



Lewisham Speaking Up

Annual Report 2021/2022



Easy Read!

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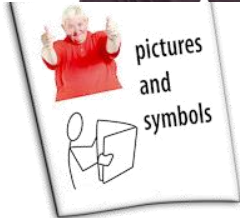
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funded through



Hello!



We are Trustees of Lewisham Speaking Up.

We hope you like our easy read annual report.

Please let us know what you think.

Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees are made up of volunteers and includes people with a learning disability. The current Board members are as follows:



Michelle Stanistreet
Chair



Sean Phillippo
Treasurer



Ashley Thomas
Secretary



Mark Anderson
Trustee and Co-Chair



Hannah Raven
Trustee and Co-Chair



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Trustee



Robert Garlinge
Trustee

This Report



This report says what Lewisham Speaking Up has been doing from **April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022** and what we hope to do in the future.



We also have a report with information about how we spent our money.

About Us



We are an independent advocacy charity for people with learning disabilities based in the Deptford Albany, Lewisham, London.

Our Vision



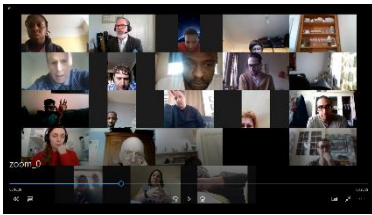
is for a society where people with learning disabilities are listened to, recognised, respected and included in all decisions about their lives.



We rely on people's hard work and money from our donors to run our services.

A **big** thank you to all our supporters!

What we have done this year



We carried on running activities online, as the Covid-19 pandemic was still with us.

But we started running in person activities again too.

Digital Inclusion

We were proud of the work we did on digital inclusion. Our 2020 report on digital exclusion had an impact.



The Council took notice and formed a special group to talk about it.

This group said that people's digital needs must be talked about at Social Care assessments and when commissioning learning disability services.

Self-Advocacy



We had three People's Parliament events. These happened online and there were **98** attendances from people with learning disabilities.

We had a parliament on scams, mental health and the Environment. The Environment Parliament was reported on in a blog by Ashden, who are a climate solutions in action organisation.



Our weekly zoom meetings continued with around **25** people attending each week.



We continued to run weekly music sessions on a Friday. This was an extra activity we organised to help reduce isolation during the pandemic. **42** people with learning disabilities attended the sessions.



People who came to our Bigger Voices project said they felt more comfortable speaking up in a smaller group with people of their own gender group. **13** men and **12** women attended groups.

Ifeoma and Peter went to Lewisham Disabled People's Commission meetings.



Other Reps went to meetings with the Race Equality Foundation, looking at the health needs of people with learning disabilities who are black, Asian or mixed heritage.

They continued working with the Right 2 Home group, highlighting the 10th anniversary of Winterbourne View.

They continued working with Advocacy Together: a movement trying to get self-advocacy groups together from around the country.

Health Ambassadors Programme



We were grateful to London Borough of Lewisham for providing extra funding for our Lewisham Health Ambassadors programme.



The Ambassadors ran workshops online about how to reduce the risk of catching Covid, vaccinations, and annual health checks. **108** people with learning disabilities attended workshops. The project was supported by James Mirkin who supported the Ambassadors.



In November, Lewisham Speaking Up joined forces with Advocacy in Greenwich and Advocacy for All to bid for a new South London Health Ambassadors project. The bid was successful.



We recruited Lisa Lye as the Lewisham Health Ambassador.



We recruited Anne McBride as the Health Ambassadors Project Worker. Anne now supports Lisa to do her job.

1-2-1 Advocacy



We were sad to say goodbye to Colin Finch, our Crime and Hate Crime Advocate. Colin did excellent work helping people with learning disabilities who had been victims of crime or hate crime.



In January 2022, we started a **Parents Advocacy project**. This project is a pilot for one year. We welcomed Gemma Hughes to LSU as the Parents Advocate.



The Parents Advocate helps people with learning disabilities who are parents.

They might have to prove they are 'good enough parents' and they might have to go to court or talk to Children's Services. It can be difficult for them to keep their child. This can be very hard, so it is good to have an Advocate to help.



Our **Money Management Advocacy service** started. The service is funded by Henry Smith Charity.



We welcomed Michelle as our Money Management Advocate in June 2021. Michelle is very experienced and has done lots of advocacy before. The new service is helping people who are struggling with money. They might have problems with benefits, paying bills, debts, or budgeting.

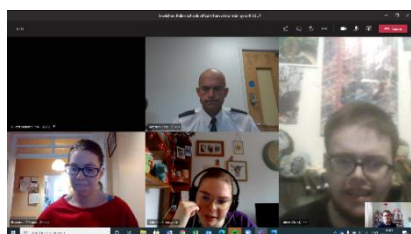


Our **Community Advocacy** and **Advocacy Surgery** helped **64** people with learning disabilities and autism with various problems.



Thank you to all our volunteers who help us with 1-2-1 advocacy.

Hate Crime Training



The Hate Crime Trainers did work online and in person. They worked in schools, Lewisham Hospital, with Lewisham Aurora Nexus, and the Police. **237** school children and **34** people with learning disabilities were trained about disability hate crime: what it is and how to report it.

Partnership



We work well with other charities who, like us, work hard to make sure people with learning disabilities are valued and have a bigger voice.



Our good relationship with **Learning Disability England** continued. Along with 13 other self-advocacy groups, we took part in a Covid Recovery project. We shared health resources and activities that can help all people with a learning disability.



We started a new partnership with **Lewisham Local** called '**Building People Changing Lives**'. It is all about finding work experience volunteer placements for people with learning disabilities. We hope that work experience will give people confidence to find paid work.



Advocacy in Greenwich

We are excited to be working with **Advocacy in Greenwich** and **Advocacy for All** delivering the Health Ambassadors programme to six London boroughs.



We think that working in partnership will make our work bigger and better in the future!



Thank you to all our funders. Without your support our work could not happen.

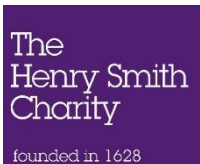
Our funders



The Big Lottery Community Fund



London Borough of Lewisham



Henry Smith Charity



City Bridge Trust



South London NHS



Learning Disability England

Money



The last part of our report includes the statements about our **money**.



Our accounts show we had **£326,955** coming in to spend.

and



We spent **£314,581** on our advocacy work to get people's voices heard.

Thanks



Thank you to everybody who has supported our work this year!