

# Meetings with art!

## Getting creative in meetings

In May, tenants were invited to a meeting in Leeds to create artwork and chat about RWP's new tenant committee. Natalie, RWP's Customer Voice Officer, leads these tenant meetings and uses art and creativity to make sure they are fun and to help tenants focus and relax.



Sandra is making bunting

## Creating artwork

Our tenant, Sandra enjoys attending the meetings and taking part in the creative activities. **"I enjoy coming to the meetings because I like to hear about other people's properties and experiences because they are different to mine. I also like the activities that we do as well. It is nice to bring new people in and meet old friends too. I like to share my feedback, especially on the repairs service,"** says Sandra.

Natalie explains how tenants can relax in the meetings and have fun.

**"It is great to see our tenants enjoying themselves, meeting people and making friends. I think it is important to this group that we maintain a fun and creative environment. Moving away from a more traditional meeting format seems to help people to relax and feel more comfortable in giving feedback. This feedback helps us to improve the service we deliver to them."**

## Feedback on tenant committee meetings

Tenants Sandra, Fiona, and John said that they enjoy art and having an activity while they are talking and listening in meetings. They also said that meetings should avoid using long words that are hard to understand, and that meetings could take place online, where tenants can be supported in the meeting by colleagues from RWP.



From left: John, Fiona, Carlana, Carl, Alan, Sandra and Natalie

# Learning Disability Awareness Week

**To support Learning Disability Awareness Week (17–21 June), Leeds Learning Disability People's Parliament hosted a council chambers takeover at Leeds Civic Hall.**

## Leeds Learning Disability community

The Leeds Learning Disability community, including many RWP tenants, came together to speak up and be heard! Their participation will help to make real changes to their experience when accessing services such as healthcare and transport.

Participants were invited to quiz the panellists on things they are worried about like staying safe. The panel had representatives from Leeds City Council, the NHS, the police, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, First Bus and Forum Central.

## Issues raised at the council takeover

Key issues raised included transport accessibility, getting out at night, staying safe and personal support plans.

Those taking part made some great suggestions to help improve services. A suggestion was made that councillors shadow people with a learning disability for a day to experience first-hand what their lives are really like. Councillor Salma Arif thought that was a brilliant suggestion and she promised to try and make it happen!

## Tenants join the Learning Disability Pride March

After the council chambers takeover, a crowd gathered in Millennium Square to join the Learning Disability Pride March. The group marched proudly across the city with a sense of community and togetherness, towards the Being Social information event at Leeds Kirkgate Market. Stallholders from a range of organisations came together, offering a wide range of information, activities, support, advocacy, and opportunities to the Learning Disability Community in Leeds.



The event was brought to a dramatic close with a charming and colourful performance from Aspire's Dramarama, who entertained the audience by making sure they left with a big smile on their faces.

