



Patrick, a staff member from the 'Getting it Right for Everyone' team at the conference.

'Getting it Right for Everyone'

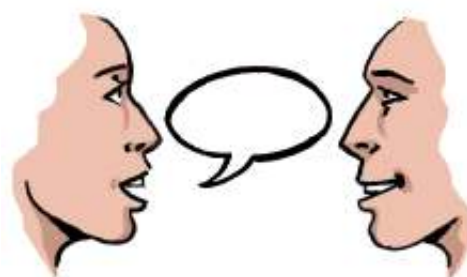
How did the conference go?



The 'Getting it Right' conference took place in Perth in November 2007. It was about ways that people with learning disabilities can get more involved in their local communities, through 'community planning'.



There are community planning rules. The rules say that local councils and other community organisations should make sure people with learning disabilities are involved in decisions made about services where they live.



People with learning disabilities should be helped to have a stronger voice. Councils and other organisations have to work together with people in the community to listen to what everyone has to say. This is how services get better for everyone.

Nearly 100 people came to the conference. Most of them came from local councils, where they work and make big decisions about how services are run. They came to find out how to get better at involving people with learning disabilities.



Heartfelt

The morning started with a funny presentation by Heartfelt, a Scottish training organisation. Adam Ingram (Member of the Scottish Parliament) and Jane Gray (ARK Housing Association's Chief Executive) also spoke. The presentations got the audience thinking about why people with learning disabilities are often left out of decision making. They also reminded everyone that we should be doing more to include people with learning disabilities.



Marilyn Blair and Jane Gray



There were 8 workshops throughout the day. All the workshops had presenters with learning disabilities. The presenters talked about good work they are doing to help improve their communities. They also talked about their experiences of being involved in decision making where they live.



David Tawse and Miriam Leighton



There were 2 artists there to draw what went on in pictures. This helped to make the conference easier for everyone to understand.

Helen Wilson



Graham Ogilvie



The conference was organised by ARK Housing, Clackmannanshire Alliance, ENABLE Scotland, Stirling Community Planning Partnership and Stirling Local Area Co-ordination. The organisers got a good response from people who went. People learned from it and enjoyed the day.



The conference organising team.

The people who went filled in an evaluation form. Here's what some people said:



“There are interesting and positive things happening for people with learning disabilities.”

“Excellent.”

“Most useful, made me think.”



The conference was a success. It showed that there are things everyone can do to make it easier for people with learning disabilities to get involved in community planning.

Here are is a list of those things:

✓ Keep information simple and don't use big words.

✓ Try to meet with people with learning disabilities.



✓ Get in touch with the Local Area Co-ordinator.

✓ Ask people with learning disabilities what they think about services. Listen to what they say.

✓ Make meetings easier for everyone to be involved with.

✓ Everyone should work together to make sure people with learning disabilities are included.



Thanks to the people who helped make the conference a success, particularly the 'Getting it Right Team': Carol, Ewan, Leanne, Morag, Patrick and Sarah. Well done, great work!