

A note about accessible presentations

The Social History of Learning Disability conferences are inclusive events. The audience is made up of a wide variety of people, for example:

- Academics
- Practitioners
- People with learning difficulties
- Family members, friends and advocates

We ask that papers are presented in a way that makes them as accessible and engaging as possible for all members of the audience.

Key points to remember when writing your presentation are:

- Please use simple, straightforward language wherever possible and avoid jargon.
- If you do need to introduce a term or acronym that people may not be familiar with, please explain to audience members what that term means.
- Think about different ways to help people understand what you are presenting. For example, in the past we have found that using **visual images** (for example, photographs, drawings) can help people with learning difficulties to really engage with the material. You may also wish to incorporate pieces of **audio** or **video recordings** into your paper if you have them available.
- Be careful about how much content you include in your paper – it is important that the pace is steady so that people don't get left behind.
- Although the conference is chaired (and quite strictly so!), occasionally people do call out questions from the floor. When you are writing your paper it is always good to anticipate that you may lose one or two minutes answering a question from the floor.

You may also find it useful to take a look at these links about making information accessible:

www.easyinfo.org.uk

www.mencap.org.uk (These guidelines can be downloaded in PDF format)

www.bristol.ac.uk/norahfry/easy-information

www.changepeople.co.uk

A note on terms and labels

Finally, we also request that you use historical terms and labels sensitively. Papers that explore history sometimes require speakers to use words that are now considered to be offensive. Although it is fine for these terms to be used in papers, it is helpful for speakers to clarify why they are referring to those terms. It is also good to acknowledge that these terms can be upsetting for people, and so you will use them as sparingly as possible.