



Rational for delivering Partners in Policymaking and All together Better

Over the last few years there has been a significant investment to train and mentor people who provide support and services to disabled people in leadership particularly around the agenda of Self Directed Support, although its important to train service workers, it's equally important to train disabled adults and their families. Service workers move on, the families don't they are there for the long haul. The financial investment made in family leadership over he past sixteen years has happened through some local authorities who have built a working relationships with families through the partners in policymaking network.

You can find information about partners and other family leadership courses at the end of this statement .

Investing in families locally and nationally has encouraged true co-production, giving opportunities for disabled people their parents and relatives to work alongside people in their local authority at strategic level, therefore developing self directed support together, feedback tells us that taking part in family leadership courses gives disabled people and their families the skills, information and knowledge to work in partnership, to be part of discovering solutions rather than 'battling' to hold on to what they know, which is often turning to the service system for all their support rather than planning together sharing creative solutions and ideas, we now have a national network of over 2.000 people across the U.K. Connected by email, telephone, and social networking sites, as well as neighbours happy to spend time in each others homes, developing imaginative plans for individuals whose lives are often transformed.

Families and individuals need time to explore different solutions in a safe environment, they need to be inspired and they need to be able to take the time needed to come up with dreams and aspirations that are achievable and make a real difference to their lives.

We know from experience that graduates have gone on to make significant changes in their own lives and their communities. We also know that some money invested now has far better outcomes for individuals and also stops them relying on services for all the solutions. Lots of time is spent exploring alternatives to paid support so from a funders perspective is cost effective in the longer term.

Partners in Policymaking is a licensed internationally respected leadership course with a track record that is unrivalled across the world and there are now some 25,000 graduates internationally , over 2.000 of those are in England,of the U.K. courses have also been held in Scotland and Ireland

One of the courses that has developed from Partners is called All Together Better it has grown from Partners in Policymaking as a way of taking parents, individuals, family members and professionals on a journey together, it is

completely co-productive in its delivery and has a similar format to Partners in Policymaking.

Graduates of the courses have a shared vision of what's possible when we talk about Self Directed Support, inclusive education, person centred planning, support planning, circles of support and advocacy. They also have a good knowledge of the history and perception of disabled people, the use of respectful language and imagery, this gives them a good understanding of how support services have evolved and why change is needed.

people The network that has developed from all the courses is made up from well informed disabled adults, their parents and relatives, alongside people who provide support through their work in social care, health, education and leisure.

There is a fuller description of course contents below

Partners in Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development programme. It is designed for disabled adults and parents of disabled children.

The overall aim of Partners in Policymaking is to increase social inclusion and achieve social justice. It specifically aims to do this for people who are at risk of social exclusion due to labels of disability.

When we talk about disability, we are including people with learning difficulties as well as people with sensory or physical impairment. It achieves this aim by recruiting, educating and training the next generation of leaders. It provides these new leaders with

- a strong values framework
- a clear and coherent analysis of why things are currently organised the way they are
- a different and expanding vision of what's possible
- the many of the tools and skills they will need to make change happen for themselves, their own families, their local communities and at a national level.

Partners in Policymaking invests in the capacity of the people who have the greatest stake in creating a better future. Partners believes in the energy and creativity of people and trains them to invent and design new solutions, for themselves and others. Importantly, people become members of an increasingly informed and powerful network of allies working for social justice and inclusion across Scotland. 191 people have graduated from the Scottish programmes to date.

Partners in Policymaking is now a recognised training programme with the World Institute on Disability, adopting the programme in recognition of its potential as a model for leadership training for parents of disabled children and disabled adults.

Course Aims

The course is designed to inform and teach people about how the social care system works and give people the skills and confidence to make positive

changes to the way their families receive support and help and support other families do the same.

The course is intended to enable participants to:

- Contribute to policy making and its implementation in wider service development, locally and nationally
- Work in partnership with professionals and policy makers
- Have the confidence and competence to influence decisions about services and negotiate much more successfully when decisions are made about what is needed
- Support and guide people and their families
- Contribute to the training of service commissioners, providers, planners and policy makers

How the course is delivered?

The courses are typically made up of eight sessions over as many months. Each session takes place as a residential over two days.

An important element of the programme is the quality of the speakers who are all passionate about social justice. By hearing from the best people in each field, delegates become aware of what's possible, and motivated to strive for better lives for themselves and their families.

We strive to create a learning environment that is safe, where people feel comfortable about asking questions and talking about their experiences.

During the course delegates develop the experience of using microphones, public speaking and taking constructive approaches in meetings. Participants also have opportunities to practice skills such as finding the right information, making contact with policy makers and people who work in services, presenting their views and learning how decisions are made and how to influence them.

Everyone is provided with resources such as books, articles from journals and other documentation to form the basis of their own libraries.

Course Content

Each session looks at issues which are important to disabled people and their families.

Topic areas of the course include:

- History of how disabled people have been supported
- Inclusive education
- Legalisation
- Self Directed Support
- Whole life planning and Person Centred Planning
- Employment
- Housing
- Policy Development
- Assistive Technology
- Supported Living

- Advocacy
- Making change happen locally
- Making change happen nationally
- A different and expanding vision of what is possible

All Together Better

All Together Better is a program that brings together family carers, disabled adults, people who work in social care, health services, education, leisure and other providers. The course is about building new alliances that will become powerful and make real differences to the future of vulnerable people.

Course aims

The course provides information to build on participants skills to enable them to gain knowledge and confidence needed to campaign and advocate for a better future for vulnerable people in our society. A strong values base of inclusion and equality underpins the programme.

How the course is delivered

The course is delivered over six, two day sessions.

There are between 30 and 40 participants depending on funding agreement

The course is delivered in a variety of accessible ways including using videos, presentations and speakers.

We strive to create a learning environment that is safe, where people feel comfortable about asking questions and talking about their experiences.

Course content

The course covers issues which are important to family carers, individuals the people they support and people who provide services.

Topics on the course include:

- Exploring the history of how disabled people have been supported
- Understanding how the health and social care system works
- Looking at personalised support
- Making change happen locally and nationally
- Person centred planning
- Inclusive Education

Other short courses have been developed to be run locally, such as sharing knowledge. They are all based on what we know works through Partners in policymaking.

The course participants learn strategies and skills such as using a microphone and presenting important issues in concise and positive ways, they get the opportunity to give live presentations to a panel of people made up of local councillors, politicians, and policy makers . This builds confidence and builds

working relationships that we know go on to drive the personalisation agenda forward.