



## Hambleton and Richmondshire

October 2020

Dear friends,



This is a letter from Julie and Thelma. We are the co-chairs of the Local Area Group.

We hope you had a good summer and are all OK during these strange times.

Lots of things have been happening and we are excited to share these things with you. We have been trying to stay in touch in different ways. This includes phone calls, emails and sending letters in the post.

### **KeyRing**

**KeyRing**  
... We're Life Changing

Kim from KeyRing has been in contact with self-advocates to make sure everyone is OK. She has been supporting people at this time and helping people to attend on line meetings.

We have also learned how to “Zoom”.

Zoom is a video call, using your computer, phone or tablet. There have been self-advocacy meetings, a weekly KeyRing trivia party and even Zoom discos for dancing at home. It all keeps us smiling and connected!





## **Local Area Group co-chair elections**

We have decided not to have the election for the new co-chairs this year. This is because we want everybody to be able to have a say and vote. We hope we can do this in 2021.

## **Congratulations to Dean**



Dean was chosen by Learning Disability England to be one of 5 people to help redesign their website. Dean said

“I'm proud that I can be a voice for people in England with Learning Disabilities, and hopefully help to create a website that they can easily use for any help or advice they may need”.

## **Annual health checks and flu jab reminder**



As we get closer to winter, it is important to remember to get your flu jab and to have your annual health check.



We have been working on a Keep Safe Scam leaflet. Copies are available from Mencap at Goosecroft Centre. Kim from KeyRing also has them and can give them out across North Yorkshire when we meet up again.



Goosecroft Arts and Crafts is now running on Tuesdays 10am to 12 or 1pm to 3pm. If people are interested to join, they can contact Sue Lear at Mencap on 01609 778894 to book a place.



The Partnership Board meeting was cancelled but they have been busy. You can read the latest news from the Partnership Board here:

<https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/node/72>

### **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.



Self-Advocates have been working with Inclusion North to do a Partnership Board Activity Pack on Human rights. 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>

## Goodbye Jamie Hello Claire



Jamie Bannister is going back to Australia after two years working with us all. We send our best wishes to him and thank him for all he has done.

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.



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



If you have any questions please contact Kim Sanders at KeyRing:

[kimberley.sanders@keyring.org](mailto:kimberley.sanders@keyring.org)

Take care and stay safe!

**Julie and Thelma  
Co-Chairs, Hambleton and Richmondshire  
Local Area Group**