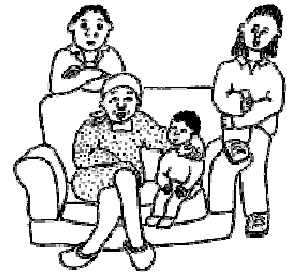




Learning Disability Wales
Anabledd Dysgu Cymru

Finding the Right Support Network for Parents with Learning Disabilities



We met at Glamorgan University in Pontypridd on 12th May 2011

To start the day we all introduced ourselves and had a “get-to-know-you session”. We spoke in pairs about something that we were looking forward to and shared it with the group.



People shared news from their area.



Sarah from Carmarthenshire People First told the group that they now have funding from the Big Lottery Fund for a Family Support Worker. They are recruiting staff at present. Sarah told everyone that working closely with the funding officer at the Big Lottery really helped their bid and would recommended anyone else making an applications to talk a funding officer a lot before putting an application in.



Julie from Action for Children told everyone how they were working with volunteers to support parents in their area.



**RCT
People First**



**Learning Disability Wales
Anabledd Dysgu Cymru**

Rachel from Rhondda Cynon Taf People First told everyone that she was looking forward to getting a letter from her son soon.

Simon from Learning Disability Wales told everyone about some training on how to support parents. [Click here for details>>](#)

He also told people about some statistics from the Welsh Assembly Government about the number of children in care whose parents have a learning disability. [Click here for details>>](#)

Herio

Herio is the name of a group set up by people first groups in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys.

The group has come together to campaign about things they think are important.



On March 23rd Herio held an event in the Senedd in Cardiff to raise awareness about people wanting friendships and relationships, and the lives and needs of parents with learning disabilities. Lots of people told their stories and spoke about what was needed to make things better. Unfortunately not many AMs came so the group will be meeting again soon to see what else it can do to make things better for people in wales.

Herio is a welsh word which means “to challenge”.

Understanding the law and the court



Nia Roberts works as an advocate at Advocacy Matters Wales. Before she worked for Advocacy Matters Wales she worked as a lawyer and did a lot of family law.

Nia came along to explain to the group what the law says about happens when social services take a child into care or place them for adoption.

We learnt about the different types of assessment that parents may have and different types of court order. We heard how court orders can affect what rights a parent has to see their child.

The group had lots of experiences to share and questions to ask.

We heard about the Official Solicitor. The Official Solicitor can make decisions for someone in court cases where they do not have the capacity to make those decisions for themselves. If you would like to find out about the Official Solicitor you can see some accessible information by [clicking here>>](#)

There is an accessible document that explains about these issues, you can see it by [clicking here>>](#)

Lunchtime!



We all had lunch and a good chat!

How do parents want money spent.



Joyce has been speaking Chris O'Connor. Chris decides how money is spent to support people with learning disabilities by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. The Aneurin Bevan Health Board works in South East Wales.

Chris wants to find out how people would like him to spend the money he has.

Joyce asked the group how they think Chris should spend the money. She listed to what people had to say and will tell Chris. Some of the ideas people had were

- Support groups for parents and children
- Parenting classes
- Pre and post adoption counselling
- Play, drama and arts therapy
- Family therapy
- Accessible information
- Family Planning

After Adoption



Stuart Iles works for an organisation called After Adoption.

After Adoption support anyone affected by adoption, this mean that he works with

- People who have been adopted
- People who adopt
- Parent who have had their children adopted
- Family members of people who have been adopted.

Stuart told us all about the work After Adoption do. After Adoption can help adopted people find their birth parent, and birth parents

find their children who have been adopted. Stuart told us about what rights people have to find their birth parents or children.

After Adoption can also offer counselling to people who have their children adopted.

You can find out more about the work of After Adoption by [clicking here>>](#)

Next Meeting

We will have our next meeting in early September, you will be told of the date and venue soon.

If you have any questions about the network please contact Simon at Learning Disability Wales.



029 2068 1173

Simon.rose@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk

You can visit our webpages here

http://www.learningdisabilitywales.org.uk/parents_network.php

Learning Disability Wales
41 Lamborne Crescent
Cardiff Business Park
Llanishen
Cardiff
CF14 5GG