



# Disability Backup

January 2012

Welcome to Disability Backup's Newsletter

**Empowering, consulting and informing disabled people**

## Attitude is Everything !

Mandi Peers, who is speaking at the January DBU Forum, works for *Attitude is Everything*. She is the 'Mystery Shopper Coordinator.' She manages a team of disabled mystery shoppers, who attend live music concerts and gigs, festivals, and nightclubs and then write reports on how accessible these events are. Mandi then collates the information and passes it to her colleague who works with event organisers to help them improve access at their venues.

*Attitude is Everything* improves access to live music for people with hearing impairments and other disabled people, by working in partnership with audiences, artists and the music industry to implement a Charter of Best Practice across the UK.

The organisation was set up to deal with the appalling lack of proper access at music events for disabled people and for artists and their crews. One of their aims, for example, is to make it a condition for music events to have proper access for disabled people before they can be granted a music licence.

Accessibility does not mean physical access alone. It involves improving the attitudes of venue and festival staff towards their disabled customers. *Attitude is Everything* is always looking for people to join them as mystery shoppers.

Mystery shoppers are a real asset to *Attitude is Everything* as they go to events and do the work on the ground. Mystery shoppers are reimbursed up to £70 for ticket and travel costs in return for completing a form asking questions about the accessibility of an event.

*Attitude is Everything* are always looking for more people to be part of the mystery shopping project. Mandi will be looking for people to register as mystery shoppers for the organisation.

## Next forum meeting:

**Disability Backup  
& Direct Payments  
Forum Meetings**

**January 26th 2012**

Speaker: Mandi Peers  
(Attitude Is Everything Arts  
Organisation)

Also help with welfare  
benefits and update on  
Olympics opportunities

**DBU: 10.30am — 12.30  
Lunch**

**Direct Payments Forum  
1.00-2.00pm**

David Ashley  
Employment rights and  
information about  
employing Personal  
Assistants.

Also find out how to join  
direct payments, iron out  
problems and raise queries

HCVS  
84 Springfield House  
Tyssen Street  
E8 2LY

**Buses: 30, 38, 277, 56,  
242**

**Limited parking available**

Help with transport on  
request for people with  
mobility difficulties.

## **Equalities Commission condemns harassment of disabled people**

Kathleen Jameson from the Equality & Human Rights Commission visited the November DBU Forum to talk about '*Hidden in Plain Sight*,' the report of the EHRC inquiry into disability-related harassment.

The findings from the inquiry revealed that disability harassment is a common experience for many disabled people. It also showed it is widespread and that 'a culture of disbelief' has prevented public authorities from dealing with it effectively.

Disabled people reported that they regularly experienced different forms of harassment such as name calling, physical violence, bullying and cyber-bullying, sexual harassment, domestic violence and financial exploitation.

Some disabled people say they just accept it as inevitable and live with it. Others try to rearrange their lives to avoid abusive situations. The abuse experienced by disabled people has been tragic sometimes ending in torture and death.

The inquiry looks to the future and suggests proposals for change. Tackling disability hate crime is a high priority and the recommendations

are that each public authority prioritise and deliver on this matter. The human rights of every disabled person must be protected and in doing recommendations have been made at national, government and local level. There are also sector specific recommendations in relation to the justice sector, local government and partnerships, transport, housing, health and social care, education and their sector inspectorates and regulators.

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## **DBU members celebrate UK Disability History Month**



DBU members crowded into St Joseph's on Mare St on 8th December for a party to celebrate UK Disability History Month and the festive season.

Lucy Mason gave an inspiring speech on the struggle of disabled people for equality, drawn from her own experiences.

## **Making Hackney streets more accessible for disabled people?**

DBU has made two submissions to consultations on changes to street design: on Goldsmith Row and at the junction at Powerscroft Rd.

We welcomed efforts to improve areas to assist pedestrians and cyclists, but we expressed concern at plans to create 'shared cycle/ pedestrian' entrances to Haggerston Park. Disabled and older people often feel threatened by sharing space with bicycles or other vehicles and unwilling to use areas where they feel they may stray into the path of a bicycle with the danger of a collision.

We were also critical of plans to lose half the pavement to Barclays Bike stands. We feel that the siting of bicycle stands on pavements should be avoided wherever possible. They are an obstacle in themselves and bicycles going to and fro to a

place on the footway tends to encourage more pavement cycling, which disabled and older people frequently feel is a threat to their peaceful use of footways.

On Powerscroft Rd we agreed that the current layout of the junction is messy and that the traffic island should be removed.

However, we were concerned that by placing road users on the footway, and narrowing the existing footway, things would be made worse for disabled pedestrians.

We were also concerned that road users, such as pedal cyclists and ebikers, would be likely to exit and enter Almack Road and cross the footway diagonally, putting pedestrians (particularly wheelchair users) in danger of not being seen.

Copies of both submissions are available on request.

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## **Workers trained on disability equality by DBU team**

Fourteen Age UK staff and volunteers took part in a training session on 14th December, aimed at improving the participants' knowledge and working practices with regard to disability equality.

Delivered by DBU members, the session provided an introduction to the Equalities Act 2010 as it applies to service providers and employers, promoted an understanding of the Social Model

of Disability and fostered familiarity with disability language and etiquette.



DBU Members John Thornton and Gill Jackson delivering training session.

## Tower of London concert

The Tower of London will be hosting two concerts on Sunday 1st July 2012 (11.00am and 1.00pm) in a joint initiative between the Tower Hill Trust and Transformers Grants for five of the Olympic Host Boroughs.

The free concerts are for up to 300 older people and will be part of the Chariots of Fire concerts in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Also free access to the Tower of London for the day.  
Ticket reservations can be obtained from [enquiries@maria-arakie.com](mailto:enquiries@maria-arakie.com) or from us.

## London 2012 Festival

The Festival opens on 21 June and runs to 9 September 2012, the last day of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. There are also countdown events that'll run before the Festival opens.

For more information see <http://festival.london2012.com/>, or ask us for details. A speaker has been invited to the January 2012 Forum.

## Transport Survey

DBU is conducting a survey on transport facilities in Hackney. If you would like to take part, simply email:

[hackneydisabilitybackup@yahoo.com](mailto:hackneydisabilitybackup@yahoo.com)

with the word 'survey' and we will send you an electronic form. Or call us for a paper version. A £25 shopping voucher to a lucky respondent !



## Speak Up! Speak Out! Workshop

Inclusion London has linked up with the Speaker's Trust to deliver this free interactive workshop.

It is an introduction to public speaking and presenting, specifically aimed at London's Deaf and disabled people's organisations.

Tuesday 28 February 2012

10am-4pm

Scope Head Office, 6 Market Rd  
N7 9PW

Space is limited so do get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to register. For more information, and to download a booking form, click on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/eventsLondonXYZ>

or call Inclusion London on 020 7237 3181 or write to them at:  
Can Mezzanine,  
49-51 East Road,  
N1 6AH



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