

How

Learning Disability England

is set up in law.



Learning Disability England



This work is based on a document written by:

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
134 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2ES

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How Learning Disability England (LDE) will work legally

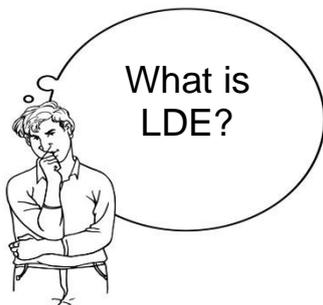


This note tells you how LDE is set up in law. It tells you about the rules that say how LDE will run. These rules are called the **Articles of Association**.

The Articles of Association are a legal document.

This note is not a legal document but it does tell you about the Articles in an easier way.

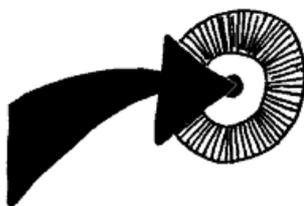
What is Learning Disability England?



LDE is a company and a charity.

As a **company**, LDE can do things like employ people or own property in its own name, not in the names of its staff or its members.

As a **charity**, it has to work for the benefit of everyone, and stick to the rules for charities.



LDE has to say what it aims to do. These aims are called **Objects**.

Learning Disability England's Objects



Here are LDE's Objects

LDE aims to support people with physical or learning difficulties and their families or carers by giving advice, improving awareness, training, and other kinds of support in relation to their housing, care or support needs.

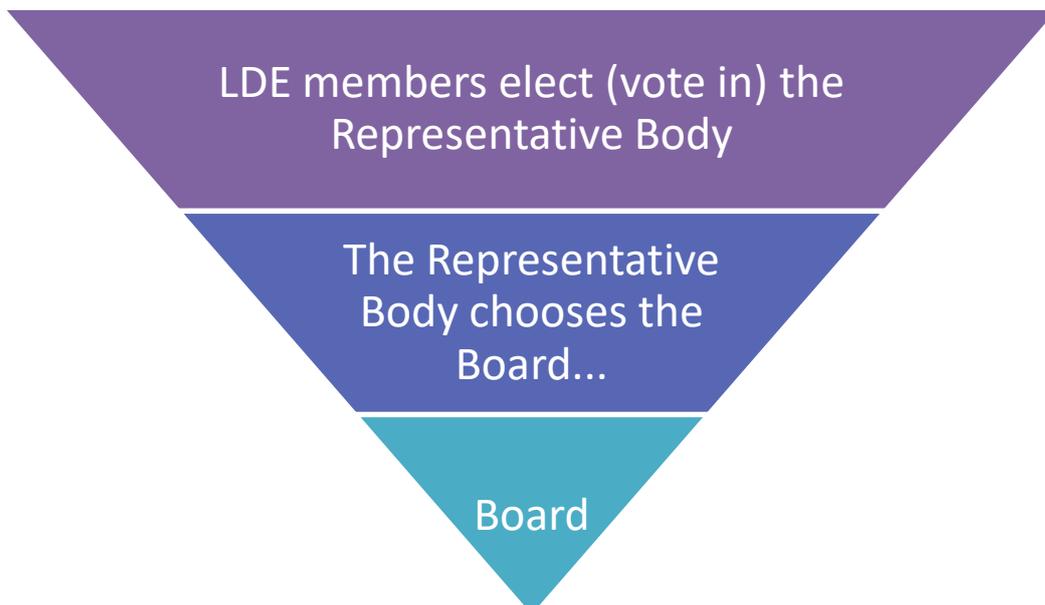
This is how LDE works



LDE is made up of:

- Members,
- A Representative Body,
- The Board

Employees (staff) are there to support the organisation – not control it



Learning Disability England's Members

LDE has 3 different groups of members. These groups are:

1. People with learning disabilities
2. Organisations that work with people with learning disabilities
3. Family members, friends and people who care about what happens to people with learning disabilities



How do you become a Member?



You can become a Member by filling in a form or going online.



Learning Disability England



To become a member, you need to pay a membership fee.

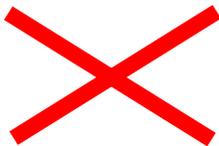
Membership stops if:



You write to LDE to end your membership.



You die.



There is a reason why you can't be a member any more.

For example, if an organisation closes and is no longer an organisation, they would have to stop being a member.



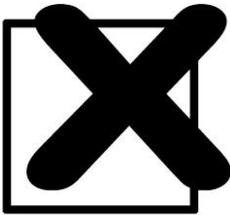
You act in a way that harms LDE.

For example, if you are violent at one of our events.



For an organisation, they could damage LDE if they opened a big institution where people with learning disabilities were treated badly.

How do you have your say?



You can have your say when members vote for the Representative Body.



We also ask our members to vote on important things to find out what they think.



You can have your say at a **General Meeting** too.

This is a meeting that all members get invited to.



LDE will write to everyone to tell them when these meetings will be.

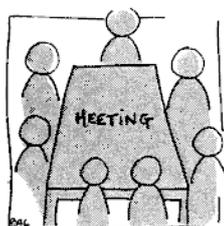
Rules about general meetings



Having enough people

At the Members' meeting, there must be enough people to make a decision.

That number is called a **quorum**.



Chair

The chair will make sure there are enough people. If there are not enough people, the chair will stop the meeting



What do you need to do to take part?

You have to attend the meeting in person or by **proxy**.



Proxy

A proxy is someone who goes to the meeting and votes for you.

You tell them how you want to vote and they do it for you.



To be counted as being at the meeting you must be see or hear, and comment and vote.

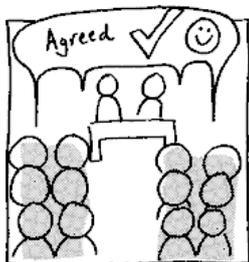
This could be by being in the room, or it could be by Skype or phone.

Who can vote and how are decisions made?



Only members can vote.

Each member has one vote.



A resolution is an important decision.

For a resolution to be passed, each group of members (people with learning disabilities, families and friends, and organisations) must agree.

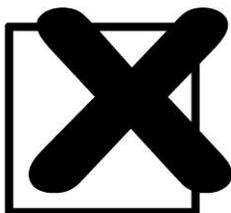
What is the Representative Body?



The members of the Representative Body steer LDE by making important decisions about what we say and do.

The Representative Body is made up of:

- 4 people with learning disabilities
- 4 Family members
- 4 people from organisations
- 3 LDE staff
- A Board member



The Representative Body are chosen by a vote. People with learning disabilities vote for their representatives, families vote for their representatives, and organisations vote for their representatives.



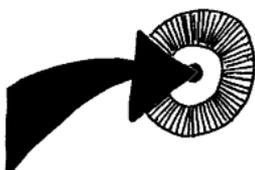
Learning Disability England



The Representative Body represent LDE's members and try to do what most members want.



The members of the Representative Body work together as a team.



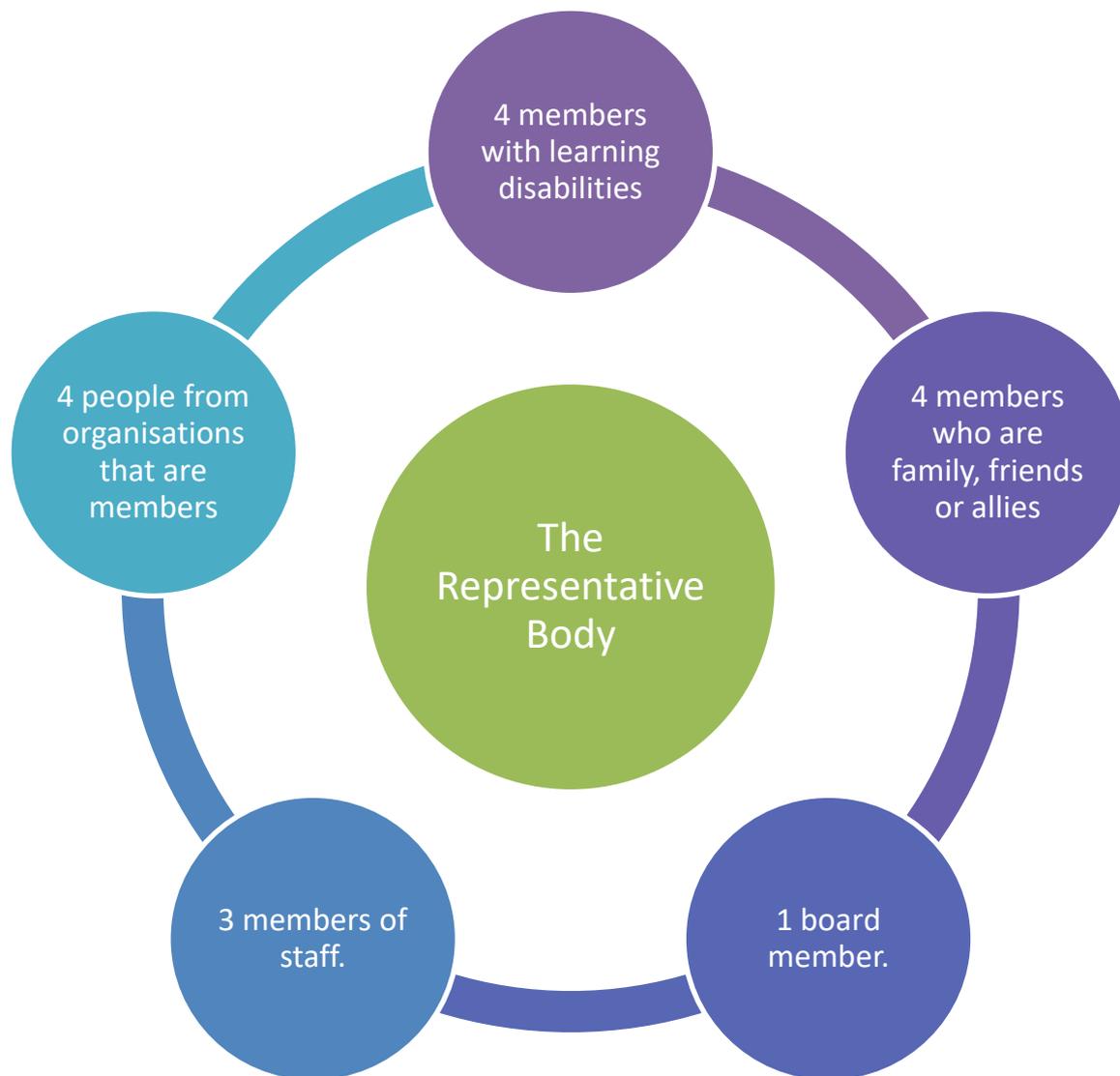
They make sure LDE stays true to our values and is always working towards our goals.

They are not responsible for the day-to-day running of LDE.



The Representative Body chooses LDE's Board

The Representative Body will look like this:



The three staff members will be:

- A member of staff who is a self-advocate.
- A member of staff who is a family member.
- A member of staff who works with our member organisations.

The Board



The Board is responsible for managing the business side of LDE.

The Board is made up of 8 to 10 people.



These people are chosen because they have the right skills and experience to manage LDE and make sure it sticks to the law and has enough money.



The Board members stay on the Board for 3 years.

The difference between the Representative Body and the Board



The Board Members make sure that LDE keeps the law and has enough money.

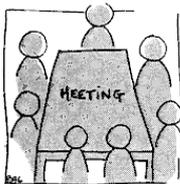
They have to think about these things when they make decisions for LDE



The Board and Representative Body will work together to decide on the best way to choose Board members.



The Board can remove members and Board Members of LDE who are not acting in the best interests of LDE.



Chair

The Board choose a Chair. They may also choose a Co-Chair.

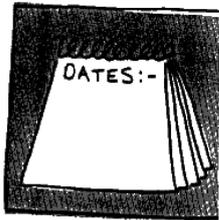


Learning Disability England



Any Board Member can ask for a Board Meeting to be held.

Board Members must be given 7 days' notice of a Board Meeting



A Board Meeting can be held in less than 7 days if at least 5 Board Members say in writing that a meeting should be held more quickly.



Each Board Member will have 1 vote
If the decision receives equal votes for and against the Chair will receive an additional vote, this is called the casting vote.

Any questions?



If you have any questions, contact LDE.

You can call us on 0300 201 0455



Or you can email us at info@LDEngland.org.uk