



Expert Members

Speakeasy N.O.W. has continued to support people who have a learning disability to be Expert Members.

The Expert Members are actively involved in the work of the Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board and its 6 sub-groups.

Their job is very important.

They represent the views and opinions of people with learning disabilities living in Worcestershire.

They share these views with people who run services and are involved in making the decisions that affect their lives.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board has met 6 times during the year.

Tim Holman was co-chair until January 2016 when Laura Gill took on the role.

We would like to thank Tim for the excellent job that he did co-chairing these meetings.

Congratulations to Laura Gill who is the new co-chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board.





All the Expert Members who co-chair sub-groups attend the Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings.

There are 6 sub-groups.

- **Having a Job**
- **Having a Place to Live**
- **Staying Healthy**
- **Living Well**
- **Staying Safe- Confirm and Challenge**
- **Preparing for Adulthood- Confirm and Challenge.**

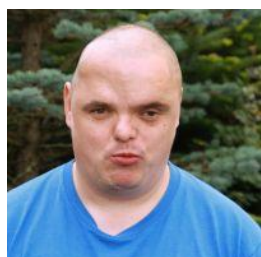
Each sub group is co-chaired by an Expert Member.

Expert Members speak up on behalf of people with learning disabilities.

Some of the things that they have been consulted on are:

- **Health Equality Framework**
- **The new Care Act changes**
- **Your Life Your Choice website**
- **Health Action Plans**
- **Changes to Employment Support services**
- **Changes to college courses for people with learning disabilities.**
- **Changes in law about pensions.**
- **The introduction of a new National Living Wage.**
- **The Government's proposed changes to Housing Benefit.**
- **The administration support provided to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.**
- **Designing a new logo for the Learning Disability Partnership Board**

As a result Expert Members have taken action in many things



We helped to produce an easy read version of the new eligibility criteria



We raised issues about the long waiting list for Advocacy services



I wrote to Heart of Worcester College about too few courses available to people with a learning disability



I was a part of the interview panel for the new Supported Employment posts at Worcestershire County Council



The Expert Members helped to highlight the increase in costs for people who use a Direct Payment to employ their own personal assistant



We helped to roll out Hate Crime E-Learning introduced by Worcester City Council



I was supported to write a letter to Worcestershire County Councils and Members of Parliament as we were concerned about the proposed changes to the housing benefit