



**Learning Disability Wales**  
**Anabledd Dysgu Cymru**

## What happened at the Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

### Who was there

Simon Rose  
Joyce Howarth  
Sheila Morgan  
Alison George  
Heidi Jacobsen  
Angel Jones  
Tracey Lewis  
Sylvia Lillycrop  
Danielle Vincent  
Jackie Lewis  
Kate Lodge

### Some people could not come and sent their apologies

Apologies  
Rachel Philbrick  
Rachel Howells  
Christine Lewis  
Carol Evans

We had a “get to know you session” and learnt about things that we are good at.

### We shared news about things we were doing.

- Tracey, Alison and Sylvia from Pembrokeshire Advocacy told everyone about their art projects and the exhibition they are holding starting on July 9<sup>th</sup> in Haverfordwest.
- Joyce from University of Glamorgan told everyone about the research she is doing about abuse.
- Simon from Learning Disability Wales told everyone that the Equalities and Human Rights Commission want to hear from people about disability related hate crime.

- Sheila from Pembrokeshire Advocacy told everyone that they are having a session in the Welsh Assembly in October and hope to raise the profile of parents with learning disabilities there.

We discussed the research report “Being a Family”

- Simon and Joyce told everyone what the research had found and what it recommended should be done next.
- Simon told everyone that the Welsh Assembly Government have said they will be telling local authorities how to work with parent with learning disabilities. The Welsh Assembly Government have said they will issue some “Statutory Guidance”.
- Everyone agreed that we should make sure the Welsh Assembly Government involve parents with learning disabilities in writing the Statutory Guidance.

The parents got together for a chat amongst themselves.

Everyone talked about food that they like to cook.

Everyone decided that they want the Welsh Assembly Government to make sure parents are listened to more.

- They want to make sure people like Social Workers use things like easy read more.
- Parents do not like they way they are assessed at present and want things to change.
- The parents have heard how some local authorities work with parents better. The parents and want all local authorities to hear about how to do things better.
- All the parents want to be involved in helping write the WAG guidance and telling people about the research “Being a Family”.


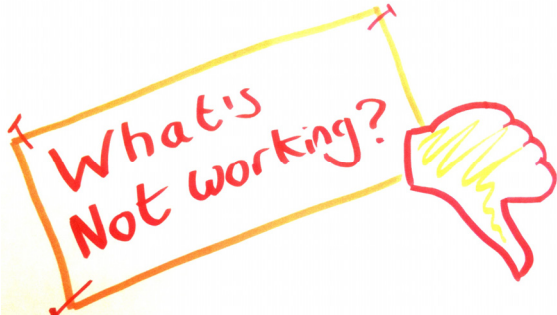
Staff and professionals got together for a chat amongst themselves.

They talked about setting up parent support groups.

- Pembrokeshire Advocacy had lots of experience to share, other people had lots of questions to ask!

We all had lunch and a good chat!

In the afternoon we talked about what worked well with the network, and what was not working.

	
<p>It's a good day out! Good chance to network. We have fun! We learn from others. It is good to tell our stories. Meeting other parents. Catch up on gossip! An opportunity to do new things. Share experiences. Discuss good practice. A chance to hear from outside of Wales. Gives power to our voice.</p>	<p>Not enough parents come to the meetings. It can cost a lot for parents to attend the meetings. Changing venues can be confusing.</p>

We then talked about running the network in the future.

Simon explained that the grant we had to run the project has come to an end. He is trying to get some more money but has not been able to yet.

We decided how to keep the network going with out another grant.

- We will ask to borrow rooms from other organisations for free.
- We will all bring along food to share at the meetings.
- Simon will get permission of everyone to share their email addresses so we can all keep in contact.
- We will encourage more parents to come along.
- We will make a "News Letter" type from each meeting to advertise the next.
- We will ask guest speakers to come along.

We talked about what we would like to do if we had more money

- We would like to hold another conference.

- We would like to help parents with their travel costs.
- We would like to use better venues.
- We could make a proper newsletter or website.
- We could help parents to attend other conferences as speakers or delegates.

Next Meeting will be on 22 September 2010 in Carmarthen.

Tracey from Pembrokeshire Advocacy volunteered to lead the meeting with Simon.