

Reach Parliament Highlights, 2011



NHS choice
and control
consultation



Having rights
and a voice



Speaking up about
being a real part of
the community



Reviewing our
own work



Writing letters to
MPs, councillors
and officials



Feeding back,
updating and
checking



Speaking up about
hate crime and
spending cuts



Speaking up
about training
and jobs



Planning our
work for the
year





Reach Highlights 2011



Reach MPs and Experts did a lot of important work in 2011. In these notes we look back at a busy year.

Monday 17th January 2011 Reach Parliament



MPs talked about focus groups Reach held in December.

The focus groups were about having choice and control over NHS services and planned cuts to city council services in Stoke-on-Trent.



MPs looked at the work Reach had done in 2010 and made plans for 2011.

Monday 7th March 2011 Reach Speaking Up meeting



MPs and Experts heard updates on the Learning Disability Partnership board, planned changes to Newstead Day Service, council spending cuts and changes to the way healthcare is funded.



MPs and Experts met the new Community Development Workers for Stoke-on-Trent and talked about what it means to be part of the community.





Monday 11th April 2011 Reach Parliament

MPs looked at what the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) says about life for people with a learning disability in Stoke-on-Trent.

MPs worked on two case studies (based on Reach members' experiences) showing how people with learning disabilities are not always treated equally or allowed to make their own decisions.

MPs worked in groups to create a fictitious person who plays a full and valued role in their community. MPs then talked about the support people need to make happen for people.



Monday 6th June 2011 Reach Speaking Up meeting

MPs and Experts reviewed the Reach ways of working and looked at the different roles of MPs, Experts and Project Workers.

MPs and Experts voted on what the July Parliament meeting should be about and ended the meeting by watching the Reach film, *Onwards and Upwards*.



Monday 4th July 2011 Reach Parliament

MPs talked about people's rights and the importance of having a voice. MPs talked about who to talk to if you need help and what support people can get when making a complaint.

MPs worked in groups to look at who their local councillors and Westminster MPs are.

MPs planned letters they will write to their councillors, Westminster MPs, council officers and health service staff to speak up about issues.



Monday 5th September 2011 Reach Speaking Up meeting

Reach invited Rebecca Patel (Challenge North Staffs), Tracy Wright (Community Development worker) and Sue Budge (Employment advisor) to meet with MPs and Experts.

The guests spoke about hate crime, Stoke-on-Trent's new Safer Places scheme and jobs and benefits.

MPs and Experts talked about work upcoming work Reach are doing at the University Hospital North Staffs (UHNS) and the ABLE project.



Monday 3rd October 2011 Reach Parliament

MPs watched the presentation Reach members had given at the UHNS study day.



MPs gave feedback and updates on the replies they had or had not received to the speaking up letters they had sent after the July meeting.



MPs were joined by guests from the Cheshire Learning Disability Partnership board and gave their thoughts and ideas about setting up a Parliament.

Monday 5th December 2011 Reach Speaking Up meeting



Reach invited Ian Carruthers (UHNS) who came to talk about staff training and Yvonne Dale (Landau) who collected thoughts and ideas about a speaking up course.



MPs and Experts talked about the focus groups and drop-ins Reach are holding to talk about planned cuts changes to learning disability services run by Stoke-on-Trent city council.

MPs and Experts said they wanted managers from Adult Social Care to come to the next meeting in January.



Thank you for reading this report.



If you have any questions about this report, or the other work Reach did in 2011 please contact Reach Project Worker Andrew Garvey on **01782 747872** or andrewg@asist.co.uk



Reach,
Winton House,
Stoke Road,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST4 2RW



01782
747872



reach@asist.co.uk



With thanks to Photosymbols ©
for the photographs used in this