



About Giving us a Voice

'Giving us a Voice' is an 18 month project working right across the country to involve people with a learning disability, their families and carers from minority ethnic communities in regional meetings to inform local policy makers about what they need and expect from services.

There is clear evidence at present that services are not reaching these communities and their families, who are effectively excluded from local participation by lack of contact, language difficulties and the belief that no-one will listen. 'Giving us a Voice' is a systematic way of tackling this problem and challenging local statutory bodies and providers to sign up to the 'Charter for Inclusion' which the project will produce from meetings with users and families. 9 regional Summits will also inform future decision-making about services for this group and encourage participation in local consultations.

"BILD, Mencap and ARC are delighted that DCLG have recognised the needs of these excluded groups and have supported our joint bid. We look forward to seeing all local authorities hearing clearly from the Giving us a Voice regional groups and supporting the Charter for Inclusion. This is a major opportunity to help local people who have historically been excluded join in and have their voice heard about what kind of services are needed. Here is a real opportunity to improve participation and the better understanding of exactly what some people really need in services."

