



Reach Parliament

Update to the Stoke-on-Trent Learning Disability Partnership Board

Monday 25th July 2011



The Reach Parliament have met twice since the last Partnership Board meeting.

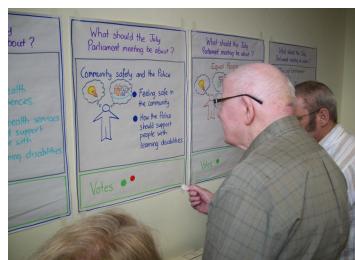


On **Monday 6th June**, Reach MPs and Experts met to look at the way the Parliament works.

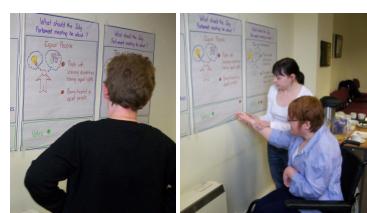


MPs and Experts talked about:

- the Reach ways of working
- the roles of MPs and Experts
- group working.



MPs and Experts voted on what the July Parliament meeting would be about.



They chose **Equal People**.



On **Monday 4th July**, Reach MPs talked about human rights and being equal people.



MPs talked about the 2010 Equality Act and what equality really means for people with learning disabilities.



MPs talked about having the right to:

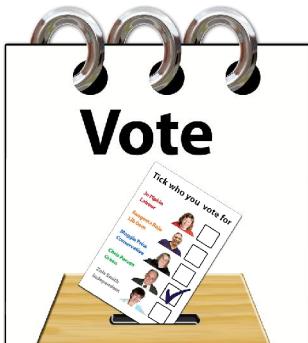
- be safe from hate crime
- vote
- manage their own money
- start a family.



Some MPs were worried that people would not be able to do some of these things because “their mum and dad might not let them.”



MPs said people with learning disabilities don't always get the same rights as everyone else because other people stop them or get in the way.

	<p>Reach are planning to do more work with people to raise awareness about human rights and equality.</p>
	<p>MPs looked at case studies about people who were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • victims of hate crime • unhappy with their healthcare • unhappy with a support worker.
	<p>MPs talked about who could help the people in these case studies and what they would do in these situations.</p>
	<p>MPs talked about the people who have been elected to speak up for them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • city councillors • Westminster MPs.
	<p>MPs talked about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what councillors and MPs do to help people • how and when to get in touch with their councillors and MPs.



Each MP thought about **one** issue they would speak up about to their councillors and MPs in the next few months.

Reach will support MPs to speak up about these issues and share the answers and information they get.



At the **September** Parliament meeting, guests will be talking to MPs and Experts about:

- hate crime and community safety
- jobs, benefits and training
- health services.



At the **October** Parliament meeting, MPs will be talking about the speaking up work they have done since July.



If you have any questions about this report please contact Andrew Garvey.

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