

# Making

# Consultation

# Work



A guide for agencies that consult with people with learning disabilities, parents and carers

Communities  
Scotland  
Working for housing  
and regeneration



# Making Consultation Work

*Less jargon please and more informal meetings.*

*I think the conference was*

**ENABLE Scotland** is Scotland's leading charity supporting children and adults with learning disabilities and their families. It has over 4000 members across Scotland, a network of local membership branches and runs a wide range of community-based services.

*We need informal gatherings to gather opinions from parents and carers to inform the wider debate.*

This guide is the result of a project involving ENABLE Scotland members, funded by

Communities Scotland, to engage local people more in community planning. It involved members across Scotland, from Caithness to Dumfries and Galloway.

As an organisation rooted in the community, ENABLE Scotland knows that the best people to shape and guide services are those that receive them. Traditionally, people with learning disabilities and family carers are a group who have been little consulted and whose voice has not been heard. Times have changed and now there is greater emphasis on involving all parts of the community in local development.

*We have good contact mechanisms. Statutory authorities seemed to want genuinely to listen.*

***the stakeholders  
worked really well!***

**ENABLE Scotland's** Community Planning project demonstrated that, with a modest amount of thought and support, much can be achieved in enabling people with learning disabilities and their families to be consulted in planning the future for themselves and their communities.

Consultation, however, is not enough. Consultation should be the start of an ongoing process of involvement that can develop into true partnership between those who plan services and those who use them.



Consulting with your community can seem daunting but it's not as hard as it seems. The key is communication with people in a way that they want.

Based on the experiences of people with learning disabilities and family carers, overleaf are our top tips for agencies that want to consult with and involve people in the planning and development of local services.

***The meeting was announced in the local paper. From that, there now is a focus group.***

***The Learning Disability Nurse talked through the agenda with us before the meeting.***

Our thanks to all those involved in this project and to Communities Scotland.

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A copy of this leaflet and the full report can be found at [www.enable.org.uk](http://www.enable.org.uk) .