



Newcastle Advisory Group Review June 2021

The Newcastle Advisory Group has been coming together with Newcastle City Council since 2018. Together we think about the support, services, and opportunities people with a learning disability in Newcastle have to live a good life.

The Group is made up of people with a learning disability, family carers whose loved one has a learning disability, and a representative from Newcastle City Council. The Group is supported by Inclusion North.

Each year we review what we have done. Take time to recognise achievements, look at what we can do better, and think about what new things we should do.

Here is a summary of our review this year:

Achievements:



Proud of the thinking and work we have done on:

- new housing and support developments.
- the need for accessible information and processes to be in place.

Found new ways to come together following the rule changes Coronavirus brought.

Have maintained and strengthened connections with others.

Feel listened to, trusted, and respected.

Feedback from the Council on the work of the Group has been positive.

That the things we have been involved with make a real difference to the lives of others.

Things to get better at:



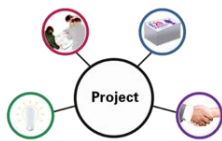
Make sure we represent more people with a learning disability in Newcastle. Aim to include:

- Those who have different housing and support arrangements.
- Younger people with a learning disability.
- Those who have higher support needs or who do not use words to communicate.

Communicate better with the people we represent. To do this we will:

- Ask for input from people with a learning disability and their families twice a year to help identify the priorities for the Group to focus on.
- Do video updates to share via the Provider Forum, Pass it on Parents, Carers Centre, Geordie Voices etc.

New things:



Give the budget more attention. Aim to understand this better and inform people with a learning disability about the impact this is likely to have on them.

Find out more about how the Council decide and develop new services. How can we support the thinking around this work?

Look at a 'Buddy' system to support the involvement of new group members.

Use what we hear from people and families to inform our work for the next 6 months.

Other information:



What members of the Group say...

"Its important to air your views on services from the City Council" BR

"Good to keep in touch with what's happening" GD.

"Its very interesting. Like the work we have done on housing. Its helping others get the right support" DF.

"The work of the group has been really positive" SC.

"I really enjoy going to the group. I have learnt a lot along the way and hopefully improved the lives of many people by the work the group does. The group gives people with a learning disability a voice, an opportunity to have their opinions heard and acted upon" BT.



For more information about the Newcastle Advisory Group contact:

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