said she couldn't find information in West Sussex. This is a problem because people don't know how to find about support. Important that the LGBTQ+ community advertise what they are doing.



Aldingbourne Trust Survey

Presenters – Rachel Benson and Liz Miles

- [Link](#) to Aldingbournes slides

Workaid are an employment service who get to know you well when supporting them into jobs. They found that more people than expected identified as LGBTQ+. They found many people were struggling to 'come out' to people close to them and have difficulty meeting other people from LGBTQ+ community.

Aldingbourne Trust are using a survey to collect information which will help. They are looking for places for 'meet-up's' and will share this in easy read.

A meet-up is a café, bar or place to meet someone.

Switchboard connects people to LGBTQ+ support. They have a fortnightly zoom



meeting for their Disability and Neurodiversity Project (18+). Many people have joined the online fortnightly meetings.

Groups are for people who live in or near Brighton. Parts of West Sussex have no groups and then transport becomes a problem.

Some people are worried about keeping safe and would prefer to meet-up during the daytime and in café's rather than bars.

Aldingbourne are looking at places to meet-up in Chichester, Crawley, and Worthing. The more people that fill in the survey the better this information will be.

If you would like to get involved in the Aldingbourne working group to look at the next steps, please email community@aldingbourne.org

Go online to complete the survey [here](#).

Tracey will share information for Worthing and Adur with Aldingbourne.



Breakout Groups

The groups were asked to talk about:

- What is stopping people who have learning disabilities getting support for LGBTQ+.
- What are the key messages for raising awareness and understanding?
- Any questions for the presenters.

[Link](#) to Breakout Group notes

Key points made:



- Information – People don't know about groups in Brighton or anything more local. Should share through existing networks and look at how best to put all in one place longer-term.
- Training – people find it very difficult to 'come out' to families and support staff. WSCC training offer does not specifically cover this. Support for family carers needed. Would help if people with 'lived experience' are part of the training offered.
- Awareness raising – wider communications and openness needed so it is less taboo.

Taboo means things that are not talked about openly. Some people might be embarrassed or offended talking about it.



Bringing it together

Action:

To look at this theme again in 12 months. Ask if actions have happened and if this has made a difference - Lisa.

Action:

Hold meeting with WSCC training department to review how LGBTQ is covered on the Learning and Development Gateway offer - Mike

Action:

Ask the Learning Disability Provider Forum for a discussion about LGBTQ. Include lived experience stories - Anita.

Action:



Add information to Clio3, Connect to Support, Local Offer – Lisa and Tracey.

Action:

All organisations to review how staff are supported to have conversations with people they work with who might want to explore their sexuality, meet-up with people from their LGBTQ community or keep safe in their personal relationships.



Useful links to organisations:

[The Clare Project](#) – Transgender Support Group

[Wild Rainbows](#) – part of Stay Up Late

[Switchboard](#) – connecting people to LGBTQ support

disability.project@switchboard.org.uk

[Supported Loving](#) – information to get the right support from care and support staff.

Easy Read information:


[What is LGBTQ+](#) - by Stonewall

[West Sussex Personal Relationship Policy](#)

[LGBTQ+ Guide](#) - funded by Governments Equalities Office – warning contains images of a sexual nature.

Events:

[Mingle](#) – Their LGBTQ+ group has now moved online and is open to ANYONE with a learning disability or autistic people in the UK

	<p>Webinar – ‘Shoo the Taboo’ and previous webinars. Resource to help open up the sex and relationship conversation for people involved in care and support.</p>
	<p>Next meeting: 12th May 2022</p>