

Disabled Adult Learning Opportunity Project

Attachment 1.

It was identified in earlier work between Gateshead Access Panel (GAP). That disabled people have complex requirements on route to Adult Learning. This Project was developed to support disabled people, carers and people with limiting long term health conditions into Adult Learning, Voluntary work/placements and other forms of community engagement. Because learners from this community have traditionally been marginalized.

The aims of this project are:

- Support disabled learners into further vocational learning, community activity or employment.
- Support providers to develop suitable systems to ensure disabled people get suitable support.
- Support 20 disabled learners.

This project has been running from Sept 2007 till July 2008.

The first phase entailed:

- Build partnerships with providers of learning opportunities.
- Making contact and developing relationships with target group.
- Addressing barriers into learning and match learners with relevant opportunities.

The second Phase:

- Support learners throughout learning opportunities.
- Monitor and evaluate throughout learners experiences and supporting progression into future learning opportunities.

Building Partnerships

Employment: Have had several meetings with DEAs in Local Jobcentre Plus around 2 disabled women and ways in which to get them into work. Also had meeting with staff from Workable in Gateshead they are a job brokerage organisation. We discussed disability issues for eg: Personal assistants/support workers and reasonable adjustments in the workplace, job shaping and transport issues

Health: We have made good relationships with Whickham Villa/Chase Park Health facilities where there is an accessible Hydro pool Gym with aqua aerobic sessions and social activities for disabled people.

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We have also made contact with The Whinnies in Sunnyside where they have a programme called SIGN. This is a gardening Project for disabled people. They have an accessible Greenhouse and allotments to encourage people to learn about gardening. They are also looking for volunteers to engage and work with others. We have signposted several disabled people and organisations where we know disabled people go to. To encourage the uptake of this opportunity.

Courses.

Made new links with Tyneside Women's Health Forum they have provided some course on, Confidence, Assertiveness and Anxiety Management. They also have a variety of course to choose from and have built into there programme that the women follow progressive roots into community engagement and Adult Learning Courses.

Built on the relationship we have with GVOC who run several courses intermittingly throughout the year.

Was unable to access computer courses at Sight Services due to them being fully booked but made firm links with the tutor.

Have made firm links with an independent trainer who gave several people Equality and Diversity Training

Gender	Age	Ethnicity	Disability	Course	Progress
Female	20/50	White British	Mental Health	Numeracy level 2	Path to University
Female	20/50	White British	Learning Difficulty	NVQ Social Care 2	Got employment
Female	50/65	White British	Carer	1. Roles and Responsibility of Trustees in Volunteer Organisations OCN Level 2 2. Equality and Diversity Training	Became a Trustee of Registered Charity
Female	50/65	White British	Substance abuse and physical disability	Roles and Responsibility of Trustees in Volunteer Organisations OCN Level 2	Became a Trustee of Registered Charity
Male	20/50	White British	Physical disability	Several meetings, he is being encouraged and guided into training opportunities as he wants to start his own peer support group for disabled people who are ex offenders.	This person stopped all contact.

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Female	20/50	White British	Physical Disability	Socially excluded. Coming to terms with being disabled and feels she needs to be introduced to more disabled people also wants to do social activity with young son but doesn't know where to start	Introduced to social groups at Whickham Villa and also encouraged to join Chase Park Health Club where she can go swimming and take her son with her. She is very happy with outcome.
Female	20/50	White British	Physically Disabled	1,HEFC on Social Welfare. Looking into future Post Grad in Occupational Psychology and funding for this course. 2. Equality and Diversity Training	Ongoing education deeper understanding on how social care policies affect disabled people.
Male	20/50	White British	Mental Health	1.Open University Degree Course in A103 Introduction to the Arts. 2. Equality and Diversity training.	Ongoing Education route to employment
Female	20/50	White British	Mental Health	1.Volunteering Placement 2.Equality Diversity Training 3.Changes in Children's services 4.Advocacy Training 5.Representation Training 6. Been put forward for child protection training	Training to enable her to set her own support CP group
Female	20/50	White British	Carer	1.Changes in Children's Services 2.Equality and Diversity 3.Representation Training	Enhance her ability to be a Volunteer Advocate for disabled people
Female	20/50	White British	Metal Health Physical Impairment	1.Anxiety Management 2.Confidence Course 3. Assertiviveness Courses	To become more involved in community engagement

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Male	50/65	White British	Physical Impairment	1, Volunteer Garden Project 2. Volunteer with building and park audits	To become more involved in community engagement
Male	50/65	White British	Visual Impairment	1. Equality and Diversity Training	To enhance their volunteer role
Female	50/65	White British	Sensory Impairment	1. Equality and Diversity Training	To enhance their volunteer role.
Male	20/50	White British	Head Injury	1.4 Week Work Placement in Admin. 2. Volunteer Role 3. Been put forward for First Aid training. 4. Been put forward for moving and handling training. 5. Disability Equality training 6. Equality and Diversity Training.	Recently gained employment. Through GAP
Female	20/50	White British	Non Disabled	Volunteer role Advocacy 1. Introduction into Advocacy Training 2. Been put forward for some child protection training	Recently employed through GAP
Female	20/50	White British	Physical Disability	1. Volunteer Role 2 Disability Equality training 3. Equality and Diversity training	Enhance Social Participation. Maybe take up FE
Female	20/50	White British	Autism/ Carer looking for opportunities to introduce which could be gradual and safe.	Gave information and contacts of leisure facilities at Whickham Villa.	Enhance Social Participation
Female	20/50	White British	Mental Health	1. Volunteer Role	Enhance Social Participation Gain Confidence
Male	20/50	White British	Mental Health	1. Volunteer Role 2. Equality and Diversity training	Enhance Social Participation. Gain Confidence

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Male	20/50	White British	Physical Disability	1. Equality and Diversity Training	Enable him to carry out his volunteer role
Female	20/50	White British	Physical Disability	1 Equality and Diversity Training	Enable her to carry out her volunteer role.

The evidence in this short report seems to once again suggest that some disabled people are not showing interest in the courses historically provided in community settings. But there is scope within volunteer placements to engage with disabled people and provide progressive routes in personal development, skills based learning, routes into entry level education FE and/or employment.