

Learning Disabled Parents' Project

NAAPS has gained funding from the Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund to help Shared Lives Schemes learn from existing good practice in supporting parents with learning disabilities within as well as outside Shared Lives arrangements.

The project will also promote the development of more Shared Lives services that can be used by parents with learning disabilities across the UK.

Most learning disabled parents have little or no say in the upbringing or destiny of their children. Most commonly the baby is removed for adoption at birth or placed with foster

parents with little or no contact with the birth parents.

NAAPS is working to provide another option: One where Shared Lives carers offer to support the parent/s with the upbringing of the child in the unique, supportive, community-based environment offered by Shared Lives .

We are working in partnership with the charity, CHANGE, a Leeds-based organisation which is a leading national equal rights organisation led by disabled people. (www.changepeople.co.uk). One of their current areas of work is campaigning for the rights of learning disabled parents which, therefore,

makes them an ideal partner.

We need to understand in the early days of this one-year project what experiences (both good and bad) Shared Lives Carers and Small Community Services providers have had and what barriers and difficulties they have encountered in the work being done to support parents with learning disabilities.

NAAPS can use your experience to work with Adult, Children, Legal and Health services to establish protocols and methods of joint working so that a Shared Lives option is open to learning disabled parents.

If you could help us with this project and do have time to complete the survey below, we would be very grateful indeed.

1. Do you know of any learning disabled parents who have been able to keep their child?	Yes	No
2. Do you know of any learning disabled parents who have had their child removed?	Yes	No
3. Have you any experience of supporting a parent with a learning disability with their child, either formally through Shared Lives or informally,?	Yes	No
a. Yes		
3a1. Did/does the parent live in your home?	Yes	No
3a2. Did you know/have links with the parent prior to the pregnancy?	Yes	No
3a3. What form does/did the support take?		
3a4. What do you think were the benefits for the parent?		
3a5. How do you think you have benefited from taking on this role?		
3a6. In supporting the parent/s what areas do/did you find the most difficult?		
3a7. In being supported what, do you believe, the parents found/find to be most difficult?		

3a8. In your geographical area, how supportive do you believe the following services have been in supporting parents with a learning disability?

	0 Poor	5 Excellent
Advocacy		
Local Authority Adult Services		
Local Authority Children's Services		
Family Learning/Sure Start Centres		
Local Health Services		
Other service (<i>specify below</i>)		

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3a9. What was the ethnicity of the parent?

White British		White Irish		Chinese		Any other	
Indian		Pakistani		Bangladeshi Background		Any Other Asian	
Mixed White & Black Caribbean		Mixed White & Black African		Mixed White & Asian		Any Other Mixed Background	
Caribbean		African Background		Any Other Black		Not known	

3a10. Could either Karen or Catherine of the charity Change contact you by phone or email to ask you more questions? **Yes** **No**

4. If the possibility of supporting a learning disabled parent arose, would you consider it?

a Yes:

4a1. What would you anticipated being the benefits to you?

4a2. What would you anticipate being the benefits to the parent?

4a3. What would you anticipate being the benefits for the child/ren?

4a3. What should your scheme have in place before you would consider supporting a learning disabled parent?

b No: Would you like to tell us why you would not consider supporting learning disabled parents?

Thank you very much indeed for taking the time to reply to this survey

Deborah Power, Project Manager, NAAPS, G06 The Cotton Exchange, Old Hall St, Liverpool, L3 9LQ

Your contact details:

Name:

Postcode:

Email address:

Phone: