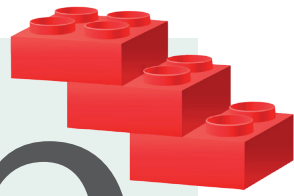


link-up



No. 4, May 2014 Disabled People's User-Led Organisation Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth 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.



Above: Steve Perry in discussion at the North-West event

An interview with...

Steve Perry's experience of working with DPULOs for the first time

In October 2013 I joined the Office for Disability Issues on secondment from Jobcentre Plus, to work with Disabled People's User Lead Organisations to deliver local conferences. This was my first opportunity to meet and work with DPULOs.

As I journeyed around England, meeting host DPULOs to plan the conferences, I was struck with how determined and driven DPULOs are to achieve the very best for disabled people, and assist them to fulfil their potential and have equal opportunities to realise their aspirations.

Between January-March DPULOs delivered nine conferences, attended by over 200 DPULO's, which gave DPULOs

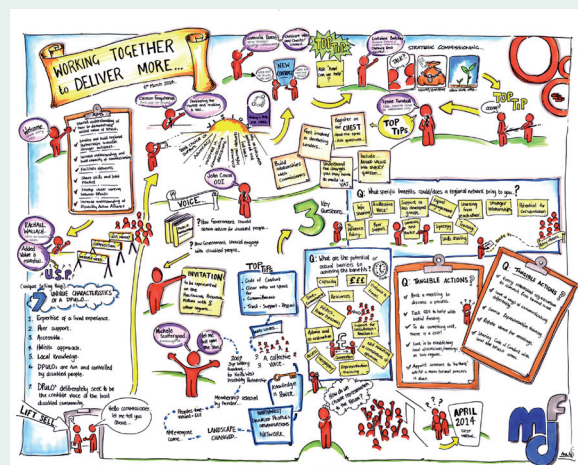
The DPULO Programme — The Facts

Northern Ireland: First two DPULOs awarded funding. Minister (Mike Penning MP) visited and met with the successful DPULOs in April 2014.

the opportunity to increase their commissioning knowledge and expand their networks.

I'd like to thank each host DPULO for their patience, professionalism and support in delivering these successful conferences. Further information is at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strengthening-disabled-peoples-user-led-organisations>



Above: graphic by Ann Marie Lawrenson of Holton St Helens Voluntary and Community Action

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

Programme delivering results

Congratulations to Wiltshire CIL on winning a national award



Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living, was established in February 2005. Until 2011 we were a volunteer-run organisation, which only received small local grants, so we were pleased to receive £10,000 from the Strengthening DPULOs programme. It gave us the opportunity of extending disabled volunteers' involvement and peer-support in the organisation, run conferences on key issues for disabled people, and carried out research into the support needs of self-funders to produce an information guide.

In April 2012 we took over the contract for Direct Payment Support to Wiltshire direct payment recipients. We provide a comprehensive support service with the choice of workshop participation, peer support, peer mentor advice and one to one advisors backed up by a payroll and banking service, a PA register and support service planning section.

We are thrilled to be the first DPULO, chosen from 400 charities nationwide to win a GSK IMPACT Award (including £30,000, access to training, development, and networking opportunities through a dedicated programme organised by The King's Fund.)

Wiltshire CIL were recognised, along with other winners, at a ceremony on 15th May at the Science Museum in London. Lisa Weaks (The King's Fund) said: 'Service users are put at

the heart of the work that Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living does – it is clear that they are passionate about the work they do. They are a well-run organisation and have grown significantly in recent years. This is an excellent example of a local organisation providing much needed support for disabled people.'

Contact information: info@wiltshirecil.org.uk
Telephone: 01380 725400
www.wiltshirecil.org.uk

Programme in Action

[Ruils](#) (Disabled People's User Led Organisation) received financial support from the ODI's DPULO Facilitation Fund, to enable it to set up a [Work Support Network forum](#).

Employers of, and employees with a disability or health issue can use the forum to talk openly and anonymously in a virtual space to share ideas and find out information relating to employment issues.

The forum includes:
[Work and Support discussion boards](#) designed for everyone to use
A [Useful links section](#) containing factsheets, articles plus lots more interesting and helpful information
An [Ask A Question discussion board](#) to ask questions and get answers to employment issues
A place for people to share [good news stories](#)

To register or gain information about the forum please visit www.worksupportnetwork.org or email info@ruils.co.uk

Useful Links

Free event in Leeds (June 2014) for people with learning disabilities - <http://www.changepeople.org/blog-and-news/our-voices-our-choices-national-event/>

Inclusion London information: www.powerupproject.org.uk