



## **Collaborative Working Towards Greater Community Care**

### **Learning Disabilities**

WeAre1 is proud to be able to engage people with all types of disability in stimulating, enjoyable activities. We work with people with learning disabilities, mental health problems and physical disabilities. Some of our service users have a combination of these, which has in the past excluded them from accessing useful services, due to the assessment criteria of organisations that cater only for certain aspects of disability.

Having worked in the field of Mental Health for many years, it was apparent from our own assessments that many potential service users had dual diagnosis. For example, in addition to a mental health problem, they may also have been diagnosed with a learning disability. Because of the assessment criteria of the organisation we were unable to accept these people because of that dual diagnosis. That did not seem right to us.

Working with other organisations that care for those with other disabilities has inspired us to push at limitations that exist within the care system and to encourage collaborative working with different organisations that excel in their own specialised field.

Of course, WeAre1 recognises the differences between types of disability and the varying ways in which they affect the individual. However, we have seen from our pilot programmes that something positive can be gained by all who attend, at whatever level. For example, someone who is otherwise high-functioning but who suffers from a mental health problem can find it extremely rewarding to interact and engage with those with other disabilities.

Our aim is to introduce more individuals to our sessions, and to promote the fact that anyone can come along and enjoy the music and dancing and just let their hair down! We can also start our Music & Dance Therapy sessions at different locations so that your own service users can have this activity on a regular basis.

Learning Disability / Physical Disability / Mental Health / Carers & Family

**WeAre1**