

# Supported Loving

A national network to share, learn and develop ways of working alongside people with learning disabilities to explore friendship, sexuality, relationships and love!



Supported Loving

choicesupport  
make life more interesting

TIZARD  
University of Kent

Paradigm  
connecting people, ideas and action

The desire to belong, to have friends, to be loved are desires shared by all human beings. Dr Claire Bates (Choice Support) has recently completed a research project that powerfully highlights that many people with learning disabilities struggle to develop friendships, have intimate relationships and find love.

- **It's time** to figure out what it is that gets in the way of people experiencing such freedoms
- **It's time** to ensure people with learning disabilities are supported to explore all aspects of life
- **It's time** to ensure support staff are confident in helping people navigate the ups and downs of relationships.

**Join us.**  
**Let's share, learn and act together!**

We regularly hear about support and creative initiatives across the country focusing on relationships and love BUT there is no national focus on sharing the work, the resources and connecting people to share ideas and develop their work. We are committed to connecting people, ideas and action!

In February Claire will be launching 'Supported Loving' a largely online forum to highlight what is helping and what is hindering people to find love. The aim: to highlight the importance of good support to help people with learning disabilities to develop loving relationships.

## A National Network

In addition, **Choice Support** is partnering with **Paradigm** and the **Tizard Centre** to host a national network for people who are committed to supporting people in truly valued, informed, creative ways to explore friendship, intimate relationship, sexuality and love.

### Who is the network for?

IF YOU HAVE recently facilitated some work in relation to love and sexuality AND would like to share and learn with us please get in touch.

Self-advocates, family members and staff/professionals are welcome to share their work. Participants will be asked to:

- Share some examples of positive relationship support you have in your organisation
- Consider what you think are the main barriers to people forming relationships
- Share the main issues you face in regard to relationships for the people you support in your organisation.

### We will:

- learn together
- share our work and resources
- identify barriers
- figure out, together, how best to free people to live good lives with the right support and
- share our learning and action nationally.





Places limited  
to  
30 people

**When:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Where:** Choice Support, 100  
Westminster Bridge Road,  
London. SE1 7XA

**Time:** 11.00am – 3.30pm

**Cost:** £5 per person to  
contribute to lunch

**To find out more call:**

Claire Bates on 0207 261 4122 or  
Sally Warren on 020 8870 8643

TO BOOK SIMPLY E-MAIL  
[claire.Bates@choicesupport.org.uk](mailto:claire.Bates@choicesupport.org.uk)

"I don't understand why  
staff don't talk to me  
about love and sex.

We're all human aren't  
we?



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