

CAPE - Chairperson's Report 2019-20

In March 2019, over twenty years after it's beginning, CAPE became a formally constituted (non profit) Group following adoption of its constitution and formal appointment of elected officers, and opening its own bank account with two signatories.

During the last 12 months CAPE has gone through many important events and changes, not least of which was the Covid-19 lockdown which occurred at the end of March 2020, while it continued to engage in active Learning Disability issues involving all departments of the Local Authority, Primary Care trust and Voluntary organisations.

CAPE entered into an agreement with Enfield Disability Action (EDA) to deliver peer group advocacy, for which it will receive a grant of £500 per quarter out of the advocacy funding given to EDA from the Local Authority.

CAPE has become a member organisation of Disability Rights UK, which performs a leading role in campaigning on behalf of disabled people.

CAPE modernised its Logo, printed a newly designed leaflet and launched a website www.cape-ld.org which is being regularly updated, including past minutes.

The year saw big changes to the Enfield's Adult Social Care Learning Disability management team -with the double retirements of both the senior managers, Geoff Lambrick (Service Manager- Assessment & Care Management ILDS) and Niel Neihorster (Head of Integrated Learning Disability Service- ILDS). We were however, assured by Bindi Nagra (Director of Health Housing and Adult Social Care Enfield Council) that CAPE's interaction with the Local Authority is much valued and it would so continue by their incoming replacements Trevor Uys and Vicky Main respectively. We have already started building a positive relationship with them.

CAPE continued to hold bi-monthly meetings during 2019 at the Community House venue on Monday evenings, but decided to try a new venue and time at Park Avenue on a Monday morning to encourage more attendance. We were indeed pleasantly surprised to have over 30 members attending at the new venue as against an average of fewer than 20 members coming to the old venue.

Unfortunately, subsequent meetings planned in April and June had to be abandoned due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

We eagerly await resumption of physical meetings (within the strict guidelines of safety), and we shall continue to energetically represent CAPE at all meetings with the Local Authority using Virtual Apps. CAPE minutes are posted on its website and circulated to members (by email or post, as appropriate) to keep everyone informed about the extensive current activities undertaken and this is updated regularly.

CAPE would not be where it is, without support from its members and in particular from the formidable efforts of its Vice Chair Wendy Berry, and its vigilant management team members Jane Richards and Bernadette Reigar. A massive thanks goes to all of them. We should also like to extend our sincere thanks to Luan Malley, of Enfield Disability Action, who has supported us so well over the past year.

CAPE, after more than 20 good years, goes from strength to strength. We adapt swiftly to changing circumstances and continue to be strong representatives of Carers and Parents of persons with Learning Disabilities in Enfield.

Surojit Walawalkar (Chairperson)