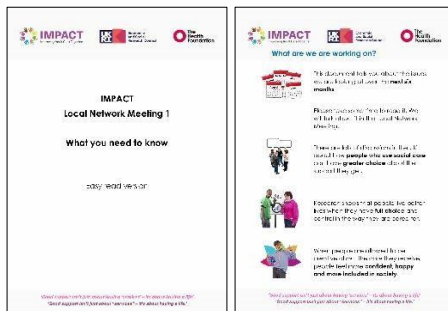


IMPACT Local Network Session 3 Feedback *Discussion Material for Local Network Meeting 4*



The IMPACT local networks have now met three times across the UK to discuss how **choice** and **control** can be enhanced for people with learning disabilities or mental health problems.

The aim of the fourth and final meeting is to discuss what you've learnt from the previous meetings, the change you would like to see and produce an Action Plan to take things forward.



In this document, we look back on the previous summary reports to outline:

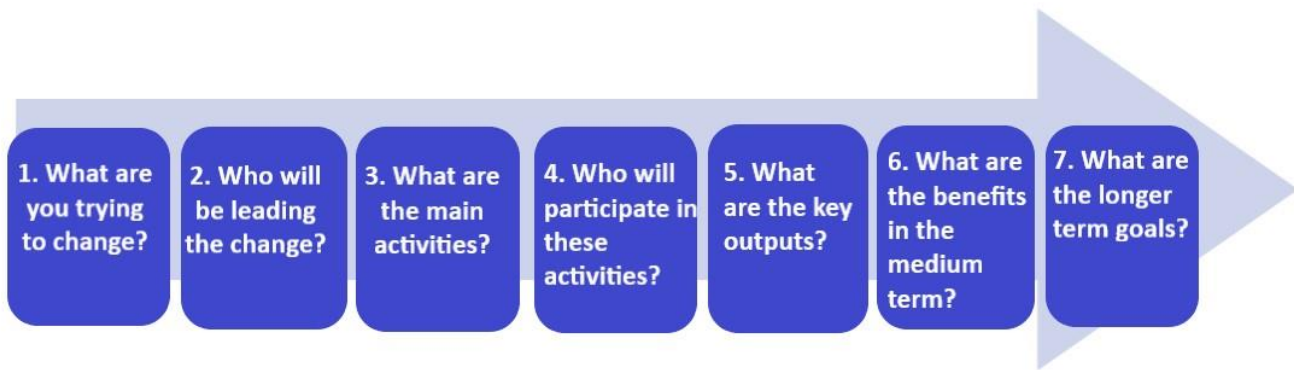
- a) the **context** in each Local Network
- b) the **change** you want to see
- c) **what and who can help** to make that change happen.



These summaries are drafts which we hope will help you to design your **Action Plans** for change.

This final session is also a good time to discuss any **activities** or **support** you may need from **IMPACT**

As a reminder, we asked you to talk about the following questions last time:



Swansea



In Wales, '*Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act*' requires that local authorities promote the development of co-operatives to provide care and support.

Friends United Together formed when the local authority wanted to re-tender the support they received.



The group were very concerned by the proposals because they had received support from the '*Community Lives Consortium*' for many years and had built close and enduring relations with care staff and were active participants in the organisation.

Co-operative



In response to the proposed changes, the group set up a 'Co-operative' with support from Cwmpas to manage their own direct payments.

The Co-operative model they use gives the group flexibility and control and they can bank their hours and decide when they want to use them. The Provider no longer has to justify changes to the local authority.

Co-operation was key to setting up the Cooperative. One member explained the process using a useful analogy of 'curling'- the Friends United Together group had the courage to throw the stone, but there were a lot of people polishing and brushing the ice to make the stone get where it needed to be, including within the group, with the provider, Cwmpas and the local authority.



Initially the local authority was unsure about how to engage with the Co-operative, but now have a Strategic Direct Payments Manager who wants to work further with the Friends United Together group and others who want to establish Co-operatives.

There
they



are still challenges in terms of the financial and administrative arrangements, but the group feel now have a lot of expertise and experience they would like to

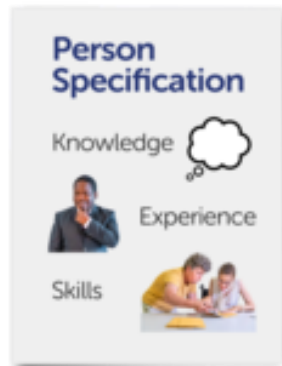
share with others in a similar position.

What are you trying to change?



For Friends United Together:

- **more choice** and **freedom** in how support hours are used
- **more choice** over who works with them – more say in **recruitment**
- **more members** joining Friends United Together
- **more events** in the **community**, as they did before the pandemic (coffee mornings etc.), giving support and being involved in the community
- **Avoiding the stress**, anxiety and misery of the retender when it comes again
- **Keep challenging** and trying new ways of doing things, always looking to make things better
- be an **example to others** of what can be achieved
- **help others** to do what they've done.



- **More staff** recruited to work with Friends United Together
- **New guides** and **materials** – ‘a pathway for a Co-operative’
- **Create a video** on Friends United

Together.

Who will be leading the change?

TBC (different groups/ people can lead on different activities/ goals).

What are the main activities?



• **Recruit** another person to support the Friends United Together Group, some activities are limited while they're trying to find the right person. The group will work with the local authority to distribute advert for someone to support them (T council have a recruitment drive for PAs at the moment).



• **Create resources** to share knowledge with people receiving support and family/ friends. Cwmpas has developed a map and other useful resources for other groups looking to set up a Co-operative, but a **'how to' guide/ video** would be useful, as well as events in the community to raise

awareness of Cooperatives and increase community engagement.

• Local Authority will map out the process and to develop a guide for pooling Direct Payments (sharing budgets to do something together)



• **Commissioners** - Swansea Council to share and be part of the all-Wales Direct Payments group

• **Providers**

Who will participate in these activities?



Friends United Together

Carer/support worker from **Community Lives Consortium (CLC)**

Chief Executive of Community Lives Consortium

Learning Disabilities Planning Officer, **Swansea Council**

Direct Payments Strategic Manager, Swansea Council

IMPACT comms team- support developing materials/ videos.

What are the key outputs?



- **More staff** recruited to work with Friends United Together.
- **More members** of Friends United Together.
- Develop **guides/ materials** – ‘a pathway for a Co-operative’ and the documents that they use to give structure to Friends United Together meetings, as well as model accounts as ‘open-source’ media – this might help other care providers to be supportive whilst promoting independence.
- A **video** on Friends United Together.

What are the benefits in the medium term? (3 years?)

- **For Friends United Together/Cooperative** - The ability to control hours and now because of the banking of hours they can be saved and used flexibly.



- **Directly recruiting** a support worker- benefits for both the carer and the Friends United Together as they all know each other, want to work together, maybe pay them more.



the

- **Commissioning** for wellbeing due to more engagement with and listening to people.

- **More independence** for Co-operative members benefits both Local

Authority and people receiving care.

What are the longer-term goals? (5 years and beyond?)

“Ultimately, we want to help more people set up care Co-operatives”.

In the discussion in the final session, we'd like the groups to:

Tell us if we have missed anything when we describe the context?

Explore any of the following questions you may not have had time to discuss last time/ want to change/ add more to:

- 1. What are you trying to change?**
What do we know already as a starting point locally and nationally?
- 2. Who will be leading the change?**
Why are these the right people to lead?
- 3. What are the main activities?**
What will result in these activities bringing about change?
- 4. Who will participate in these activities?**
What is their role in achieving the change?
- 5. What are the key outputs?**
What makes these outputs achievable?
- 6. What are the benefits in the medium term? (3 years?)**
 - a. How will the activities result in these outcomes?*
 - b. What else needs to be in place?*
- 7. What are the longer-term goals? (5 years and beyond?)**
 - a. What would lead to these wider benefits?*
 - b. Who would need to be involved?*
 - c. How will you know what 'success' looks like? How will you measure progress towards your goals?*
 - d. What can IMPACT do to support you moving forward?*
- 8. What are the main challenges/barriers to implementation you've experienced so far/anticipate you'll experience?**