

Roadshow Analysis

Dates 9th November 2010 (South), 26th January 2011 (North)

Venues Gorseinon Centre, Swansea (South), Pavilion Leisure Centre (North)

Attendance South: 55 North: 58

Evaluation Responses

See separate documents for detailed analysis.

General observations

South: The event was very well received with the vast majority of responses falling in the 'very good' (approx. 55%) or 'good' (approx. 37%) categories, only a few in 'OK' (approx. 6%) and none in either 'poor' or 'bad'. The comments were also overwhelming positive, including *"very good/informative – set at accessible and interesting level"*, *"excellent questions"*, *"it made me think about my life more"* and *"very good speakers, especially Darren and Jonathan"*. One person commented that the acoustics in the room made it difficult sometimes to hear what people were saying and another mentioned that the postcode for the venue was not very helpful as it sent them to the wrong place. When asked to suggest topics for future roadshows, money, benefits and work were mentioned twice. The final comment from one attendee was *"excellent day, very important and impressive to continue to allow a space to discuss all-Wales issues"*.

North: This event was also well received with the majority of responses coming under 'very good' (approx. 55%) or 'good' (approx. 32%) although there were a few more 'OK' responses (approx. 11%) and two 'poor' (approx. 1%). There were very few comments on the evaluation forms from this roadshow but they were mostly positive, such as *"enjoyed the day"* and *"Thank you!"*. One person commented that the day was too long. Work featured heavily in the suggested topics for future roadshows.

Workshop Responses

See separate document for full list of responses.

The discussions around cuts to services produced some very lively debate amongst the groups at both events and highlighted a number of key services that people valued including: support staff, day services, transport (free bus passes, mobility cars, supported transport etc), People First/self advocacy groups, supported housing, health care, leisure and independent living. People were very worried about the cuts and one person summed it up by saying *“Asking which services to keep and which to cut is like asking me ‘which arm do you want to cut off?’”*.

During the workshops people discussed how they participate in different ways and influence decisions about their lives and the lives of others. On a personal level, people talked about the decisions they make every day such as what to eat, where to go, what to wear and how to spend their money. At a local level, many people at the roadshows participate in advocacy, social and tenants’ groups and are involved in making decisions about these groups. Others have been involved in training local public sector employees such as nurses and police officers. Some attend college or have jobs/voluntary placements within their local communities; others are involved in local planning groups.

Participation at a national level is often through voting at elections, sitting on interview panels and management committees for national organisations, attending PCP meetings and taking part in specific projects. There was also some discussion around the other people who make decisions about our lives (e.g. social workers, teachers, healthcare professionals, police, AMs/MPs, housing staff) and how we can influence those decisions (e.g. participation groups, training, person centred planning, self advocacy). People recognised that making decisions is not always easy and it can be difficult to get people to listen. However, they also recognised the importance of being involved in decision-making so that others understand what you need and you have more control over your life.

Personal Observations

I was very pleased with the attendance at both events, although we did have to cancel the original date in North Wales due to lack of numbers. Those attending the events seemed to really enjoy themselves and got involved in the discussions and quizzes with obvious enthusiasm. The evaluation responses reflected this with very positive comments such as *“I thought she [Sam] was*

excellent, I value what LDIAG do” and “*keep it up, nice work*”. I believe that the improvement in the evaluation responses since the last roadshows in March 2010 was mainly due to the changes in the programme structure and the focus on people with a learning disability. This was in response to previous comments and meant that the day was more accessible and engaging for everyone. The quizzes really helped to get people involved and kept the energy levels up throughout the day. The speakers were all excellent, particularly those from All Wales People First, and really worked hard to make the roadshows a success. The venues and catering were generally very good, although there was a lack of adequate sound systems at both venues which unfortunately meant that the video clips of LDIAG members could not be heard.

I would like to thank Yvonne Boxall and Annie Denton at All Wales People First for all their hard work in organising these events. My thanks also go to those support workers who volunteered to facilitate the group discussions and a big thank you to all the speakers: Darren Locke, Jonathan Richards, Linton Gower, and Sophie Hinksman from All Wales People First, and Mandy Williams from Participation Cymru.

Summary

- Attendance at both events was very good.
- Feedback was excellent with very few exceptions.
- The programme worked well, enabling people to participate and keeping them engaged throughout the day.
- People felt very strongly about cuts to services and were particularly concerned about cuts to support staff hours as well as day services, transport, health, housing and advocacy.
- Workshop discussion highlighted how people participate in decision-making at local and national levels, and the importance of this.
- People wanted their voices to be heard and listened to, especially about decisions that affect their lives.