

link-up

Yorks & Humber



July 2014 Disabled People's User-Led Organisation Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the Yorkshire & Humberside regional Link Up newsletter. This is going to be a regional newsletter to let you know what other DPULO's are doing within the Yorkshire & Humberside and keep everyone informed of what's going on.



Jhon Bateman DPULO Young Ambassador

My name is Jhon Bateman and I am a Young DPULO Ambassador, working with Taiba Yasseen, a DPULO Ambassador.

I live in Leicestershire and I am currently studying towards my A Levels in Politics, Law, Sociology and History. Outside of my role as a Young DPULO Ambassador, I work with the Alliance for Inclusive Education and the National Children's Bureau, with a focus on ensuring young disabled people are given a voice in the issues that affect them, such as education and health services.

I have been in my role as a Young DPULO Ambassador for just over a year now, and in that time I have worked with several different organisations, including MOSAIC and Kidz Aware, in order to support them in their engagement with young people.

Each DPULO is unique, so the way they have worked to achieve this is different—but they all had the same aim in mind—they wanted to ensure that young disabled people were involved in shaping their organisations to best meet their needs.

I am really looking forward to my second year as a Young DPULO Ambassador, with a focus on ensuring that the project leaves a lasting legacy, where DPULOs continue to engage with young people and support each other in their regions.

Nayi Zindagi - New Life

Nayi Zindagi (New Life) is a DPULO for BME women with a learning disability based in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. The group has made a huge difference to the lives of women who were previously isolated and not accessing any services.

Members of Nayi Zindagi have grown in confidence and self esteem. The group has become a well recognised local organisation working in partnership with Life Act, a community drama for disabled adults, Speak Up and Keyring.

The group perform in community and school venues, and help to change perceptions of disabled people. They provide weekly activities that support them to live more independently and has fostered a greater understanding about disability agendas amongst BME communities.

Have your say...

Please share what challenges you face as a DPULO. How have you overcome them? Is there a question you need advice on, or just let us know what you would like to see in the future issues, email odi.businessperformance@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



Above: Louise Hunt, left, at **ecd p**

Future Focus at **ecd p**

Working in partnership with DPULO Ambassador Louise Hunt to shape a better tomorrow for young disabled people in Essex

One of our greatest values at **ecd p** is making the voices of disabled people heard and ensuring that decisions concerning disability are not made without the input of disabled people.

Supported by Paralympic tennis player and DPULO Ambassador Louise Hunt, **ecd p** ran a series of focus groups in January and February 2014 to discover the experiences and opinions of young disabled people. We wanted to forge a

network of people that could offer support to each other from their shared lived experience. These were the Future Focus groups.

Louise Hunt attended many of the groups and shared her experience and expertise with the focus groups and helped collect valuable insight from attendees.

The Future Focus groups allowed opinions to be collected from key disability groups including physical disabilities, sensory impairments, mental health, and learning disabilities.

William Snagge, Director of Policy and Development at **ecd p** said, 'there was an excellent turn out at all the events delivered and we've had lots of positive conversations. The experiences and opinions that attendees shared have given us real insight into the everyday experiences of young disabled people in Essex. This has enabled us to identify some key issues.'

ecd p is now ensuring that Future Focus research helps to shape services available to young people locally for the future. The full Future Focus report is available at ecd p.org.uk and participants from the groups met recently for a peer led social evening.

The whole initiative is a great example of how individuals can provide real input into regional and national services and policies - and work together to address local needs and personal aspirations.

Useful Links

Remember to Link us on Facebook !

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Young-DPULO-Ambassadors/446601028760890?fref=ts>

And follow us on Twitter ! <https://twitter.com/DPULOAmbassador>

Coming Soon:

Young Ambassadors's Community Challenge

