

link-up London

July 2014 Disabled People's User-Led Organisation Newsletter

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



Chandos Green: DPULO Young Ambassador

My name is Chandos; I am 19 and currently 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 and charities 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 been given funding from O2 Think Bigger to the amount of £2,500 and are trying to find new ways of raising money to support

young people effected by long standing illness, such as the recording and release of a charity single.

I am currently working with Access Dorset a DPULO situated in Bournemouth who among a range of things run campaigns and support networks for people affected by disability in the local area.

They have recently asked me to join their board, where I am helping them to find new ways of running their organisation around young people.

They have recently been working with Bournemouth University, and are setting up a journalist program where articles are researched and written by the people who visit their organisation and topics are centred around what they want to say!

Chandos is currently undergoing treatment for cancer but despite his own health problems he is actively raising funds to release a single in aid of Southampton General Hospital, where he has been treated. Chandos is keen to progress the single and said "For this project my message is to say we can all work together. We all have different skills, different abilities, but we work best when we are all together. Everyone always has something they can contribute."

For updates and more information about how to help Chandos, visit facebook.

[iFightFor Campaign](#)

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

