

Second Community of Practice Session

Staff briefing · 3 June 2026 · Cross-system LDaA Community of Practice

Kent and Medway
Mental Health NHS Trust

43

attended
(holding from
Session 1)

38

reactions on
breakout
reflection question

1

concrete connection
brokered in the
room

5

thematic threads —
3 deepening, 2 new

What we did

Second session of the cross-system LDaA Community of Practice. 43 participants attended — attendance held from Session 1, which is meaningful evidence the group is forming, not fading. First session with breakout rooms working. Co-led by Ruth Germaine and Chloe Farahar. Introduced new discussion principles (acknowledge, accept, ask, stay curious, honour pace, protect safety). CoP moved from coalescing into early shared practice — including the first brokered system connection.

What we heard

Five thematic threads — 3 deepening from Session 1, 2 new:

- Lived experience leadership made operationally visible**
Moved from principle (settled) to 'how are we ensuring this in practice?' Multi-identity participants speaking up.
- Intersectionality named as structural demand**
Explicit, repeated calls — including a request for a black/brown ambassador role. Not a quiet aside this time.
- Anti-talking-shop demand for visible action**
'Lots of meetings and nothing changes' — paired with a structural alternative: sub-groups feeding into action group.
- System knowledge and mapping as collective practice [new]**
Shared understanding of what is out there, how the system works. Maturing of the Session 1 directory suggestion.
- Accessibility — including one request not upheld [new]**
A direct 'I feel unheard' contribution. Requires explicit acknowledgement and visible response at Session 3.

What is beginning to happen

Early signs of shared practice forming:

- Connection brokered: lived expert carer groups linked to service need
- 9 of 12 respondents named concrete next actions to take back into work
- Discussion principles introduced — one participant taking them to MDT
- External LD Week 2026 event invitation shared with the group
- Closing affect: hopeful, motivated, called to action dominate

What happens next

- ▶ Session 3 acknowledges what we heard and what we have changed
- ▶ Sessions extending from 1.5 to 2 hours; curated breakouts 6–8 with a chair
- ▶ Bi-monthly rhythm from Session 4, with lived-expert-only preparation meetings in off-months
- ▶ Begin collaborative system mapping; act visibly on intersectionality