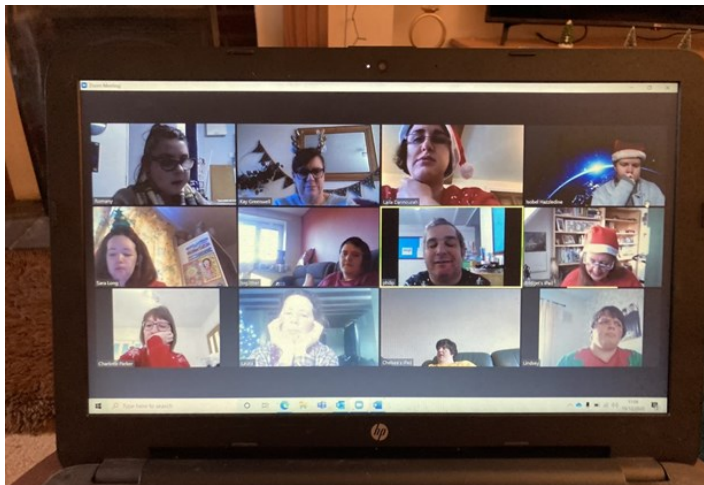
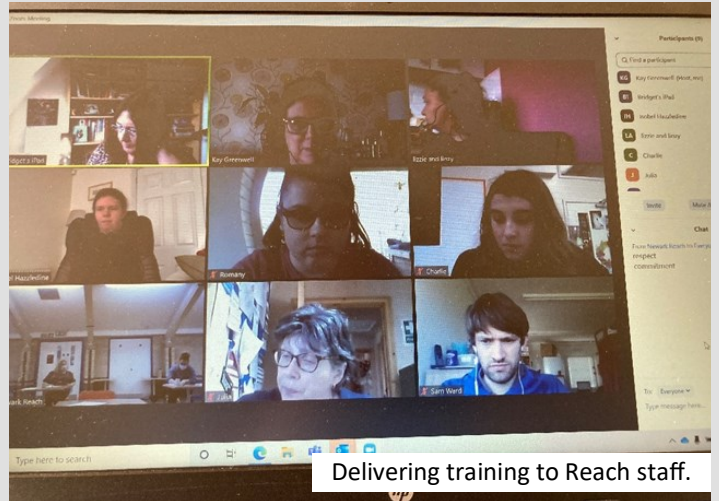


It has been a very busy spring for the Rose team. Despite the restrictions caused by Covid we have been able to carry out lots of activities. We will shortly reach our project target of training 120 professionals from various backgrounds including health, social care and education. We devised a two hour Zoom training session to help workers understand how to recognise sexual exploitation, to support people with learning disabilities to stay safe and to make change in their working practice. We have delivered training sessions to Portland College staff, Reach staff, early help teams from Lincolnshire, support staff from Glenmore Care, Future4Me, Lincs learning disability group and Lincs

Public Protection Team, in total ten sessions. We have more booked for May.



We also are starting to book more online training sessions for people with learning disabilities. Several

organisations have said they would prefer face to face delivery and so we are hoping to be able to deliver those from September.

We carried out our carers' survey at the end of last year. We had thirteen responses which gave an indication of concerns family carers have about keeping their family member safe from sexual exploitation. The team has put together an information session for family carers which can be delivered online or face to face. We hope to start delivering these over the summer.

We continue to have our monthly team meetings. We wore Christmas outfits for our December meeting

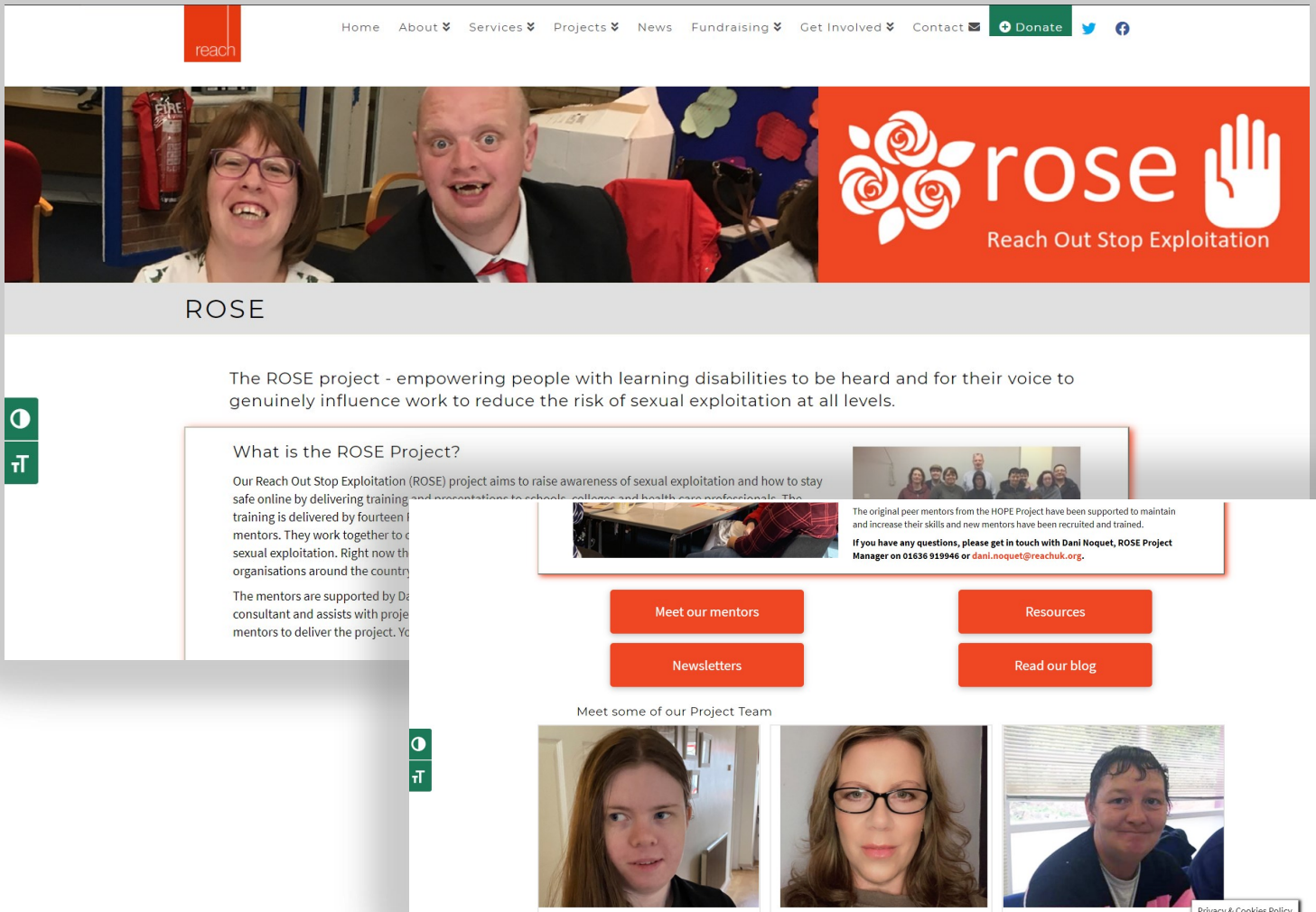
At our meeting in January we were joined by Dr Sophie Laws and Diana Parkinson from the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/>

They are preparing a guidance pathway for professionals to improve outcomes for young people experiencing sexual abuse. They wanted to discover what signs a person with learning disability might display if they were experiencing abuse. As this is strictly controlled academic research, they had to have ethical approval to question the Rose mentors. They were impressed at the depth of knowledge of the mentors and fed back that the session was very useful. Their research will be published later this year.

Some of the mentors felt confident to take part in the national research on the impact of Covid on people with learning disabilities. This has involved some in depth questioning by the researchers and the first findings have just been released. [bit.ly/3vw9KW1](https://bit.ly/3vw9KW1)



We have been raising the profile of the project (and Reach) by this work. To help with getting the project more widely known, we are having monthly Zoom meetings with the Reach communications team( Comms). Isobel represents the mentors at these meetings. The Comms team have helped us put together the flyer which led to the big increase in bookings for training. They have also revamped our web page. <https://reachuk.org/projects/rose/>



There are photos of all the team on the page. We have now introduced a monthly blog which each mentor will have a chance to contribute. See the webpage for blogs by Laila and Sara. Laila also contributed a short film interview of our work for the compilation of good practice ARC are making for the Dept. of Health.



We have also written some Tweets for the Ann Craft Trust, Nottingham University. Dr Deborah Kitson and Prof. Rachel Fyson of the Ann Craft Trust are the project's external evaluators. In March the produced their interim report on Rose. It was very positive about what we had achieved, especially in the current circumstances.

Also in March, we held a steering group meeting on Zoom and all members attended. The new mentor representatives, Lizzie and Laila took part. The meeting discussed ways to maintain this work when the current funding ends.

We had our annual review with the Samworth Foundation, project funders. <https://samworthfoundation.org.uk/youngvoices/awarded-grants>

They seemed pleased with everything we are doing and we are now moving into the third and final year of the project. There are six projects, including Rose, funded by the Samworth Foundation under their Young Voices program. They asked us to partner with another project in the portfolio to peer review our work. We have joined with the NSPCC, Plymouth and we had a Zoom meeting with them in April.

Laila, Lizzie and Isobel represented the mentors and were supported by Kay and Bridget. There were three staff members and three young people from



Plymouth on the call. We talked about what we had all been doing. They have produced a rap on making sure you have someone to talk to when you are worried about exploitation. We agreed to use it when we talk about 'someone to talk to' as part of the Ring of Safety we use when training young people. The Plymouth team are about to work in a special school and asked if we would deliver our training to the young people they will be working with.

Kay has arranged AQA accreditation for the mentors in peer mentoring and she and Bridget are going through their work records to evidence the work done by individual mentors.

We are pleased that so much work has been done since Christmas and our last newsletter. All the team prefer to work face to face. We have missed actually seeing each other and are very much looking forward to our May team meeting which will be an outdoor picnic. Together again!

## **ROSE Stands for.....**

**Reach** – supports everyone working on the project

**Out** – we are taking a message out to people

**Stop** – we want to stop bad things happening

**Exploitation** – when some body uses somebody else badly to get what they want