Learning Disability Nursing
Report on service user involvement

Services users from different areas in North Yorkshire are involved with the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York in a number of ways.

Including:

1. Providing practice experience for student nurses on the pre-registration nursing course.

   In the second and third year of the course students from the Learning Disability field of practice link directly with service users who will form a major part of their experience within the structure of 'Individual Led Practice'.

   In two areas service users have developed ways to be directly involved in assessing students who are working with them and this forms part of the overall practice assessment.

2. Providing support for staff during interviews of candidates / people wishing to start on the Learning Disability course.

   There are several service users who are involved and who form equal, active parts of interview teams.

3. Teaching groups of students in the first year of the course and on field specific modules for students on the Learning Disability course.
The session in the first year is to full student groups ranging in size from 80-160 people. This session is part of the module ‘Social Inclusion’.

The modules later on in the course have in-puts from service users in areas such as Health Needs, Empowerment, Working with Families.

These teaching sessions invariably evaluate very positively and give students on the course a real insight into the experience of people with a learning disability.

The most recent session involved a full year one student group of over 160 students including both nursing and midwifery courses and from the returned evaluations, students made explicit reference to York People First as part of the module to commend.

It is worth noting that at the end of the session the students gave York People First a spontaneous round of applause, an act not frequently experienced by lecturers in the Department.

4. Course Management Team (CMT): this is co-chaired by a service user and has service user representatives as members. Other members of the CMT include GP’s, service managers, representatives from independent sector, social services and education as well as student reps.

The minutes of all meetings and module evaluations are written in plain English and annotated with pictures as found on this document.