

Creating Connections

The Westminster Society Update Spring 2020



The Westminster Society

Your Learning Disability Network for London



Soon to be



Learning Disability Network London

5 years ago after a wide ranging consultation exercise with everyone involved in the Society, we embarked on a programme of rebranding.

We started by changing our logo and introducing the concept of the Learning Disability Network for London. This new name reflects our ambition to be the organisation of choice for learning disabled Londoners and we believe is more descriptive of what we do and are what we are trying to

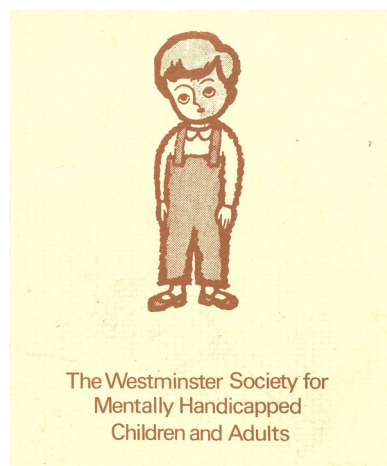
We are now ready to take the final step in the rebranding programme with a full name change from The Westminster Society to: LDN London (Learning Disability Network London). LDN has a defined approach to maximise access to mainstream services, making use of the wide range of opportunities London has to offer.

We aim to improve the quality and range of our services and make use of the benefit our Network can bring to learning disabled Londoners and their families.

We are very excited about the next stage of our development as an organisation. We are planning to officially change our name in October 2020 during a launch week with a number of events celebrating our new name and focus.

Logo Development 1962-2020

1962



Our first logo from 1962 when we first started, then called 'The Paddington and St Marylebone Society for Mentally Handicapped Children', which changed to 'The Westminster Society for Mentally Handicapped Children' and later became 'The Westminster Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults' as the children we supported grew up.

This first logo was a drawing of Steven Mullins, the son of one of our founder members Violet Mullins.

1987



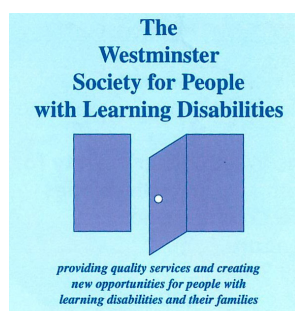
This logo was also adopted by Royal Mencap



Early 90's



Late 90's



2006



2016



Markel 3rd Sector Care Awards

We are delighted that our CEO Gabby Machell won the 'Making a Difference Award' and Team Manager Cecilia Adetunji won the 'Judges Special Recognition Award' at the Markel 3rd Sector Care Awards on Friday 6th December 2019



The Awards are designed to reward the hard work, dedication, innovation and excellence of everyone working in the not-for-profit sector who is making a positive difference to people's lives, whether they are supporting children or adults. We are all so proud that Gabby and Cecilia have been recognised for all their dedication and hard work.

The Awards took place at the London Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square and were hosted by Dame Esther Rantzen and Rebecca Wilcox, who presented our winners with their Special Awards.

The Making a Difference Award is an award for an outstanding Chief Executive, Board member, trustee who has made significant and sustainable changes in a service. These changes will have positively influenced outcomes for people who use their services, their families and staff.

'Gabby has led this organisation through significant growth and changes while ensuring the values of the organisation and the approach that small organisations offer, such as open door and family feel have not got lost. Gabby is not a career CEO, but a true champion and advocate for the people she supports. She is fair, approachable, quietly confident and utterly compassionate. Growth and change can be unsettling and can dilute values but for Gabby this is not the case.'

Judges Summary



Making a difference

"This winner's dedication shone through to the judges. They described this winner as 'exceptional', leading with their heart and their head in terms of strategic details. The winner is a role model for their employees and has inspired loyalty and trust within their organisation, expecting the values to be embedded by all the 'family' of staff."

Special Recognition

"Cecilia is clearly highly skilled at person centred care. In an alien situation, she excelled, organising support for an individual with learning disabilities so that they understood and could make choices about their end of life experience. Cecilia went the extra mile, having the difficult conversations, building new relationships with clinical teams and helping other people in the service to come to terms with their friend's death. The judges were blown away by her extraordinary story."



Christmas 2019

We had a fantastic time celebrating Christmas and New Year across the Westminster Society - we held carols around the Christmas tree; had a fabulous Christmas party at the Drop-in hosted by Heathrow Express; nativity play and Christmas Party with a visit from Santa at Rainbows Nursery with amazing gifts donated from 4C Hotel Group, visited all our houses with festive treats; Christmas Dinner at LDN Connect, live music, pantos, parties & Christmas lunch at our services and New Years Eve disco partying away until the early hours. Here are a few snaps from our festivities.....



Tickled Pink live music and panto at Harrow Rd & Waltham Rd



Sightseeing in London



Going to church



Flat A and B Harrow Rd held a combined onesie Christmas party to celebrate one of the service users preferred choice of clothing: onesies. Service users and staff wore onesies and we also had great food and excellent live music from Kevin (from the music team). Family members were also in attendance and they celebrated with their loved ones.



Night out at the Bubble Club



Staff dressed up for the annual festive treat drop to all our services



Drop-in Christmas Party



Harrow Rd Onesie Party and outing to Walton-On-Thames Mencap to a party with live music with the Mayor of Elmbridge.



Celebrating in style at Piper House



#Volunteers

For the past 2 years we have been the 4C Hotel Group's charity of the year. They organised a 'Christmas Present Drop', Executive Assistant Idy Udo told us by simply putting a poster in their window and knocking on some doors they managed to fill their reception with gifts for the children who attend Rainbows Nursery and Kids Can Achieve.



We will be working with the 4C Hotel Group again this year and we are planning to organise an exciting event in July.

Adults who use the Drop-In on Harrow Road didn't miss out at Christmas either, thanks to a team of volunteers from Heathrow Express and The Paddington Partnership.



The team threw a great afternoon party with Karaoke Christmas Carols, games, a fantastic buffet and mulled wine.

A huge thank you to Emily from the Paddington Partnership, Heathrow Express and the 4C Hotel Group for helping us make Christmas extra special.



Archive find...

We have been searching through our archives and were astonished when we came across a newspaper cutting about a fundraising gala that we had hosted at the London Coliseum back in 1979. The finale of the evening was none other than Freddy Mercury dancing with The Royal Ballet to Bohemian Rhapsody!

We are very proud of what our tireless fundraisers have achieved, they were instrumental in making us the organisation we are today.



St Andrews Dinner

Our Flagship fundraising event, St Andrew's Dinner held on Thursday 28th November was a great success.

This year we were delighted to welcome more guests than ever all helping to create an amazing atmosphere in the impressive dining room at the Barber-Surgeons' Hall.



Guests were welcomed by Guest of Honour, Vice President Peter Lewis Crown MBE. They enjoyed a drinks reception, close up magic and were piped into dinner in the grand dining room.

The Auction, Raffle and Tables for Two draw contributed to the fun as well as the financial success of the evening, this year we had amazing prizes ranging from a bungee jump to a night at the opera!



We are delighted to inform you that the evening raised over **£16,000**, an amazing amount that will go a long way towards helping us run our new Early Help service at Rainbows, a vital service for families of children with disabilities and special educational needs.

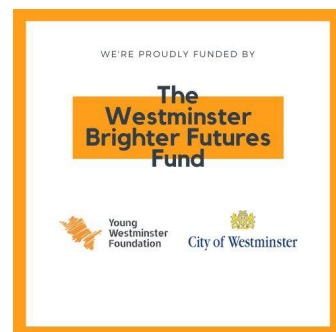


Exciting New Hub Project

We have exciting new plans for our new Learning Disability Network Hub. The Hub's new programme of activities will take place at 389a Harrow Road. Thanks to a grant from the Young Westminster Foundation the LDN Drop-in Hub will provide sessions and activities for young people with learning disabilities aged 15-25 and we will also continue to run group sessions for older adults and family support.

There will be a focus on employment as well as generally improving life skills. Young people will be given the opportunity to sign up to an Apprenticeship Scheme that will give them a taster for the workplace. We are delighted to be working with Westminster Employment and construction companies Osborne and Durkan, who will be running weekly workshops and sponsoring apprenticeships.

There will be a social element to the Hub, encouraging people to engage with friends, meet new friends, be young and have fun! For more information or new Hub activities please contact Kris the Hub manager:
kkrzemianowski@wspld.org



Malcolm on holiday in Southend

"I really enjoyed my break. It was great celebrating my birthday and Christmas with all my friends and seeing the old year out and the new year in. I love spending time down there."





**WE CARE
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JOIN US**

**We hold monthly
Support Worker
Recruitment
Open Days**

**For dates of upcoming
events and to find out
more contact:
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020 8968 7376
16a Croxley Road
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W9 3HL**

**SUPPORT WORKER RECRUITMENT OPEN DAYS
COME ALONG TO FIND OUT MORE**

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- ▶ No experience necessary
- ▶ You should be passionate about supporting others
- ▶ If you are looking for a new challenge we would like to hear from you

Do you want to take
on a challenge in
2020?

We are looking for people who
would like to take part in the
Hackney Half Marathon and London
10k or a sky dive.

For further information visit:
[wspld.org.uk/get involved](https://wspld.org.uk/get-involved)



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Inspected and rated

Outstanding

