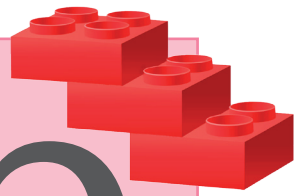


link-up

South West



July 2014 Disabled People's User-Led Organisation Newsletter

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



Chandos Green: DPULO Young Ambassador

My name is Chandos; I am 19 and study Social Work at Chichester University. My hopes are to run a charity of my own to help combat and support issues that arise within society such as disability hate crime and discrimination. Within my local communities both in Bournemouth and Chichester, I have worked and built networks with organisations that aim to help young people in and out of school and as they progress into higher education.

I also currently run a campaign called 'I Fight For', which looks at young people and the role of music in supporting them to do the things they love. We have funding from O2 Think Bigger and are finding new ways of raising money to support young people effected by long standing illness, such as the recording and release of a charity single.



Jhon Bateman DPULO Young Ambassador

My name is Jhon Bateman and I am a Young 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.

I have also worked with 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.

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

