

Easy Read

# Cross Party Group on Learning Disability

September

21

Notes from the 2nd meeting on 21 September 2022. The meeting was on Zoom.



## People who came to the meeting

- **Sioned Williams MS** – Member of the Senedd, Chair
- **Mark Isherwood MS** – Member of the Senedd
- **Sara Pickard** – Mencap Cymru, Co-Secretary
- **Samantha Williams** – Learning Disability Wales, Co-Secretary
- **Andrea Meek** – Cardiff University
- **Caroline Eayrs** – Family carer
- **Caroline McCarthy** – Pobl
- **Carys Hughes**
- **Cath Thornton** – Conwy Connect
- **Darren Smith** – Family carer
- **Dawn Cavanagh** – University of South Wales
- **E Payne** – Department of Work and Pensions
- **Emma Alcock** – RCT People First
- **Eve Exley** – First Choice Housing

- **Fran Holmes** – Conwy Connect
- **Gail Devine** – Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations
- **Gerraint Jones-Griffiths** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Grace Coppock** – All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
- **Grace Krause** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Helga Uckermann** – North Wales Advice and Advocacy Association
- **Humie Webbe** – RareQol and LDMAG Co-Chair
- **Ishbel Hansen** – Swansea Parent Carer Forum
- **Iwan Good** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Jeremy Tudway** – Dimensions UK
- **June Williams** – Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Health Board
- **Kai Jones** – Learning Disability Wales
- **Kamar El Hoziel** – Conwy Connect
- **Kelly Stuart** – All Wales People First
- **Leanne Davies** – Conwy Connect
- **Lisa Morgan** – Dimensions Cymru
- **Nick Davies** – Family carer
- **Richard Redmond** – Person with a learning disability
- **Rob Parkes** – Service Robotics Ltd
- **Sara Meagher** – Walsingham Support
- **Sarah Winter** – Careers Wales
- **Shayna** – Conwy Connect
- **Sophie Trow** – Conwy Connect
- **Steve Cox** – Perthyn
- **Stuart Todd** – University of South Wales
- **Thomas Oakes** – Person with a learning disability
- **Wendy James** – Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
- **Zoe Richards** – Learning Disability Wales



## People who said they could not come to the meeting

- Eric Price – Anheddau Cyf
- Janis Griffiths – Family carer
- Kate Wyke – Contact Charity
- Sian Owen – Family carer
- Teresa Hassell – Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Tracy O'Donnell – Cardiff Social Services

## About this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word. You can see what all the words in **blue** mean on **page 13**.

## 1. Welcome and introductions



Sioned Williams, Member of the Senedd, welcomed everyone to the meeting.



Sioned told everyone that the meeting was about annual health checks for people with a learning disability.

## 2. Presentation about annual health checks by Dawn Cavanagh



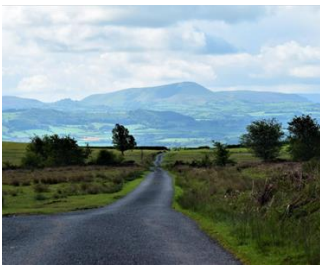
Dawn Cavanagh is a researcher at the University of South Wales. She is also the parent of a young man with a learning disability and autism.



Dawn talked about her research into annual health checks for people with a learning disability in Wales.



The research was about what annual health checks are like for people with a learning disability.



Dawn's research showed that some people living in the countryside found it hard to have an annual health check.



Her research also found that some people were happy with their health checks. But some people were **not** happy.

Some of the reasons people were **not** happy with their annual health checks:



- Too rushed – not enough time
- Doctor did not treat them with respect
- Doctor did not do all the important checks
- There were no **reasonable adjustments**



**Reasonable adjustments** are changes that should be made to make things more accessible. Like information in easy read or more time for your appointment.



- Doctor did not give them a health action plan
- Some health problems were not sorted out quickly or not sorted out at all
- Some of the information people were given about their health was difficult to understand.

### 3. Questions



Some people in the meeting asked Dawn questions about her research.



Kamar El Hoziel said that some doctors have not had training about working with people with a learning disability. This is very important.



Steve Cox asked if there was any information about how many people with a learning disability in each part of Wales have had an annual health check.



Dawn said the information shows that only about 30 to 40 people in every 100 who have a learning disability in Wales are having annual health checks.



Steve also asked if there was a checklist for people with a learning disability and their carers about what should happen in an annual health check.



**Annual Health Checks**  
Resource Pack for Delivering  
Health Care to People with  
a Learning Disability



Learning Disability Wales worked with Improvement Cymru on easy read information about having an annual health check.



You can find the easy read information and checklist on the Improvement Cymru website: <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/improvement-cymru/our-work/learning-disability-health-improvement-programme/resourses-learning-disability-health-improvement-programme/annual-health-check/>

Dawn also explained that **GPs** in Wales do **not** have to do annual health checks.



If they choose to do them, they get paid extra money.

**GPs** are doctors who work in local communities not hospitals. They are the doctors you normally speak to when you are ill but do not need to go to hospital.



Dawn thinks it would be better if **all GPs** had to do annual health checks for people with a learning disability in Wales.



Dawn wants to make sure that as many people as possible know about her research, especially **GPs**.



Sioned said the group could write to the Minister about how important annual health checks are for people with learning disability.



The letter could also ask what Welsh Government is doing to make sure people are having their annual checks.



## 4. Presentation about annual health checks by Conwy Connect



The Health Check Champions from Conwy Connect in North Wales talked about their work.



The Health Check Champions talk to people with a learning disability about:

- what is a health check?
- why health checks are important
- what to expect when you go for a health check.

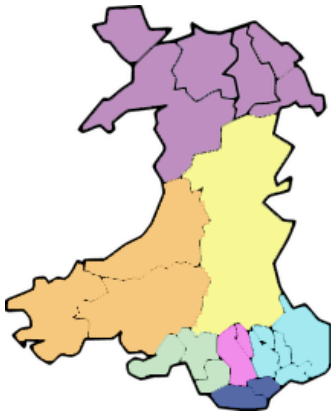


This work has meant that more people with a learning disability in North Wales have said they will go for their annual health checks.

## 5. Questions



Some people in the meeting asked the Health Check Champions questions about their work.



People said they thought every health board in Wales should have Health Check Champions.



Sioned said the group could write to the health boards to ask them to think about paying for Health Check Champions in their area if they do not already.

## 6. Any other business and next meeting



Sioned thanked everyone who gave presentations at the meeting.



Sioned told the group that the Electoral Commission want to know what people think about new guidelines on making it easier for disabled people to vote in elections.



The new guidelines are for **Returning Officers**.

**Returning Officers** are the people in charge of elections in a local area.



You can read the new guidelines and tell the Electoral Commission what you think on their website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/our-views-and-research/our-consultations/consultation-draft-guidance-returning-officers-assistance-voting-persons-disabilities>



Sioned told the group that the next meeting of the Cross Party Group on Learning Disability will be on **7 December 2022 at 12.30pm**.

Sioned said that the group might want to talk about the **cost of living crisis** at the next meeting.



The **cost of living crisis** is about lots of things costing more and more money. Things like gas, electricity, petrol and food.

This makes it very difficult for some people to pay for everything they need.



If anyone has any ideas about important things to talk about at the next meeting, you can email Sam Williams: [samantha.williams@ldw.org.uk](mailto:samantha.williams@ldw.org.uk) or Sara Pickard: [SaraE.Pickard@mencap.org.uk](mailto:SaraE.Pickard@mencap.org.uk).



After the meeting, Sam will email the 2 presentations to everyone who booked to come to the meeting.



Sioned thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

# Hard words

## Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments are changes that should be made to make things more accessible. Like information in easy read or more time for your appointment.

## GP

GPs are doctors who work in local communities not hospitals. They are the doctors you normally speak to when you are ill but do not need to go to hospital.

## Returning Officers

Returning Officers are the people in charge of elections in a local area.

## Cost of living crisis

The cost of living crisis is about lots of things costing more and more money. Things like gas, electricity, petrol and food.

This makes it very difficult for some people to pay for everything they need.