





Creating the conditions for collaboration

VODG is the national body that represents leading voluntary disability, care and support organisations. Whilst our members are diverse in terms of their size, history and individual strategies we all share common values. These values are discernible through the promotion of rights for disabled people, approaches to citizenship and user choice and control.

VODG members lead the sector in terms of delivering high quality person-centred services, developing new and innovative services and investing in the workforce.

VODG works on behalf of its members to influence and promote positive developments in the sector. We create the conditions that enable providers to collaborate – we offer space to stop, think and to explore issues and ideas and new ways of working. Our values are brought together in a vision for full choice and control for disabled people.

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It connects me to thinking and practice from others who are grappling with the same issues and challenges as our organisation.



Networks





A highly networked approach

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VODG blends a focus on influencing the external operating environment with supporting providers to work together to effect positive change. We draw on sector stakeholders, industry expertise and the strengths of our membership base to promote the development of progressive, high quality and sustainable services for disabled people.

Being part of the network offers an opportunity to share new ideas, new thinking and best practice which is focussed on the needs of the people we support.

VODG is a highly networked organisation. Reaching over 2000 individuals each year our networks and events offer time and space for peers to come together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and shared understanding. Some events provide peer support to facilitate shared learning and good practice, whilst others focus on building capability by offering opportunities for learning and development. We invite high quality speakers at the cutting edge of innovation and policy to inform the development of positive and practical change. In addition, task force groups foster collaboration and alliances to address specific issues that may require targeted activities.

- Twenty four member led network meetings each year across eight professional groupings.
- Additional special interest meetings to address key issues and foster crosssector collaboration.
- Opportunities for learning and development across England.



Our professional networks

Our networks are chaired by senior leaders, with a relevant professional background. Network meetings seek to:

- Identify the priorities of members for VODG to champion these views at the highest levels by harnessing a collective expert voice that is authoritative and informed by experience.
- Provide the inside track on sector developments through timely and accessible information and engaging speakers.
- Develop peer networking, including opportunities to share ideas, good practice, concerns and solutions with people working in a similar context.
- Engage, inspire and spark positive change for people using services and providers. Where there is a strong collective voice, VODG members will take a stand together to make a positive difference.
- Act as central point of contact for Government, regulators, policy makers and other organisations through which disability, care and support providers can be consulted in a systematic way.
- Use research and intelligence gathering to evidence change and contribute to sector knowledge.

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For me the network represents an opportunity to meet, share with and learn from my peers in other organisations. I get the benefit of hearing about the challenges we share and how others have solved them and the great practice that's already going on in our sector. I get to take all that wisdom and experience back. It's win-win.



We also encourage members to connect with each other through our online platform. This enables members to engage in an ongoing conversation and, on request, receive timely support and advice from peers.

A quick and easy way to get advice from others and there is always a great response to questions we ask.

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VODG's networks



VODG members



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Thank you for all the support you have given myself, my team and organisation over the years. The network meetings are an excellent opportunity to hear practical ways of solving problems. The information disseminated is vital for keeping me up to date with changing requirements and legislation. As a small organisation we cannot influence government in the all the areas VODG is able to.

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