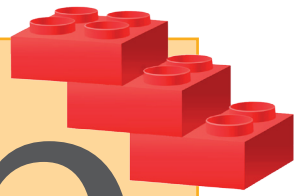


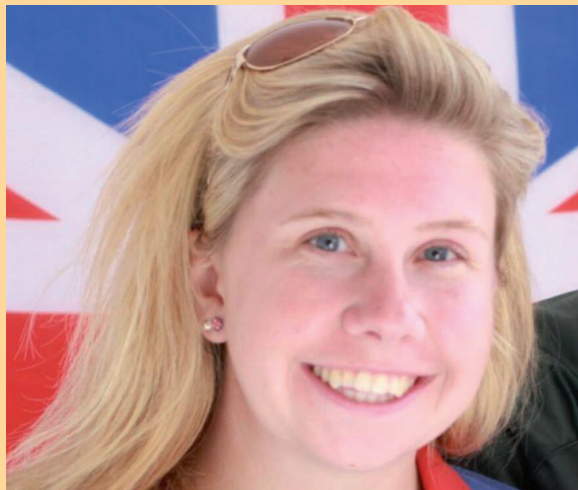
link-up

East of England



July 2014 Disabled People's User-Led Organisation Newsletter

Hi, We are Louise and Ellie and are very excited to be involved in this first issue of the East of England Link Up newsletter. This is going to be a regional newsletter to let you know what other DPULO's are doing within the East of England and keep everyone informed of what's going on.



Louise Hunt DPULO Young Ambassador

I am a paralympian and I graduated from Bath university in 2012. I have been working in my young ambassador role for just over a year and in that time I have had the pleasure to work closely with two different DPULO's, Wilts CIL and ECDP.

Both DPULO's saw great significance in making the voices of disabled people heard, especially young disabled people and ensuring that these voices are involved in shaping their own futures.

I would really encourage any DPULO to think about ways to interact with young disabled people. Not only does it provide a great opportunity for young disabled people to have a voice, but also helps the DPULO to discover new and improved ways to support the young disabled people to fulfill their potential and ambitions.



Ellie Bamber DPULO Young Ambassador

I am Ellie, one of the young ambassadors. I am 18 and going to start University next year, studying Occupational Therapy.

I am a disability swimmer and a swimming teacher at my local club where I teach both disabled and able bodied children to swim. I have set up a boccia club, to provide more opportunities for younger disabled children to socialise as both a social activity and a chance for them to be part of a team.

I work with Stockport NHS foundation trust as youth ambassador, encouraging more young people to get involved with the local NHS and put their opinions and ideas forward.

We both look forward to working with you, and hearing and sharing all your news in the near future.

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

