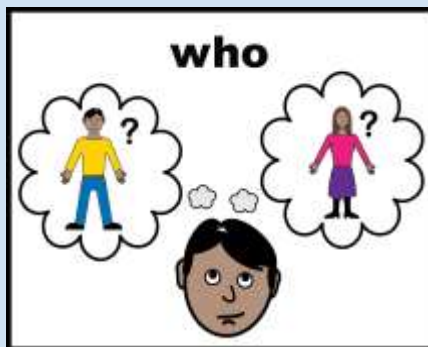


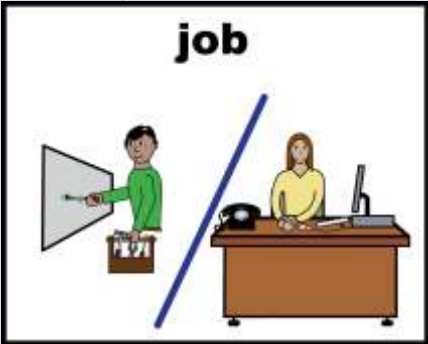
People's Parliament Employment Task Group Thursday 10th February 2022 Minutes



Attendees



- Dominique Burley - Asking You
- Sarah Wheatley - Connect in the North
- Claire Nixson - Advonet
- Elly
- David Norman
- Gavin
- Janet Allen
- Roddy
- George
- Ian
- Luke - Connect in the North
- Susan Hanley - Leep1
- Ian McCardle
- Kenneth Fletcher - Advonet
- Laura Clark - People Matters
- Madeleine Fahy - Connect in the North

	• Matt Belbrough - Mencap • Sally-Ann Greenfield - Lighthouse Futures Trust • Janine - Leep 1 • Amy Sutcliffe - Forum Central • Robert Stephens - Forum Central • Jez Coram - Forum Central
Susan Hanley opened the meeting and introduced our host, Robert.  	We want to get people's opinion on what employment is like for people with learning disabilities in Leeds and recruit people onto the Employment Task Group.
We did an ice breaker activity 	'When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?'

Sarah Wheatley told us about the last takeover event:



People's Parliament went to the Council Chambers to decide what would make Leeds a better place to live.

At the Thackray museum, people decided to focus on 'Power, control and jobs'.

Idea to celebrate employers that already do employ people with learning disabilities and shame those who don't.

We want the Employment Task Group to think about how to get employers to employ more people with learning disabilities.

Kenneth said it is important to talk about how difficulty getting employment affects your feelings. There needs to be a choice, people with learning disabilities have skills and should be able to do jobs which require those skills.

Jez introduced the Employment Task Group.

The Task Group is made up of many local charities and government groups, and tries to make the Being Me Strategy happen.

Being Me Strategy: a chance to experience work, being supported in work and to get the skills to get a job and keep it, being valued and appreciated in work.

There are 4 subgroups on the Employment Task Group:

- 1. Employer Engagement - making sure organisations employ people with learning disabilities.**
- 2. Pathways and Skills - joining up different organisations in Leeds to see what services exist.**
- 3. Being Employed Leeds Website - A website which shows jobs for people with learning disabilities and information like how to make a CV, courses to help you get a job. There's a button to press that reads the text out loud if you don't like reading.**
- 4. Coordination - If you want to get involved in the Task Group, contact Amy and Robert at**

	amy.sutcliffe@forumcentral.org.uk and robert.stephens@forumcentral.org.uk
Break 	We had a break
We went into breakout rooms to discuss good and bad things about people's experiences with employment. 	Good things: ★ Employers being understanding of adjustments that have to be made at work. ★ No starting paperwork when you get a job. ★ Having a trial shift instead of interview ★ Regular catch up with managers ★ People with and without learning disabilities co-working together. Reasonable adjustments are not hard to make. ★ Being awarded or recognised for unpaid work, like being given a certificate. ★ Job training and understanding what different jobs are like.



Bad things

- **Paperwork when starting a job**
- **It is scary that paid employment might affect benefits.**
- **Employers not being understanding of mental or physical health problems.**
- **Not everyone has the documents needed for a DBS check which some jobs require, like a passport or drivers licence.**
- **People who give training to people with learning disabilities need to be paid.**
- **Zero hour contracts are offered more to people with learning disabilities.**
- **Being picked on at work.**

**Response from Task
Group Members**

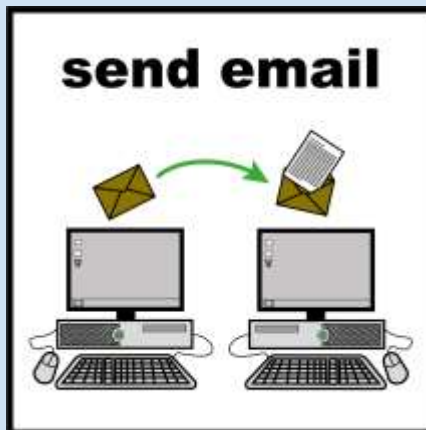


Sally-Ann works with employers and answers questions about employing people with learning disabilities.

It's good for employers to know about reasonable adjustments like accessible venues, work trials instead of interviews and using easy read materials.

People with learning disabilities don't currently attend these meetings but should attend the Employment Task Group meetings to have input into these discussions.

How to get involved with the Employment Task Group



We would like more people with learning disabilities to be members of the Employment Task Group. We are trying to make the Task Group more accessible.

If you have a passion for improving employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities, then please send an email to

amy.sutcliffe@forumcentral.org.uk

and

robert.stephens@forumcentral.org.uk.

You can attend our next meeting on Zoom on 24th February 10am-12pm and future meetings on Zoom also.

If you would like to be involved but don't want to come to the meeting, that's fine too! Just send us an email or call Claire who will pass your message on.

Any other business



Many people would like to see some easy read materials on how employment affects benefits.

Amy will find some materials and send them to everyone who attended.



Robert thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and sharing their views.

Thank you to Easy on the i for the images.