

People First

a voice for people with learning difficulties



London Campaign Network Meeting



Friday 1st November 2024
11am – 3:30pm

Voluntary Action Islington
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP



Andrew Lee, Raymond Johnson and Samantha Johnson welcomed over 50 people to the first meeting of the meeting London Campaign Network.

Our aim was to set the campaign priorities for people with learning difficulties/disabilities in London.



Introducing ourselves

We played a game called **Around the World** using an inflatable ball of the world and passing it around.

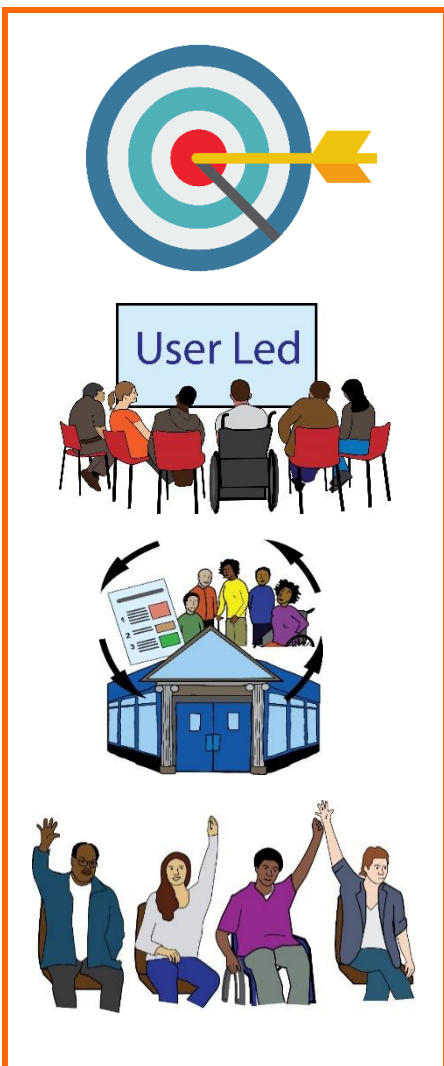
Everyone was asked to say their name and where in the world they would like to be, then pass it on.



Our Agreements for the day

Sam went through the agreements which are to help us to work well together:

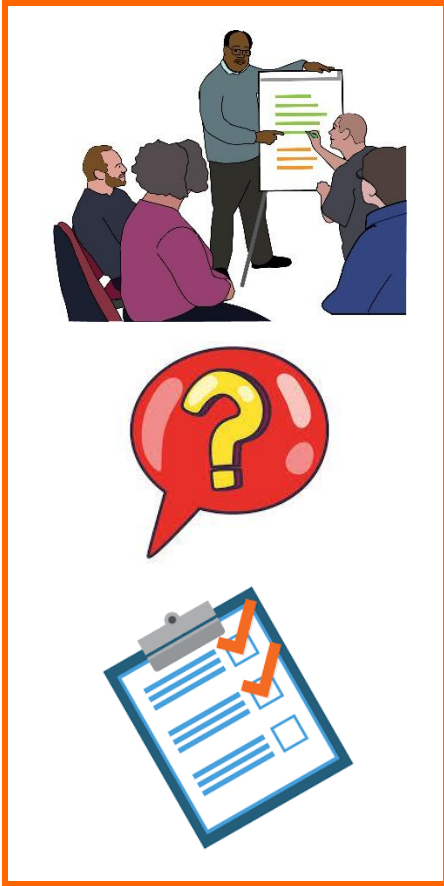
- One person to speak at a time
- Phones off or on silent
- Respect everyone's points of view
- Keep to time
- Support and encourage each other



Our 4 big aims

Andrew talked through why we wanted to set up the network.

- To set up a 'London Campaign Network' for and run by self-advocates with learning difficulties/disabilities.
- To find opportunities to work together on campaigns that matter to us all.
- To influence the people that make decisions about us.
- To improve the lives of people with learning difficulties/disabilities across London.



What we have done so far

Andrew, Ray and Sam then talked about what work they had done so far.

- We visited groups and organisations across London to talk about setting up a London Campaign Network.
- We asked questions and found out what campaigns and issues people were already working on or wanted to work on.
- We started to list what the common issues and campaigns are.



What we want to achieve

Andrew said he hoped self-advocacy organisations across London can work together.

We can then bring our most important issues together and campaign to make changes that will make our lives better.

We want self-advocacy organisations to be stronger and better funded. We also want to see self advocacy in areas where there aren't any self advocacy groups anymore.



What we found out

Here's a list of the issues and campaigns:

- Transport and road safety
- Hate crime
- Benefits, having enough money
- Health and Social Care
- Annual Health Checks
- Online safety
- Employment
- Housing
- Not enough self-advocacy
- Social activity in the 'mainstream'
- Getting advocacy support in the local community
- Support staff and getting the right support
- Accessible information and Reasonable Adjustments



Soap Boxes

Everyone was offered a 5 minutes on the Soap Box to talk about their work.

Simone Aspis from Inclusion London started us off with a presentation about the Free Our People Now campaign.

We then heard from:

- **Generate Voices**, and their work on mental health, hate crime and transport.
- **Elfrida Society**, and their work on making information accessible and advocacy.
- **Disability Action Islington**, and their work on health, advocacy and transport.
- **Speak Out Hounslow**, and their work on transport and working with young people.
- **Breaking Out of the Bubble**, and their work with the police, with funders and running their radio show.
- **Involve Kingston**, and their work on accessible transport, influencing decision-makers and easy read.
- **SeeAbility**, and their work raising awareness about the importance of easy eye care.
- **Lewisham Speak Up**, and their work on combatting isolation, transport, safer streets, and hate crime.
- **The Advocacy Project**: and their work on staying safety, cancer screening, digital inclusion and the Changing Lives project.



12:40pm – 1:40pm

Lunch and Networking
Information sharing



Welcome Back and Warm Up

Ray asked everyone to do a campaign chant or gesture.

The two favorite chants were:

- United we stand divided we fall!
- Get up stand up, stand up for our rights!



Discussing our campaign priorities

At each table we talked about all the areas of work we had heard about earlier.

We used cards with topic headings and images to help us organize what we thought was most important.



2:40pm – 2:50pm

Comfort Break

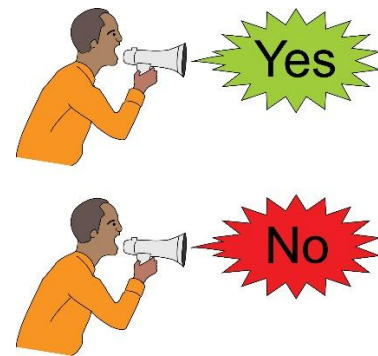
Discussing our campaign priorities

Each table gave their feedback on what they thought were the most important topics to work on first.

There were 6 top topics; Advocacy, Housing, Health, Transport, Benefits and Money, and Hate Crime.

We then agreed which 3 we would work on first.

We did this by deciding with our voices and hands which ones had the most energy behind them.

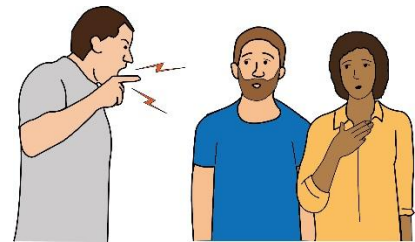


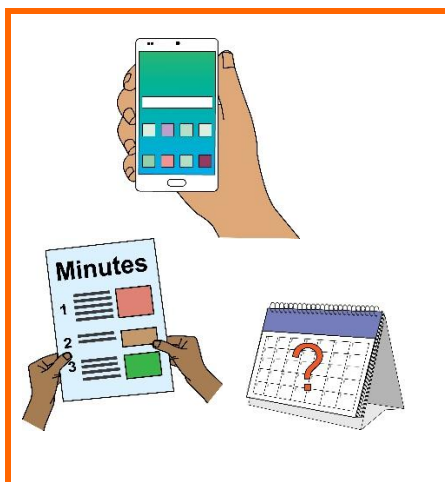
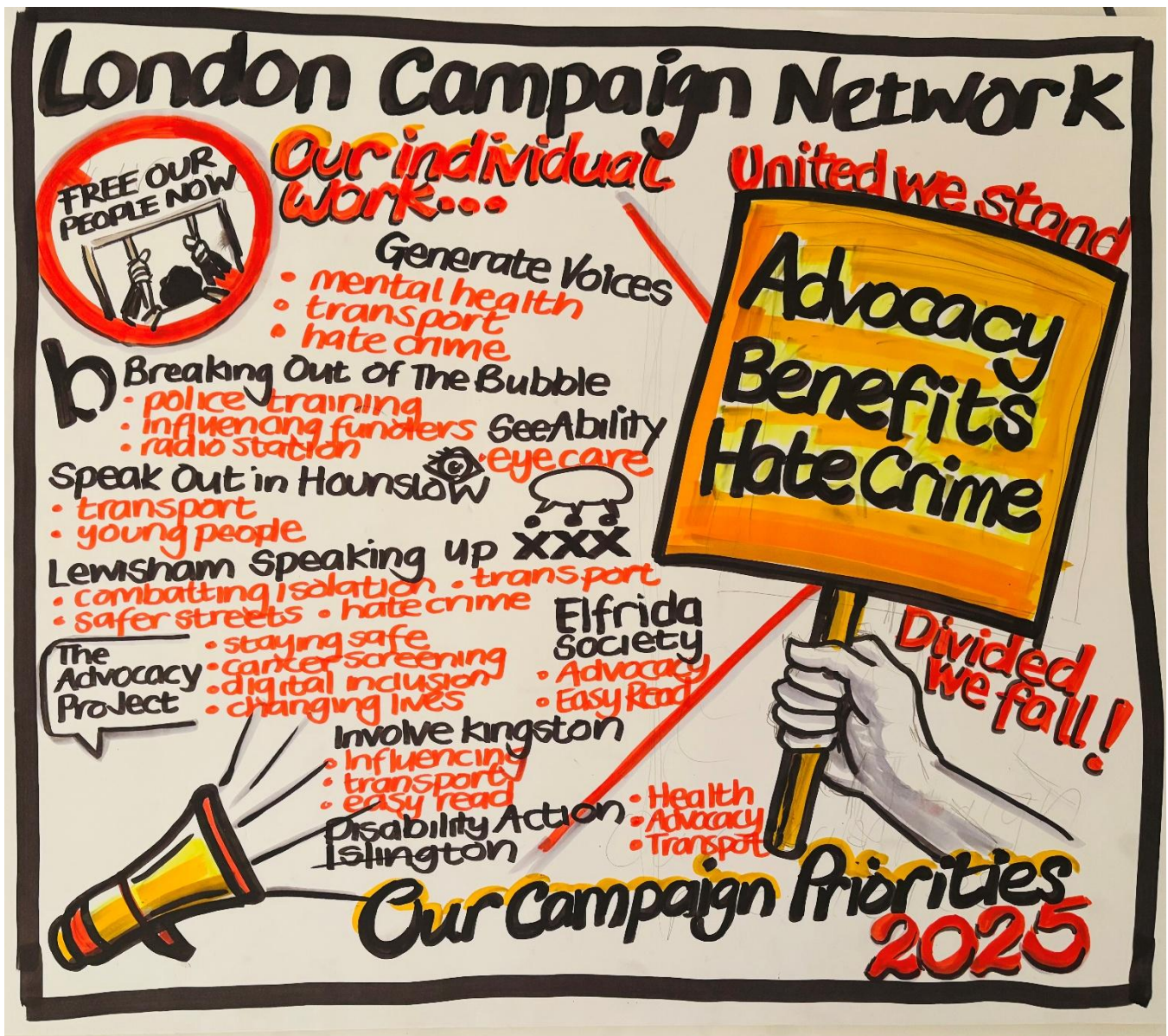
The top 3 were:

Advocacy

Benefits and Money

Hate Crime





What next?

- We agreed to contact the groups that couldn't make the meeting.
- We agreed to write up some summary notes for the day.
- We agreed on the date for the next meeting.

Date of the next London Campaign Network meeting is:

Friday 7th March 2025

11am – 3:30pm



King's Cross Methodist Church
(Opposite Kings Cross Station)
58a Birkenhead Street, London, [WC1H 8BW](#)



info@peoplefirstltd.com



020 7274 5484

King's Cross Methodist Church (Opposite Kings Cross Station)

58a Birkenhead Street, London, [WC1H 8BW](#)

Exit King's Cross station at the main entrance. Cross over Euston Road.

The main entrance is Birkenhead Street. The accessible entrance is on Crestfield Street.

Buses

Buses that run along Pentonville Road include 30, 73, 205, 214, 476.

Additional buses that stop at King's Cross Station include 10, 17, 45, 46, 63, 91, 259, 390.

Trains

Trains to King's Cross, St Pancras or Euston.

Tube

Piccadilly, Circle, Victoria, Hammersmith and City, Northern and Metropolitan lines all pass through King's Cross Station.

Car parking

Parking meters in the surrounding streets. Here, nearby companies offer parking facilities.

Please refer to the list on our [website](#), arranged in order of proximity to our office at Kings Cross.

Plan your journey

[Transport for London journey planner \(opens in new window\)](#)