

WORKING TOGETHER PRINCIPLES- BREAKING BARRIERS LEAP

1) The Partnership Recognises and Values Lived Experience

The LEAP will recognise and value lived experience, ensuring that members feel respected and acknowledged as “Experts by Experience.” Members will be able to see how their contributions are heard and used in shaping the work, reinforcing the importance of their involvement.

2) The Partnership is a Two-Way Street

The LEAP will work as a partnership where lived experience meaningfully shapes decisions and direction. Involvement will be co-**produced** where possible and not tokenistic, with shared purpose and shared power at the heart of the work.

3) The Partnership is guided by Confidentiality, Consent and Respect

The LEAP will make confidentiality clear at the beginning and ensure members can express their wishes for publications (e.g., name use or anonymity). Consent will always be requested and can be withdrawn on certain elements, such as quotes. Permission will be asked before recording, and members will be made aware in advance of any guests who may be in attendance. The LEAP will also agree a group agreement in the first session covering confidentiality, respect for diverse opinions, acceptance of views, and clarity that harmful or unsafe behaviour is not tolerated.

4) The Partnership strives to create a Safe Space Together

The LEAP will work together to create a safe space for participation, recognising that people may need different things to feel able to take part. Members will have ways to share what supports their involvement, including the option to give anonymous feedback and will be supported to use any accommodations they need.

5) The Partnership makes sure Everyone is Heard and Included

The LEAP will make sure everyone feels like they are heard and create space for people to put out alternate views. Facilitation approaches will support balanced participation and help ensure no one voice unintentionally dominates. It will also avoid the use of jargon so conversations remain accessible, and it will be aware of everyone’s abilities and voices without oversimplifying or “dumbing down” contributions.

6) The Partnership encourages Open and Non-Judgmental Communication

The LEAP will encourage curiosity and explore different views in a non-judgmental and open way, turning differences in opinion into learning opportunities. Communication will take place in a safe environment, with opportunities at different stages for members to ask questions, add thoughts, or suggest amendments. The LEAP will make it clear that all feelings and expressions are welcome.

7) The Partnership upholds Fair and Neutral facilitation

The LEAP will ensure that facilitators remain neutral and uphold fairness in all discussions. The group will agree a communication style that supports inclusive participation.

8) The Partnership endeavours to support Participation that Works for Everyone

The LEAP will provide scope for members to ask for accommodations and create space for these to be enacted so that everyone can take part in a way that works for them. The group will also regularly check in on how the group is going to ensure that participation remains comfortable and accessible for everyone.

9) The Partnership provides Opportunities to Contribute to How We Work

The LEAP will offer members the opportunity, where possible, to take on roles or support group tasks. This invitation reinforces collaboration and shared ownership, while recognising that capacity and resources may vary. The LEAP will also remain open to adapting how the group works where this improves the experience for members.

10) The Partnership is Transparent and Keeps Members Informed

The LEAP will provide clear information on roles, objectives, timelines, and expectations, and will establish a main point of contact for members. The LEAP will offer regular updates on project progress and share how the group's contributions are influencing the work.