Membership of the steering group

In October 2025, Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE and Sharon Brennan were appointed as co-chairs of the Timms Review, to work alongside the Minister for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms.

Together, the co-chairs brought lived and living experience of disability and long-term health conditions, and professional experience of health, social care, disability benefits and employment sectors, alongside diverse first-hand experience of navigating these systems. The co-chairs were appointed in advance of the steering group to help develop a shared vision for the Review, establish the co-production process, and run the expression of interest campaign to recruit the steering group.

There were over 340 applications for the steering group from which 12 members were appointed in January 2026. Members were appointed against published criteria designed to bring together a broad range of lived experience, professional expertise and perspectives including members with direct experience of working within DPOs.

The steering group is diverse in terms of various characteristics, including geography, ethnicity, and sexuality. Almost all steering group members have personal experience of disability or long-term health

conditions, alongside experience drawn from policy development, advocacy, service delivery, employment, research, trade unions, social care and the voluntary sector.

Membership of the steering group is as follows:

- Sharon Brennan



Sharon Brennan brings expertise in person-centred approaches to strategic change in the health and care system. Her previous roles include Director of Policy and External Affairs at National Voices; a coalition of health and care charities focused on lived experience and health inequalities and advising the Department for Transport on accessibility as a member of the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee.

- Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE



Dr Clenton Farquharson brings more than 25 years' experience as a national advocate for disability rights, co-production, and social justice. As Associate Director at Think Local Act Personal, a former Trustee of Disability Rights UK, and a board member of the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), Clenton helps to shape innovative strategies that strengthen accessibility, co-production, and inclusion.

- Sir Stephen Timms



Sir Stephen Timms holds the post of Minister of State for Social Security and Disability at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). From previous ministerial roles, and as a former Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee, Sir Stephen has developed expert knowledge of the issues faced by disabled people.

- Dr Mark Brookes MBE



Mark Brookes is the Advocacy Lead for Dimensions UK. He has more than 30 years' experience in publicly advocating for people with learning disabilities and autism and campaigning against hate crime. Mark works with the Churchill Foundation, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the NHS Advisory Board, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Home Office, and UK Police forces.

- George Fielding BEM



George Fielding is a disability rights advocate who has worked nationally across many public services, with operational expertise in youth work, social care, and community capacity building. He is co-founder of Insightful Disability. He has previously co-founded two CQC-regulated social care providers whilst initiating and developing three youth-led social movements, working to develop intergenerational best practice in social change. He is non-executive advisor to three community interest companies which specialise in co-production.

- Tara Flood



Tara Flood is a long-time disability rights activist who has worked at a local, national and international level. She is currently Head of Co-production at the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. She champions the Social Model of Disability and finding ways to embed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, working with residents to drive policy change and the redesign and delivery of services at a local level.

- Dr Mark Fosbrook PLY



Mark Fosbrook is a retired Paralympic athlete who brings his own lived experience and constantly draws on knowledge from others through a person-centred, values-led and solution-focused mindset. Currently he is Disability Inclusion Manager at West Midlands Combined Authority leading on making the West Midlands an Exemplary Region for Disabled People through coproduction to improve services, change systems and influence attitudes across jobs, journeys, homes, growth and Health, Social Care and Wellbeing.

- Ben Geiger



Ben Geiger is a Professor at King’s College London, who brings academic expertise as well as experience in policy development (including from within the Department for Work and Pensions) and co-production. He currently leads the Welfare Experiences project (comparing how it feels to claim benefits in five countries) and previously co-led the major rapid response study of benefits during COVID-19.

- Katrina Gilman



Katrina Gilman is a passionate advocate for disability equality, drawing on lived experience of multiple disabilities and her role as a carer. After 25 years as a member of police staff where she worked closely with disabled members of the community, Katrina now works to break down barriers and champion fairness, accessibility, and opportunity – driving change that empowers disabled people to thrive.

- Jean-André Prager



Jean-André Prager is a Senior Fellow at Policy Exchange and a Director at Flint Global who has an extensive policy background in PIP and broader disability issues. He was previously the Prime Minister’s Special Adviser covering the Department for Work and Pensions from 2018 to 2024.

- Dr Lucy Reynolds



Dr Lucy Reynolds is a social entrepreneur, public speaker and disability rights advocate. Founder of We Are All Disabled CIC and Chair of Disability North, she champions an Affirmative approach to disability, using lived experience and academic research to challenge perceptions and drive inclusive cultural change.

- Dr Felix Shi



Dr Felix Shi brings lived experience as a disabled academic, alongside comparative insights into disability policy across multiple national contexts. As a former board member of Disability Wales and a current member of the Arfon Access Group, Felix works to connect policymakers with grassroots DDPOs in Wales.

- Dr Dharshana Sridhar



Dr Dharshana Sridhar is Head of Public Affairs at the Spinal Injuries Association, representing the voices of people with spinal cord injuries nationally. With lived experience as a long-term carer and extensive UK Government and international policy expertise, she works to shape fair social security policy and champion the rights, dignity and independence of disabled people and marginalised communities.

- Phil Stevens



Phil Stevens is Chief Executive of Disability Action Haringey and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Disability Action in Islington. He is a disabled leader with extensive experience in user-led advocacy, policy, and strategic development, working to advance rights, access, and inclusion for D/deaf and inclusive events for disabled people across London.

- Leila Talmadge



Leila Talmadge is an autistic and dyslexic project manager and designer. As the former Chair of the Board of Trustees at Daytrippers charity, which provided inclusive events for disabled young people in the UK, and former Director of Autistic Knowledge Development in Scotland, she brings expertise in creating inclusive spaces.