

Learning Disability England Consultation



People, families and organisations have been working together to create Learning Disability England, a new organisation for people, their families and friends and organisations.

Learning Disability England will bring together people with learning disabilities, their families and friends, and organisations.



We will focus on the things that are important to all of us and create a strong, loud voice on national issues.



Learning Disability England will be like a megaphone. It will take people's voices and **make them louder.**



To find out what people thought about creating this new organisation, we did a **consultation**.

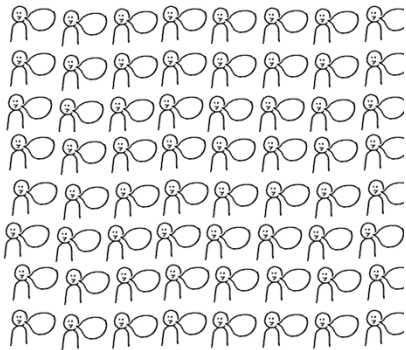
A consultation is where you ask people what they think about something.



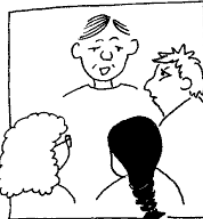
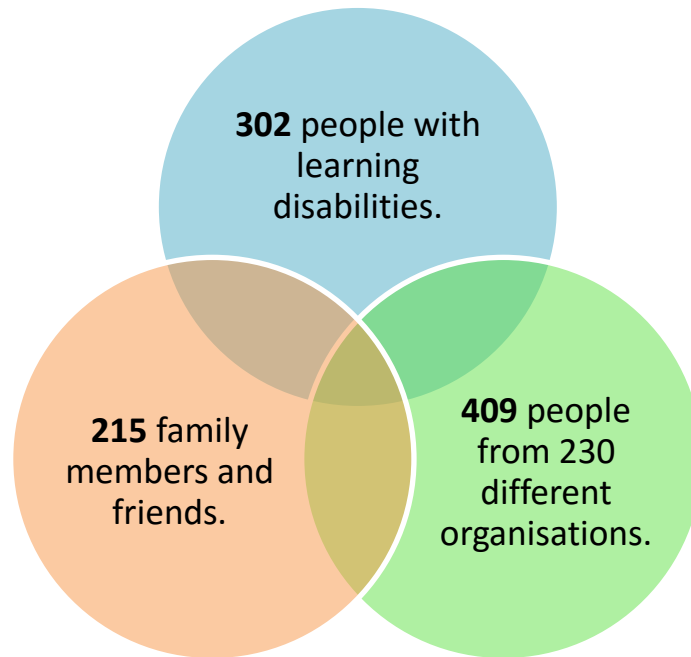
The Learning Disability England consultation ran from late December 2015 to the end of March 2016.



The aim of the consultation was to ask people what they thought of the idea of creating **Learning Disability England**.



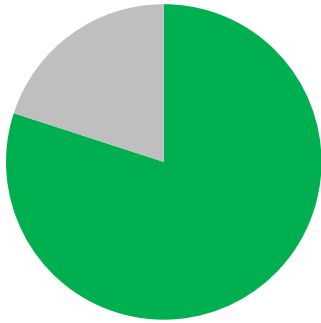
926 people responded to the consultation in total.



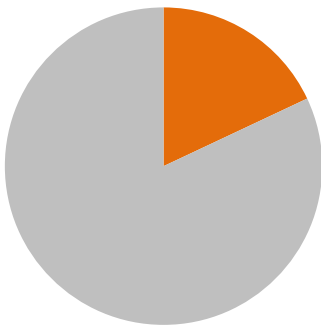
People told us what they think by...

- Filling in online surveys.
- Telling us in person.
- Talking to us over the phone.

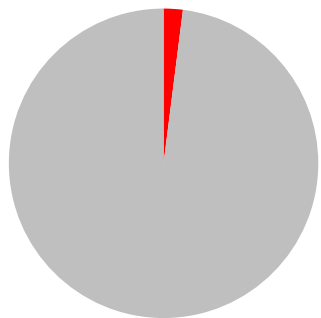
Would people want to be a part of Learning Disability England?



80% of the people we spoke to said that Learning Disability England **sounded like a good idea** and/or was an organisation they'd want to be a part of.



18% said they **weren't sure** if they would want to be a part of Learning Disability England.



Only 2% said they would not want to be a part of Learning Disability England.

Some reasons why people said they'd **want to be a part of Learning Disability England** were:

'To speak and have more of a chance of being heard' (*self-advocate*)

'To improve understanding, acceptance' (*family member*)

‘We want to be part of a louder voice’ (*person from an organisation*)

‘To make sure people with learning disabilities are treated right’ (*self-advocate*)

‘Sounds like this organisation could achieve things’ (*family member*)

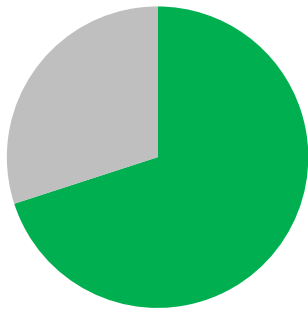
Some reasons why people said they **weren’t sure if they wanted to be a part of Learning Disability England** were:

‘big organisations don’t represent us and always take over’ (*self-advocate*)

‘Depends on what the organisation does and how it does it.’ (*person from an organisation*)

YOU SAID that you were worried about organisations taking over.

WE WILL make sure that doesn't happen by sharing power equally between people with learning disabilities, families and friends, and organisations.



Staff in organisations were asked if they thought becoming a part of LDE would benefit their organisation. **77%** said they thought there would be a benefit.

Some of the reasons staff in organisations thought this were:

'A collective will be more powerful in ensuring changes are made'

'Being part of this may help us understand better what people really want rather than what we think they want.'



Some people from organisations weren't sure whether joining Learning Disability England would be good for their organisation.

One person said:

‘...there are several national organisations and groups... and it is very hard to know where to put our limited energy and resources into.’

What do people think LDE could do for them?



We asked people and families and friends what they thought Learning Disability England could do for them.

Some things that **people with learning disabilities** said are:

‘Give us a voice.’

‘Make sure I get my rights’.

‘Help the people and keep them together.’

Families’ and friends’ answers mostly focused on advice, campaigning and giving a louder voice both to themselves and their loved one.

‘Be a voice for our family member’

‘Campaign and provide advice and information.’

Fair Membership Fee



People with learning disabilities and family and friends **said the same thing** when we asked what they thought a fair membership fee would be.

The average cost that people suggested was between **£12-£14 a year**.

Worries



We asked people if they had any worries about Learning Disability England.

We also asked what we could do to make sure these worries didn't happen.

The three biggest worries were:



- 1. Whether Learning Disability England will be inclusive, especially of people with complex needs.**

We agree that this is one of our biggest challenges!

People said that we could make sure we're inclusive by involving support workers and family members of people with complex needs.

YOU SAID that it is important for us to include people with complex needs.

WE WILL provide information about how supporters can use the Mental Capacity Act and other ways to make sure everyone can be involved.

We will work with experts to work out how we can involve all people with learning disabilities.



2. How Learning Disability England will be funded.

People said that we should make sure we have different ways of funding Learning Disability England. We agree with this and we think the most important way of getting money for LDE is through membership fees and having lots of members.

YOU SAID that you were worried about where the money is coming from.

WE WILL make sure that we can run Learning Disability England through membership fees.

We will work with organisations that are already doing good work so that money already being spent goes further.



Work together.

3. That Learning Disability England will 'reinvent the wheel' and do things that are already being done.

People said we could avoid this by working **with** other organisations. This is what we want to do.

YOU SAID that you didn't want Learning Disability England to repeat work.

WE WILL have partner organisations that we will work with on different

things. We will link up with people where we can and will take on the work of the Learning Disability Alliance and Learning Disability Coalition.

Values



We asked people what they thought Learning Disability England should be like.

The consultation gave us lots of ideas!



We then got a group of people with learning disabilities, family members and people from organisations to work together and narrow the ideas down.



The values they thought were the most important were:

- **People with learning disabilities first.**
- **Challenging.**
- **Working together.**
- **Empowering.**
- **Creative, try new things.**



YOU SAID that these values are important to you.

WE WILL make sure that Learning Disability England works in these ways.

Things That Need to Get Better



We asked everyone we spoke to what challenges they were facing and what things needed to get better.



We ran focus groups that were made up of people with learning disabilities, support workers and a few family members.



In the focus groups the **top thing** people thought needed to get better were **attitudes towards people with learning disabilities**.



For the people with learning disabilities who spoke to us over the internet or over the phone the top thing that people thought needed to get better was the **lack of opportunities and choice in their lives**.



The biggest challenge for families and friends was **finding good support and services**.



The challenges for people and families and friends were very similar – both talked about **attitudes and money**.



We thought this was interesting.



The biggest challenge for organisations was **money, funding and cuts**. Nearly half of the challenges that people in organisations talked about were to do with this.

Working with Other Learning Disability Organisations



We talked with **26 national and regional organisations** that work on policy and development with people with learning disabilities and families.



We also talked to a group of academics that work with people with learning disabilities.



Nearly all of those organisations want to be part of Learning Disability England.



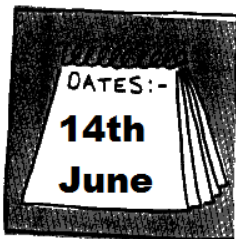
The **Learning Disability Alliance** and the **Learning Disability Coalition** said they want to merge their work with Learning Disability England.

Next Steps



We will use what we heard in the consultation to make decisions about how Learning Disability England will work.

We will share this information with all of you.



We will launch Learning Disability England on 14th June and will work up until December to put everything in place.

A big thank you to everyone who told us what they think!