

**What do Disabled and Deaf people's groups  
want from a London-wide Organisation  
of Disabled and Deaf people?**

**Easy Read Format**

**Laura Bryant-Smith & Dominic Church**

London Councils, The City Bridge Trust and the City Parochial Foundation have asked us to do some research.



A London-wide organisation that will support all the groups in London that are run by Disabled and Deaf people is being designed.

The research is being checked by a Steering Group and managed by a Project Board of Disabled and Deaf people.



The London-wide organisation is being designed by us. We are disability consultants Equal Ability CIC and Dominic Church Associates. It also involves NCIL (National Centre for Independent Living).

Equal Ability



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London Councils, The City Bridge Trust and City Parochial Foundation want us to find out what people want from a London-wide organisation of Disabled and Deaf people before it is set-up.

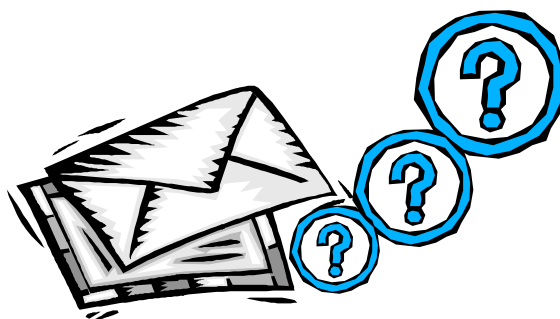


It is important to find out what kind of help people from Disabled and Deaf groups want.



We wrote to 150 different Disabled and Deaf people's organisations.

We asked them what they want or do not want from a London-wide organisation.



We had telephone conversations with 22 groups.



12 groups wrote to us to tell us their ideas.



14 groups spoke to us at a group meeting where everyone chatted together about what they wanted.



And Penny Beschizza of the research team, who is Deaf, contacted lots of Deaf people's organisations.



This is a short summary of the answers people gave us.



You can see the questions we asked everyone at the end of this report.



1. People thought that the organisation should not compete with others. It is set up to support them so it should find different funding and different projects to do.



Some were worried that the organisation would do too much at once and fail. Instead, it should start off small and just do what it is capable of doing so it can carry on and stay strong.



2. Disabled and Deaf people should be involved in the organisation's staff and management.



Everyone should have the opportunity to be involved, from every area of London and whatever their disability.

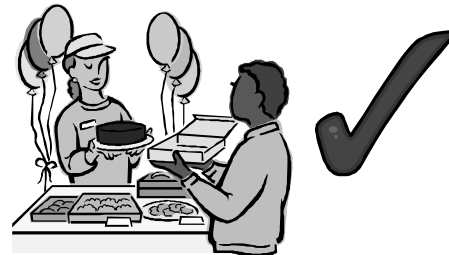
To do this the London-wide organisation will have to make sure that all the material and support people need to join in is there for them.



3. Staff who answer people's questions should be experts. They should have a lot of knowledge about Disabled and Deaf people and about their organisations.



They should have worked in local areas too so that they know about local problems.



4. Lots of people told us they would like the London-wide organisation to look into and tell people about what services are available.



If Disabled and Deaf people's groups know what services are and are not available, they can ask for them to be provided.

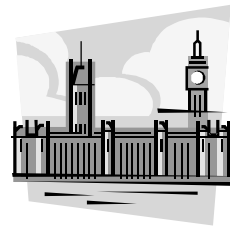


The London-wide organisation could even tell the organisations that provide funding about what is needed and they might make money available to provide these services.

5. Lots of people would like a team of people who know about politics.



They should know how to talk to people in the government and in councils.



They should let Disabled and Deaf people's groups know about what is going on in different boroughs as well as in London.



If they can do this, groups can come together and decide how they want to react. This means local people getting together and telling government and councils what they want to change locally and what they want to change about people's services.



6. Lots of people in Disabled and Deaf people's organisations feel they do not have enough time to respond to all the requests they get to answer questions and consultations.



The London-wide organisation could make this easier by providing all the material people need to understand the questions.



This would mean that more people can get involved and let people know what they think.

Some would like the organisation to get groups together to create an answer to consultations that represents everyone across London.

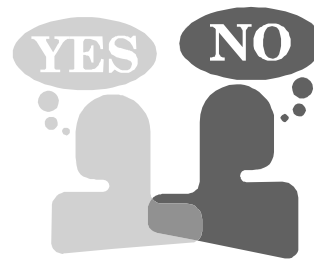


All different opinions should be part of this voice.

7. Some people asked for help with fundraising. Help finding funding providers and filling out forms would be useful.



Some disagreed and said this help is already available.



We decided this help is available in some areas and not in others.



So instead the London-wide organisation can specialise in telling people about funding providers that not many people know about.



Telling groups about organisations that give funding to projects about disability would also be useful.



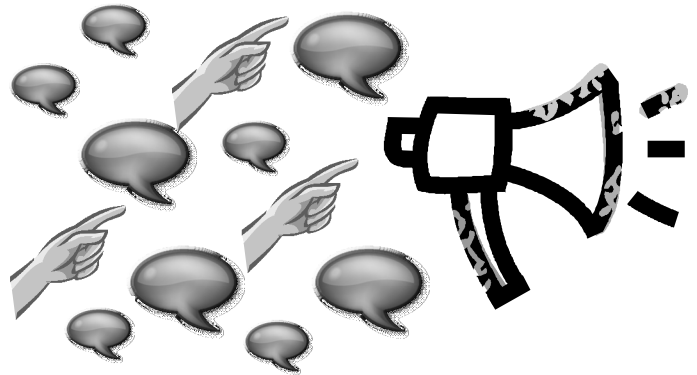
8. Lots of people were excited about people being bought together and a strong voice being created.



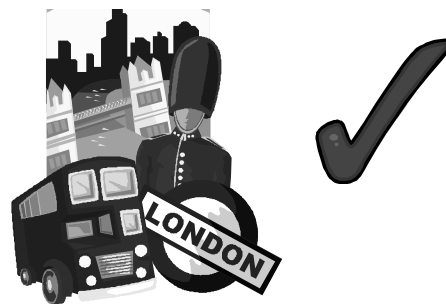
This strong voice could show people, especially young people, that Disabled and Deaf Londoners are interesting, creative and really add something to the city.



This strong voice will come about through listening to people of every disability and every area of London. Every voice should be heard.



Many thought that that this voice coming from the organisation should be just a London-wide voice.



It should not be the **only** voice. It should not claim to speak for every one or local opinions might not get heard.



9. Many people thought that the most important job of a London-wide organisation is to share knowledge of the work and experience of the different Disabled and Deaf people's organisations.



There should be a database of all the organisations in London and information about what they do.



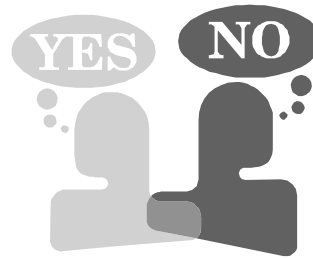
This information, like all other information the London-wide organisation makes, should be available in different formats so that every one can access it.



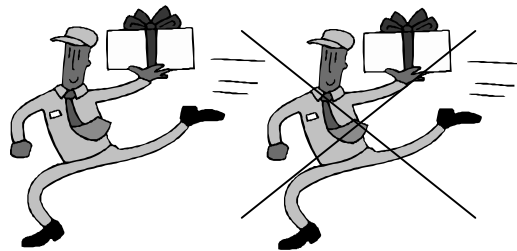
If this information is available, different groups might decide to work together on different projects. Or one group might ask the advice of another group. They can learn from each other and grow in strength.



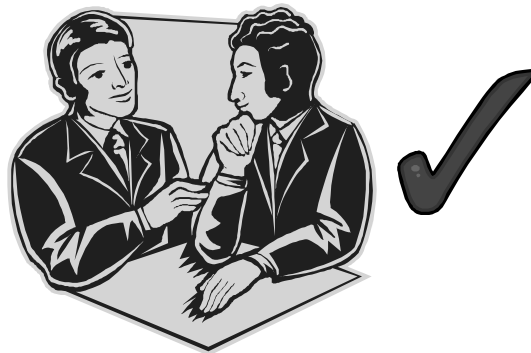
10. People had different ideas about what kind of business support they would like.



Some people said that support is already available and asked us to make sure that services are not duplicated.

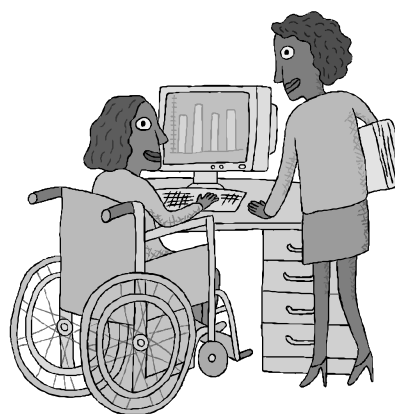


But a lot of people were really interested in getting very good, expert advice from the London-wide organisation.



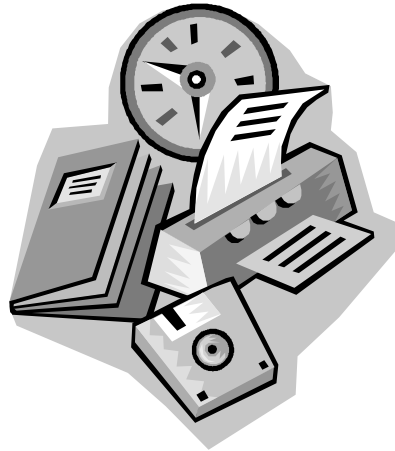
Some people thought that people who know a lot about business could visit different offices and tell the management privately how they could improve on different things.

Others said they would welcome very good training, but it would have to be from experts and training that is not found anywhere else.



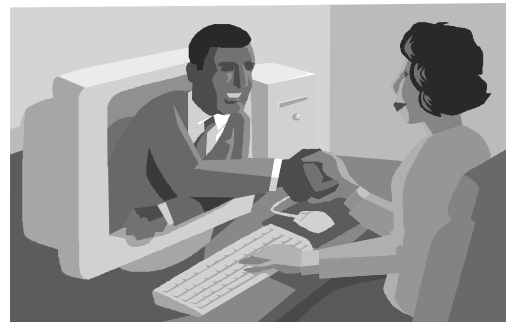
11. Finally, people told us that they would be interested in sharing resources with other groups.

The kind of resources they were thinking of were things that are hard to get hold of but would be really useful.



Popular ideas were:

- People who can help with computers and IT
- cheap printing and office supplies
- the details of interpreters and emergency PAs.



If these things were available cheaply, it could mean that groups could be able to compete with organisations much bigger than them when it comes to bidding for a project.



It could also mean that they are able to contact more people that would find their services useful.



The ideas that you have just read have been seen by Sue Maynard-Campbell. Sue is putting together an outline of what the London-wide organisation could look like.



These ideas are important for Sue to understand what the organisation needs to do and what kind of skills people who work there should have.

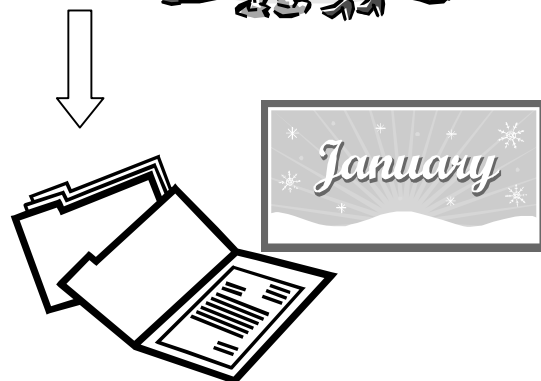


But this is not the final report!

Everyone who contacted us to tell us their thoughts is being sent this paper. They all have a chance to tell us what they think about the ideas we have and to give us any extra information in case we have missed anything.



The final report will have all these extra ideas in it. We will give this to the project board in January 2008 and after that the London-wide organisation will start to be built.



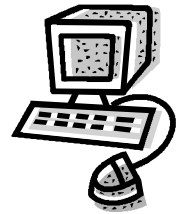
**Please let us know your thoughts and ideas about this report.**

**Please contact us before 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007. We cannot include any ideas we hear about after this date.**

**You can write to us by post:  
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