



October 2020

Dear friends and colleagues



This is a letter from Mark Hamblin and Katie Peacock. We are the co-chairs of the North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board.



We hope you had a good summer and did some interesting things even though we still have to be careful about coronavirus.



Even though we cannot meet in person, the Partnership Board has been very busy in 2020.

We want to share all the things that we have done since our last letter.



There have been lots of phone calls, emails and sending letters in the post to stay in touch.

Self-advocates and KeyRing have a weekly trivia party on Zoom.



Partnership Board Work Plan

We have finished our new Work Plan. This is about all the work we are doing and all the work we want to do in the next two years.

There are four topics in the Work Plan:

- [Living a good life](#)
- [Being healthy](#)
- [Keeping safe](#)
- [Making our voice heard](#)

You can read more about the Work Plan here:

<https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/learningdisabilitypartnershipboard>



In August, we sent our **Human Rights Activity Packs** to everyone. They have some puzzles and questions to help people think about human rights.

We heard from people all around the country who were using the packs and said they were great.

Anyone can get copies for free from here:

<https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/humanrights>



Home Alone packs

A self-advocate called David Bruce thought it would be good to do a campaign so people know what to do if something happens when you are at home alone. This is the Home Alone campaign.



We made a webpage and some information about Home Alone which you can find here:

<https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/homealone>



Sharing ideas to recruit new carers

In September, self-advocates worked with North Yorkshire County Council on a recruitment campaign for carers. Self-advocates told the Council what makes a good carer for them.



This will help the Council to find new people who want to be carers.

The campaign with self-advocates words is here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/careandsupport>



Talking about coronavirus with the North Yorkshire Disability Forum

In September, our co-chairs Mark and Katie, and Christopher Porter joined an important online meeting to talk about coronavirus and disabled people.



They joined with people from the North Yorkshire Disability Forum to meet with Richard Webb who is the head of Health and Adult Services at North Yorkshire County Council.



Christopher asked a question about day services and Mark asked about access to technology.

It was good to work with other disabled groups to help Richard understand how coronavirus is making things difficult for disabled people.



Hate Crime Awareness Week 2020

In October, we have been very busy for Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Sam Suttar became our first ever Keeping Safe Champion. Sam recorded a podcast about hate crime so that people know what hate crime is and what to do if it happens.



Mark Hamblin also wrote a blog and some Top Tips about why Safe Places are important.

To read Mark's blog or listen to the podcast click here: www.nypartnerships.org.uk/keepingsafe



**North Yorkshire
Health Task Group**

North Yorkshire Health Task Group

The North Yorkshire Health Task Group is looking for a new independent co-chair. You can find out more and make an application here:

<https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nyhtg>

Please let people know about this great role!

Tell us what being online means for you

The lockdown has meant lots more people are using computers and tablets. We want to know what this means for people with a learning disability and autism.

We are doing a survey called Being Online. You can tell us what you think about being online here:

<https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/accessible>.

Please share the survey with other people.





Goodbye Jamie, hello Claire

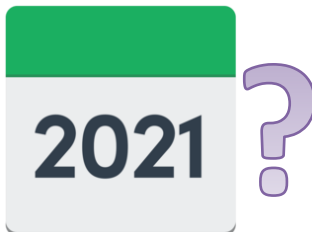
Jamie Bannister is going back to Australia after two years working with us all. We want to say thank you to Jamie for all his great work with the Board, and we hope Jamie can help us connect with self-advocates in Australia!



Self-advocates helped North Yorkshire County Council to find Jamie's replacement. Christopher, Natasha and Sam Sellars from Selby interviewed candidates by video with support from KeyRing.



It was a long day for everyone, but the good news is that Claire Canavan will be joining us in October. Some people may know Claire from Healthwatch North Yorkshire. We look forward to working with Claire.



Sadly, we do not know when we will be able to meet together again in 2021. We will listen to the Government and follow advice so that everyone can stay safe.



We think the KeyRing team and the Participation and Engagement team have worked really hard to keep people involved, connected and updated about what is happening and the work we are doing this year. Big thanks to all involved.



If you have any questions please contact Shanna Carrell at North Yorkshire County Council at shanna.carrell@northyorks.gov.uk or Karen at KeyRing at karen.murray@keyring.org

Take care and please stay safe!

Mark Hamblin and Katie Peacock

Co-Chairs, North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board

