



Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday 15 April 2026

Location: This meeting was held at Margate Library, Thanet Gateway Plus

Who was there?

Attendees:

Steve Chapman — Co-Chair of the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board, Self Advocate, Bemix

Alyson Wagget — Co-Chair of the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board and KCC Assistant Director Social Care and Health (East) Thanet and South Kent Coast

Who was there? (continued)

Attendees:

Andrew — Self Advocate, Aspens

Jill Allen— Kent and Medway Partnership for Neurodiversity on behalf of NHS Kent & Medway ICB, Kent County Council and Medway Council, Learning Disability and Autism Programme Manager (Adults)

Laura Appleton — Community Partner, Mencap

Rachel Baker — Team Leader, Bemix

David Benson - Mencap, Community Connector

Natasha Brown - Thanet District Council, Health Improvement Officer

Tracey Burn — KCC, Adult Social Care and Health, Involvement Officer

Nicola Budd — KCC, Policy & Quality Assurance Officer (Social Worker)

Cheryll Champion — LDC Care Co, Quality and Compliance Manager

Linda Chapman — Parent Carer

Trevor Chapman — Parent Carer

Tayla Doherty— KCC, Adult Social Care and Health, Engagement Officer

Nicolas Gurr—Department for Work and Pensions, Disability Employment Adviser

Bettina Harris—KCC, Adult Social Care and Health, Senior Practitioner

Jess Howell - Support Worker, Without Exceptions

Shelley Lane—PCAS Kent, Events Co-ordinator

Laura Merryweather - Registered Manager, Rosemont Care Medway

Who was there? (continued)

Attendees:

Patricia Moon —Self Advocate, Without Exceptions

Gabriella Rolls — EDI Project Officer, Kent Cricket

Kay Smith—Department for Work and Pensions, Disability Employment Adviser

Tina Walker – Self Advocate, Bemix

Taryn Vint— Spire Hospital

Apologies:

Ian Brandon— NHS Kent and Medway, Associate Director of Quality

Lisa Clinton— KCC, Adult Social Care and Health, Strategic Involvement and Information Lead

Elle Meehan—KCC,Adult Social Care and Health, Community Team Manager

Kirstyn Roberts — Development Director, Without Exceptions

Darren Zweck — Housing Operations Manager, Accommodation Yes

Welcome

Welcome from Alyson Wagget, Assistant Director, Social Care & Health, (East) Thanet and South Kent Coast

Welcome from Steve Chapman, co-chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board



Alyson and Steve invited people in the meeting to introduce themselves.



Actions from the last meeting (11 February 2026)

Steve and Alyson went through the actions from the last meeting.

IN PROGRESS: Video to be created covering what the Board does, and the role of carers on the Board. Involvement and Information Team to co-ordinate.



COMPLETED: An agenda item covering transport to be included. Representative from Stagecoach, Arriva and the Railway to attend a future meeting.



Update: Tracey to arrange for someone from KCC Public Transport to attend April's meeting. If a representative from KCC Transport cannot attend, the board will submit questions and request written responses.

IN PROGRESS: Future agenda item for the Board to talk about a smooth transition for young people moving to adult services.



Update: Tracey to arrange a speaker for November's meeting.

IN PROGRESS: Alyson to invite people from the Operational Leadership Group, Ambulance Service and Kent Police to join the Board. Police have been contacted. Alyson to follow up.



ACTION: Members of the Board to attend the Housing Board as a group to raise key issues.

Update: Meeting to be arranged to prepare for the Housing Board.



ACTION: Alyson to contact the Client Financial Services Team regarding communications needs.



Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

What is a Disability Employment Adviser (DEA)?

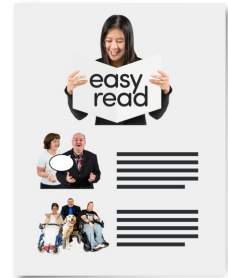
Nicholas Gurr from Margate Jobcentre and Kay Smith from Ramsgate Jobcentre provided an update on support available for people with learning disabilities and autistic people through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).



Tracey shared the slides and Easy Read document with Board members.

Key issues raised by the Board:

- The Access to work scheme is not easy to apply for.
- Delays in support through Access to work resulting in barriers to people getting into work. Some employers may not be supportive and may not offer a role.
- Information provided by the DWP needs to be in plain English and easy read.



ACTION: Tracey to share a list of DWP Disability Employment Advisers contact details and Disability Services Advocacy Team Information.

Learning Disability and Autism Draft Plan

Jill Allen provided an update on the Learning Disability and Autism Draft Plan.

Tracey shared the slides with Board Members.

ACTION: Tracey to share Employer Working Group and NHS Learning disability, autism and ADHD Hub links.



Learning Disability and Autism Draft Plan (continued)

Key issues raised by the Board:

- Dr's surgeries should have digital flags to provide information on their patients with learning disabilities. They need a good understanding of peoples communication needs.
- Sunflower lanyard - there should be something discreet to make people aware someone has a learning disability.
- Employers need to be more inclusive.



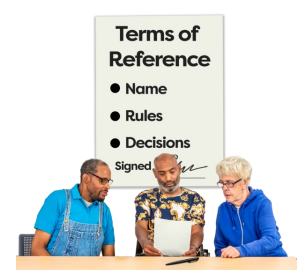
Any Other Business

Terms of Reference

Aly said there needs to be an understand of the

Learning Disability and Autism Plan before looking at the Terms of Reference.

- The Board would like to help deliver the plan and influence other meetings like health and housing.
- Members should share what they learn in other places.
- The need to reach more people, especially carers and younger carers.
- Work has started to connect groups and involve more people.

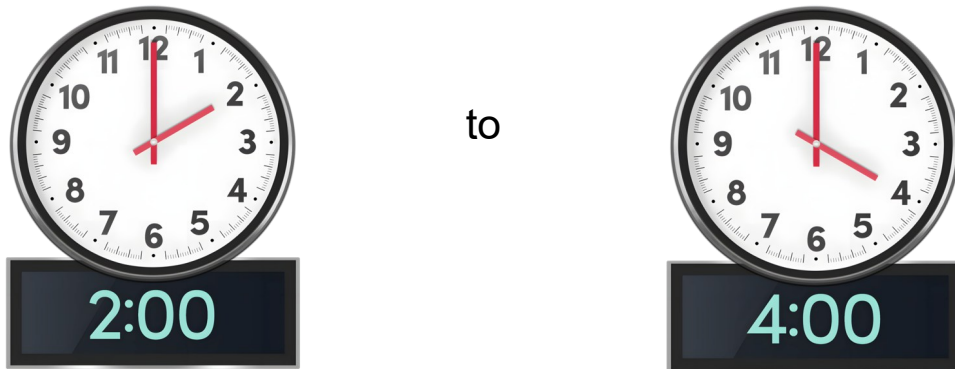


Main message: To take action and make a difference.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 18 June 2026 from 2pm to 4pm.

This will be in person at County Hall, Maidstone.



Dates for remaining meetings for 2026

Wednesday 16 September from 2pm to 4pm
LDC, Dover.

Wednesday 18 November from 2pm to 4pm
Venue to be confirmed.

Videos and Presentations

A copy of the minutes from the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board will be made available on the Partnership Board website.

[Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board | Connect to Support | Kent](#)

