

# **Lewisham Disabled People's Commission**

## **Draft Terms of Reference**

### **Vision**

On International Day of Disabled People in December 2019, representatives of the London Borough Lewisham stated a commitment to working in partnership with Disabled residents to create new and innovative ways of engaging with Disabled people by co-producing policy design and decision-making, as well as service commissioning and delivery.

The Vision is that Lewisham sets in place a new way of doing things that sees Disabled residents, Councillors and officers and other organisations in the borough working together to build a culture that values and respects the rights of Disabled people living in Lewisham where "Nothing About Us Without Us" is at the heart of this unique and diverse borough.

### **Terms of reference**

The Commission will take a Social Model of Disability approach to its work with a commitment to inclusivity & accessibility. The Commission will be guided in its work by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will seek to make recommendations that will lead to Lewisham becoming the most accessible and inclusive borough in London.

The Commission's work will be broken down into four stages:

1. Review studies on the experience of disabled people in London and elsewhere in the UK, particularly with regard to possible models of co-production;
2. Talk to disabled residents and users of local services about the issues affecting them in Lewisham;
3. Invite disabled people to share their experiences and discuss possible solutions to problems at a series of public events;
4. Produce a report of findings and recommendations for action by Lewisham Council and partners as well as central government, the Greater London Authority, businesses and other organisations.

Stage 1: A review of relevant information

The Commission will examine what currently exists in the way of co-produced services to find out what works elsewhere. It will consider reports on the experience of disabled people in London and elsewhere and analyses of changes that have been introduced to deliver greater accessibility and inclusivity. This stage will also review the current services on offer for disabled people.

Stage 2: Speaking to local people

Lewisham residents will be invited to share their experiences of living in the borough. The Commission will also seek specific evidence of resident and service user engagement in consultation exercises, decision-making processes and service redesign.

### Stage 3: Wider inclusion and hearings

Both formal meeting of the Commission and public events will give disabled people and other residents and service providers the opportunity to discuss the Commission's initial findings and inform its recommendations for action.

### Stage 4: A final report

The Commission will publish its findings and recommendations for action in a final report to be submitted to the Cabinet Member for the Community Sector and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and to Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee and/or Mayor and Cabinet/Full Council as required.

## **Appointment of Commissioners**

All commissioners will be self-identified as disabled, reflect a wide age range and be currently resident in Lewisham. Other people may be co-opted to the Commission during the course of its work where additional knowledge is required. All Commissioners were appointed following a public recruitment exercise.

The Commission is to be chaired by Jamie Hale.

The other Commissioners are:

Lorraine Ogundiran

Nigel Bowness

Carys Kennedy

Rev. Tim Goode

Nana Marfo

Tony Pilkington

Ifeoma Orjiekwe

Richard Amm

Merryn Bishop

Barbara Britton

Peter Cronin

Tihani Yusuf

## **Timescale**

The Commission's work is expected to take some 10-12 months to complete. It is expected that the Commission's recommendations might require a six month period of implementation and the Commission might be kept in place in order to oversee this process during the course of spring and summer in 2021.

