

Project Briefing

Ashfield Voluntary Action, Mansfield CVS and Newark & Sherwood CVS are working together and have been commissioned jointly by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group to support their work around patient engagement. As part of this they carried out a piece of work asking particular patient cohorts about their experience of accessing healthcare during lockdown. People with Learning Disabilities were one of the patient cohorts and it is likely that you were involved at the time in this piece of work (the report can be found [HERE](#)). As a result, the CCG is working with VCS and other partners to develop an effective engagement plan. As an essential first step, we would like to engage with you further to ensure that the resulting plan takes into account the communication needs of people living with Learning Disabilities.

In talking to groups supporting people with Learning Disabilities, the message came across loud and clear that communication is not currently accessible to all and that many people would welcome the opportunity to speak for themselves.

We acknowledge that people with a Learning Disability and the organisations supporting them are best placed to influence the direction of change. Our intention is to hold a listening event so that we can better understand the strategies we can put in place to improve communication, widen access into services and reduce health inequalities.

We are contacting you to ask if you would like to be involved in shaping this piece of work ensuring that it is appropriately planned and delivered.

Taking on board some of the comments made so far, we have prepared a draft leaflet to introduce this piece of work to people with a Learning Disability. We hope that once it has been appropriately adapted, it can be used to inform your service users of what we are trying to achieve. The leaflet is not much more than a starter and your involvement in this piece of work, could range from feedback on how to improve the leaflet and ensure it is inclusive, through to helping us to co-produce the event. Any support and involvement from you would be welcome.

