

link-up

No.1, December 2013 Disabled People's User-Led Organisation Newsletter

Welcome to the first DPULO Newsletter. Link-up is intended to provide you with a flavour of the programme and the types of projects we are supporting as well as sharing best practice and good news stories. We hope you find this useful and we would really welcome your input and feedback.

The DPULO Programme — The Facts

- The DPULO Programme was launched by the Minister for Disabled People in July 2011.
- To date 170 DPULOs have been awarded funding of £2.9 million to deliver a variety of projects.
- The programme has 12 DPULO Ambassadors who work with DPULOs across the UK. They provide DPULOs with support, advice and encourage them to share best practice.
- 6 young DPULO Ambassadors who support DPULOs in England to engage with young disabled people and to develop a meaningful and active social media presence.
- So far 56 projects have completed and we will share the learning from these projects with you.

Programme in Action

The DPULO Programme is supporting a unique project to set up a helicopter museum in East Durham.



This is a groundbreaking venture in the field of rehabilitation. The project will enable disabled ex-servicemen and women to take control and run their own organisation as well as their transition path back to employment.

The museum project will help to change attitudes towards disability in the local community. It will provide opportunities for schools and community groups to work with and meet disabled ex-servicemen as well as gaining an understanding of aviation technology, engineering and science.

To find out more please contact enquiries@durhamhelicoptermuseum.co.uk

Below: What the museum will look like



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

Young DPULO Ambassador

My summer My name is Chandos and I am a young DPULO Ambassador. My role is to help DPULOs to connect with young disabled people. I currently study Social Work at Chichester University, and volunteer with V Inspired.

My summer involved travelling to Ethiopia with a team of volunteers from across the UK who got together with the CRED Foundation to deliver a week of activities for people living in shanty towns supported by the Women at Risk charity.

We spent 10 days there. I will never forget the people, the words and the moments we shared, sitting and talking with some of the most down to earth people on the planet, who have nothing really made an impression on me. Honestly I have never cried so much in my life, to see someone's face amongst such poverty, brought out so many emotions like "how can you smile? When you have no bed, no warmth?" But in reality they have it all; they have a family and community that cares regardless of who they are and where they live.

This summer has really changed my perception on what I want, what I need and what really matters. I used to worry about what I looked like and what people would think of my disability. Now I have come to realise that I shouldn't have to change as that is me.

If there is one thing I'm thankful for it is the amazing work such charities do all over the world as they are the ones who make our nations a better place.



Can you help?

We are keen to find out how you access information via the web – what works and what could be improved.

To help us can you ask your members the following questions?

1. Have you used the web to look for jobs or support?
2. Did you use a search engine or a specific site?
3. What did you search for?
4. Were the search results useful?
5. Are there other ways of using the internet for help?

Please send your responses to:

yacoob.wozeer@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Useful Links

'My Life My Choice', featured in Oxford Newspaper:

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/yourtown/oxford/10777681..Empowering_group_goes_from_strength_to_strength/

'Shaping our Lives' newsletter:

http://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/ourpubs_newsletters.html

Watch out for our next issue on DPULO Regional Events