



About me



Disability Training and Consultancy Specialist - Remploy



Member of the West Midlands Stakeholder Network

Putting ability first

Hello my name is Kath Wood. Thank you so much for letting me come to your meeting today.

I work for Remploy as a Disability Trainer but many years ago I worked for Mencap and Macintyre and used to support people at Speakeasy NOW.

I am not here to talk to you about my job today – instead I am going to tell you about my work on the West Midlands Stakeholder Network. I will start by explaining what that is and how it helps disabled people have a say – then I am going to ask you if you want to get involved and how?

Disability Unit





National Strategy for Disabled People



Listening to the views of disabled people



Helping the Government and the Minister for Disabled People


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The networks have been set up by the Disability unit. This is part of the Government.

One of their jobs is to write a National Disability strategy which says what the Government will do for Disabled people. This has just been finished and it tells you about how each part of the government will do better things for disabled people.


They want to give disabled people a chance to tell the Government what they think so they can make policies or laws that are better for disabled people. They also help other parts of the Government to think about disability when they make decisions and also help the Minister for Disabled people – his name is Justin Tomlinson

Regional Stakeholder Networks






Networks all over England



Meeting via Zoom every month



Finding out what disabled people think

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One of the ways the Disability Unit listens to disabled people is through the Stakeholder networks.

- Stakeholder means anyone who has a disability or who is interested in disability rights
- Network – is another name for a group


There are groups all over England - East of England Greater London North East North West South East South West Yorkshire and the Humber: East Midlands: and our local one - West Midlands

The West Midlands network is run by a lady called Louise McKiernan who works for Birmingham Disability Resource Centre. I am a member of the group along with around 12 other disabled people from around the west midlands. The Network is all about finding out what disabled people think, so apart from the group meetings where we can talk we also send out information to other local groups like Speakeasy NOW. So we can find out what more disabled people think.



What do we do

Talk about the rights of Disabled people



Read reports

Tell people what we think should happen

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So let me tell you a bit more about what we do.

We can talk about the rights of disabled people and tell the group if we are worried about things that make it hard for us


We are sent reports to read and then we give them our answers to questions or tell them what we think is right or wrong about the report. Sometimes organisations come and ask us specific questions too.

Louise takes our views and passes them onto the Disability unit, she also talks with the chairs of all of the other networks. But sometimes we have the chance to tell our views directly on the internet.

How can you get involved

Join the network and come to meetings



Complete the surveys I send you
Tell me what you think by email

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So this is the time for you as a group to think about how you might be involved in the network.




Any disabled person can apply to join the network and I can send over details on how to do this.

You could choose one or two people from your group to join the network so the views of your group can be sent in

Or you can work more with me. I will go the meetings and them email over any reports to read, questions to answer or surveys to fill in - and then to send your views to me or fill in forms on the internet.

Shall I pause now to let you have a chat about it?

Any questions or comments

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Do you have any other questions or comments?