

**Feedback from consultation
Selection/election of Disability Representatives for
Leicester Partnership**

**Please read this before nominating people to stand as
Disability Representatives**

We asked, should the person selected/elected to the Leicester Partnership be from an organisation whose main role is in relation to disability issues or where disability issues forms part of the overall aim of the organisation?

85% of the responses we received said that the representatives must be from organisations whose main role is in relation to disability issues.

We will therefore only accept nominations from organisations whose main role is in respect of disability issues.

We asked should the appointed person be a disabled person?

You were split on this question 46% said yes a similar number said it did not matter whilst a small number of responses said NO.

However for those organisations who felt that the representative should be a disabled person 72% felt that this was either very important or essential

Whilst 69% of organisation felt that it was important to have one representative from an organisation run by disabled people and one run by non disabled people

We will therefore be encouraging organisations to put forward representatives who identify themselves as a disabled person or a person with a long term health condition (both fall within the definition of disability within the meaning of the Disability discrimination Act and will be seeking to appoint one person from an organisation run by disabled people and one from an organisations run by non disabled people. If nominations are not received from disabled people we will invite nominations from non-disabled people on the same basis.

We felt that it would be very difficult if not impossible for representatives to have a detailed understanding and knowledge of all disability issues so were interested in your views on how this should be conveyed to the Leicester Partnership.

You had very mixed views on this issue the majority 54% felt that the representatives should make it clear when engaging with Leicester Partnership that they cannot represent all of the views of all disability organisations. 38% of you stated that part of the role of the representatives should be to refer members of Leicester Partnership to other organisations in the City. 54% of you said that the representatives should take information from different groups to the meeting.

We will therefore be seeking an agreement from the representatives that they will make it clear that they cannot speak on behalf of the whole sector and will commit to signposting Leicester Partnership to other organisations within the city. LCIL as a host organisation will contact you shortly to gain further information about the work that you are involved in, in order that we can support the representatives to be aware of the key interests and roles of different organisations.

LCIL will consult you further on how information from different groups can be taken forward to the Leicester Partnership.

We asked you how LCIL can best demonstrate that it has involved your organisation in the work of Leicester Partnership.

69% of the organisations who responded wanted a report to be sent direct to them and 54% wanted the information to be included on our website. A further 54% wanted LCIL to ensure that we provided support to the representatives. There was also an expressed interest in arranging periodic meetings.

We will therefore seek a commitment from the representatives to produce a short report on the meetings they attend and LCIL will provide support to representatives in producing this report. This report will be sent by LCIL to all disability groups and it will be published on our website. Subject to the

availability of funding we will commit to holding periodic meetings.

We invited you to comment on the different barriers faced by disabled men/women; disabled white communities/disabled people from racial minority communities and in respect of different faiths, age and sexual orientation. Overwhelmingly you all responded by saying that it would not be possible to identify representatives who could reflect all of the groups. You all felt that the reps just needed to be aware of cross cutting issues in the comments that they made.

We will therefore NOT be specifying that disability representatives should come from any particular grouping.

We asked you about the process of identifying disabled representatives

69% of organisations wanted an election to take place

We will therefore seek to appoint the representatives on this basis

We asked for your views on the basis that a suitable representative does not come forward.

85% of you said that LCIL should seek to identify suitable individuals.

We thank you for the trust you have placed in us but hope that this will not be necessary however we will take this on board if it becomes necessary

We asked you if you thought that LCIL had acted in your interests in carrying out this exercise

Of the responses we received 100% of you agreed that the process had been in the interest of the Disability Community

We also received a number of individual comments which are outlined below.

The only thing I would add is that being a 'representative' does not mean that the elected person is duty bound to represent everyone else's view, as these may conflict with one another. Instead, they should be seen as having representative views of their own and should act in the best interests of the majority, whilst appreciating and acknowledging the needs of the minority.

This may sound like semantics but in my experience it is better to make this clear from the outset to avoid conflict later. The best candidate should therefore be someone with a board range of experience and knowledge and 'moderate' viewpoint.

I would like to see the representatives have an awareness of all the issues regarding disability, as it is a hugely diverse issue and one, which is unique to each individual who is disabled in any way. We are primarily concerned with adaptations; the funding for which is decreasing and the process to obtain this is becoming more complex. It is frustrating and distressing for those waiting to have their homes adapted to be more suited to their changing needs. I feel that the representatives have to have a good knowledge and continue to learn about the issues facing those with a disability and what needs to be done to help and support, bridging the gaps within the city.

If you decide to seek representatives from user-led organisations, it is important that LCIL does not make assumptions, but that organisations are asked to demonstrate how they are user-led. Generic infrastructure organisations should not be eligible to field representatives. Representatives should come from organisations that actually support disabled people or provide services to disabled people.

I feel that it would be useful to offer support to an individual, should they need it to disseminate the issues to be discussed at each meeting prior to their attendance, so they have a good overall knowledge of what will be discussed at the meeting and will be able to participate fully.

To listen to issues provided by disabled people. To understand the needs of disabled ethnic community and deliver a service in a simple way. To make families aware of promoting independence and supporting members who have disability. To educate children and adults that disability is not a disease but to encourage those to

speak for early access education, employment and live independently.

Disability is so vast, the representatives must be just that a representative. They must have an open minded attitude being aware and having an understanding of the issues. The elected person needs to ensure they keep up to date with issues affecting various / different disabled groups. They need to engage with these groups and then their views back to the Leicester partnership.

Again we would like to thank everybody who took the time to respond your views have formed the basis of the process of Election.

Disability Host
LCIL
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