



## Leeds Involving People

Unit 8 Gemini Park  
Sheepscar Way  
Leeds, LS7 3JB  
Tel: 0113 237 4508

### About Leeds Involving People

Leeds Involving People (LIP) is a 'Not for Profit' user-led charity by membership. Being user-led means we are run by and for people who use health and social care services. We have worked pro-actively for over 15 years to ensure that the voices of people who use and have an interest public services are heard. These contributions are then used to directly influence the planning and development of services to support and inform the commissioning of services through effective partnerships. We are a key partner in the city and have established a prominent position in the Health and Social Care Sectors in the Leeds area through working independently.

We excel in the role of engaging, building and maintaining relationships. We have a strong membership base of around 350 members from a wide range of communities reflecting the diversity of the city of Leeds. We engage our members using meaningful participation and involvement methods that are appropriate, accessible and responsive to the needs of individuals and communities. We maximise and improve the patient, user and public experience of health and social care services by working in partnership with our members and those who commission services. Our members, board and staff team are actively involved at strategic and local levels, using their expertise and knowledge to support quality improvement in services which have an impact on people's health, wellbeing and quality of life.

The operational team is managed and accountable to a Board of voluntary trustees comprising of people who are experts by experience and reflect the diversity of LIP membership. The Board of Trustees leads the development of strategy and monitors and audits the charities operational services. They are rooted in the community and are in touch with issues affecting the daily lives of people, having an ethos to represent the independent voice of the public and share this amongst networks and partnerships.

Over the last year the organisation has been going through a period of transition due to the closure of our former reference groups. We are currently in the process of developing new areas of work – such as our 'involvement ready' training – and we are working with our commissioners to identify opportunities for new and existing members to be involved in the development and shaping of services.

We are in the process of finalising our marketing strategy, which we will begin to implement in February 2012, as the re-branding of our identity will take place. We will also be developing our new website in order to effectively communicate the benefits of LIP membership, the new ways in which we are working, as well as what involvement and engagement activities we are able to offer new and existing members under these new areas of work. We are also developing new ways in which we can use social media and marketing tools as a way of engaging with our communities in order to increase our membership base to strengthen and further diversify the collective voice of those that we represent.

Leeds Involving People are currently jointly commissioned by Leeds City Council Adult Social Care and NHS Leeds.

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