

Hammersmith & Fulham Disabled People's Commission (DPC)

Meeting minutes – 1st February 2017

Who was at the meeting?

Members of the commission:

Tara Flood (Chair)

Patricia Quigley

Martin Doyle

Victoria Brignell

Kate Betteridge

Mike Gannon

David Isaac

Ramona Williams

Also at the meeting:

Councillor Vivienne Lukey

**Henrietta Doyle (Inclusion
London)**

Anna Drescher (HeadsUp)

Adrian Whyatt (HeadsUp)

Ian Lawry (Sobus)

For support:

Peter Smith (LBHF)

Fawad Bhatti (LBHF)

Apologies to the commission:

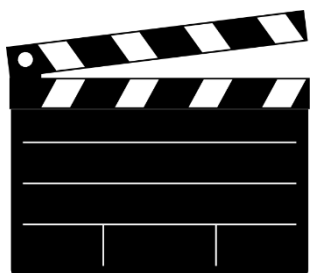
Jane Wilmot

Ali Buhdeima

Councillor Sue Fennimore

Kevin Caulfield (LBHF)

Introduction and Actions



The group went through the actions from December.
The notes from this are in the Action Tracker (separate document).

Disabled People's Lives in London – Inclusion London

**Inclusion
London**

Tara introduced Henrietta Doyle, from Inclusion London.
Inclusion London:

- Work across London.
- Work with disabled people's organisations.
- Support disabled people's cases in courts.
- Campaign for disabled people's rights.



There are 1.2 million disabled people in London.

And, 12.2 million disabled people in the UK.

48% of households with disabled people live in poverty.
That's nearly half.

One of the main issues disabled people find very hard is the assessment for benefits like DLA (Disability Living Allowance) and PIP (Personal Independence Payment).





These assessments have been quite badly done and a lot of people want to appeal.

But, appealing takes a long time and can add to the stress.

Assessments are becoming more strict and more difficult for a lot of people.



A lot of disabled people are affected by sanctions.

Reasonable adjustments – which means making changes to take away some barriers – are not made enough.

This has a big impact on people with mental health support needs and learning disabilities.



Access to Work can be helpful but cuts to the amount people can claim has affected people, too.

This has hit Deaf people hard because of the cost of getting British Sign Language workers.



Henrietta shared points from Islington about good co-production:

- **Needs people at the top to commit.**
- **Islington looked at a different policy or decision at each meeting.**
- **They also made new policies and decisions.**
- **Also managed to get council tax teams to use Easy Read and to make things better for deaf residents.**



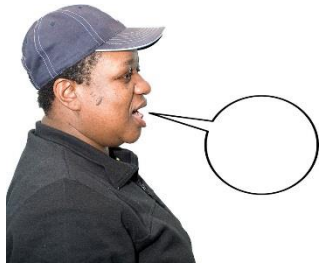


The group talked about how assessments can be very hard and very stressful.

Often, people doing the assessments don't have enough or any training.

The forms for benefit claims can also be very confusing.

Local Disabled People's Organisations: HeadsUp



Anna told people about HeadsUp:

- It is a project for co-production in mental health work.
- Have around 1,000 people involved in different things.
- They have different ways of people getting involved to give feedback about services they use.
- They have a committee of 10 people (service users) who meet once a month to make sure things are working as they need to.
- They also offer training.
- And, people sit on interview panels.



Adrian talked about the success of a peer support group that was set up in 2012, which is user led and self-funded.



HeadsUp also help people get involved in research and Adrian has helped develop services with West London Mental Health Trust.

But, HeadsUp have also seen that this Trust can be not very good at involving users.

There are many ways that co-production needs to be improved.



Adrian had 4 suggestions that could be used quite quickly:

- Hold meetings in all different parts of the borough.
- Look at peer support groups and help set them up.
- Help people to go online and use technology to help people know their rights.
- Make sure you know the different needs of different groups of people.



New Ways of Working Together

sobus
strengthening communities

Ian was at the meeting, from Sobus. He came to talk about co-production and working together in Hammersmith & Fulham.



Ian told the group about Sobus:

- They provide support to charities.
- This can be by giving advice.
- It can also be by helping people with finding money to do their work.

Sobus work hard to engage disabled people and make co-production work.

Ian said that to make sure disabled people are involved in a good way, it needs:

- Good training.
- Somebody to 'facilitate' and support.
- Different ways to make sure different people are involved.



Update on Surveys/Events/Housing Plan

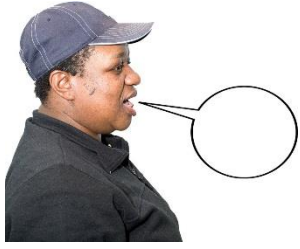


Tara told the group about the surveys. The deadline for comments was 14th February.



Victoria told the group about meeting with Patricia, Kevin and Jane. They are planning public events.

They wanted to make sure the aim of the public event is clear.



- The first aim was to help people learn about what 'co-production' means. It means new ways of working together and involving people.
- The second aim is to give people a chance to tell the group about what is good and what is not good in Hammersmith & Fulham.



They thought that there should probably be 2 events. But, there could be 3 if needed.

One could be in April and one in May. It was said that one should be in Hammersmith and one in the north of the borough.



Mike updated the group on his meeting with David Burns about housing plans.

Councillour Lukey said that residents would be updated on the housing changes later in the month.

Next meeting



Tara told the group that some meeting dates might change but she will let people know over email.