

Inclusion Matters

February 2015

Funding for new DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) research programme

The DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) is a Four Nation Research Project which will deliver the world's first major research programme led by disabled people.



Disability Action Northern Ireland, Inclusion Scotland, Disability Wales and Disability Rights UK have been working in partnership to develop the project over 30 months and are delighted to have been successful in the Big Lottery Programme - Research for Impact: Disabled People.

The research programme which will be delivered over five years will involve a number of significant research projects specifically engaging disabled people looking at areas contributing to independent living and learning. The findings will lead to a number of pilot projects aimed at enhancing the lives of disabled people. We plan to work with a wide range of organisations to make the greatest difference: other disabled people's organisations in the four nations, academics, and policy and practice leaders who can use research findings to transform services and opportunities for disabled people.

As partners we believe that there will be a profound, long-term impact of using in-depth research, co-produced by disabled people that is validated and quality assured. This will significantly strengthen our future capacity to influence decision making about independent living. It will inform the policies, manifestos and campaigns of the disability sector for many years to come.

Bill Scott, Director of Policy Inclusion Scotland said:



“We believe that over the lifetime of the project over £900,000 in research funding and additional resources will be brought into Scotland for use by disabled people and their organisations. That will in turn help build the capacity of Scottish disabled people’s organisations and further the cause of Independent Living. The solution focussed research will also provide the evidence that we (disabled people’s organisations) need to influence the shape of future Scottish Government policy and public service provision so that they support disabled people to reach their full potential and be involved in all aspects of Scottish economic and community life”.

Liz Sayce, CEO of Disability Rights UK said:



‘We are thrilled to be working with our sister organisations across the UK to push the boundaries of research based on what matters to disabled people’s lives. We hope the research will underpin new work to foster the full participation of disabled people in a rapidly changing world – including people from different communities and backgrounds, living with a wide range of mental and physical health conditions and impairments’.

Rhian Davies, Chief Executive of Disability Wales said:



‘Disability Wales (DW) is a proud partner of the Four Nation collaboration between leading pan-disability umbrella organisations in the UK and to play its part in delivering the DRILL project over the next five years. It will complement DW’s work related to the Welsh Government’s Framework for Action on Independent Living and provide a long-awaited opportunity to drive forward the research agenda in Wales from a disabled people’s perspective working in partnership with academic bodies and others to identify and test out practical solutions to addressing barriers to achieving rights, equality and independence’.

Questions and Answers?

Who are the lead organisations?



The partnership is led by Disability Action Northern Ireland, Inclusion Scotland, Disability Wales and Disability Rights UK (England).

When will be project start?

The project will start in the next six months to allow time for planning this large scale project and putting in place the required resources in each of the nations.

How can people get involved?

The project will be launched in each of the regions in due course. This will give disabled people and their organisations an opportunity to engage with the project in each of the nations.



How can I find out further information?

If you would like to keep up-to-date as the project develops please email your contact details to drill@disabilityaction.org or telephone 028 9029 7880.

We are recruiting!



Following a period of expansion, Inclusion Scotland are looking to recruit a Finance Officer to ensure the sound recording and reporting of our finances, as the organisation continues to develop.

The successful candidate will have substantial experience of using Sage to maintain accounts for multiple funding streams, developing and monitoring budgets, operating robust financial systems, financial analysis and reporting to a Board of Directors. S/he will have first rate communication and interpersonal skills, be able to work under pressure to meet deadlines and have personal or professional experience of disability.

A full application pack can be downloaded from our website: www.inclusionScotland.org or telephone 0141 559 5025.

Deadline is 10am on Monday 2nd March. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 10th March.

Inclusion Scotland particularly welcomes applications from disabled people. Please let us know if you need the application pack in another format.

News & Information

£20 Million to cut fuel poverty in Scotland



An additional £20 million will be invested to cut fuel poverty and improve the energy efficiency of Scotland's housing, Social Justice Secretary Alex Neil confirmed today.

£6 million is earmarked for home energy efficiency programmes that will support measures such as solid wall, cavity or loft insulation.

An additional £14 million will be invested in low cost home energy efficiency loans available to households in the private sector to supplement existing grant schemes to help install energy efficiency measures.

The additional funding will take the Scottish Government's investment to tackle fuel poverty and boost energy efficiency over the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16 to around £300 million.

Details of the loan schemes will be announced in due course.

Mr Neil said: "This Government is determined to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency head on, as this additional £20 million investment for energy efficiency measures demonstrates.

"Fuel costs have risen six times faster than incomes since 2003. In 2013, fuel prices rose by seven per cent, pushing more people into fuel poverty. The fact that this is happening in an energy-rich country is outrageous.

"Given the recent reductions in energy costs, all energy providers must implement price cuts now and not wait until the Spring.

"This additional funding means we have allocated over half a billion pounds since 2009 to make Scotland's homes more energy efficient".

"Over 700,000 households have benefited from measures like new boilers or insulation targeted in particular at those in or at risk of fuel poverty."

Article from Welfare Weekly – Monday 9th February 2015

News & Information



Recruiting for a TV show

Are you struggling to find a job? Would you love a career in the hospitality industry? Do you have a physical, sensory or other impairment or a long term condition?

TwoFour, one of the UK's most respected TV Companies, is producing a ground-breaking series for Channel 4 Television Corporation. We are looking for disabled people, who want to seize the opportunity to be trained and gain work experience under the watchful eye of one of Britain's most renowned chefs, which will hopefully lead to being offered jobs in a restaurant, café or a hotel.

If you are interested in hearing more please contact 02922 450054 or email dinercasting@twofour.co.uk

One in three disabled jobseekers face discrimination

More than one-third (37%) of disabled jobseekers have been discriminated against during the recruitment process, according to new research.

In addition, 82% of disabled candidates reported having a negative experience with a recruitment consultancy, something that they attribute to a lack of knowledge surrounding disability issues.



There is also a significant disparity between candidates' and recruiters' perceptions in terms of the provision of "reasonable adjustments" that are made to accommodate disabled jobseekers – a legal requirement under the Equality Act 2010. Despite eight in 10 (82%) recruiters claiming that reasonable adjustments are made to cater for disabled jobseekers, more than half (58%) of candidates maintain that no such adjustments are made.

Mark Harper, minister for disabled people, said: "For those disabled people wishing to enter the workforce or progress their careers, the recruitment process itself can be a barrier. I am delighted to see that the recruitment industry is taking the lead on raising awareness of the barriers experienced by disabled people and is sharing best practice to start breaking them down."

Article is taken from Personnel Today – Monday 2nd February 2015

News & Information

Call to halt new disability benefit rollout in Scotland



Moving disabled Scots on to new benefits before control of the payments are transferred to Holyrood would be a 'waste of time and money', according to Citizens Advice Scotland.

CAS wants the UK government to halt the introduction of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) which replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

The PIP system was introduced as part of wider reforms to the welfare system. The Smith Commission proposed control of this benefit be devolved.

CAS has argued that Scottish claimants would be switched to the new system now, only to be moved again in two years' time when control over the benefit is handed to the Scottish government. It warned this could lead to delays and uncertainty.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) began a rollout of the PIP in Scotland in January 2014.

CAS chief executive Margaret Lynch said: 'As we know that the Scottish government will be developing and introducing its own PIP equivalent, we don't want to see disabled claimants having to go through changes in their payments twice in a short period of time. I think this will be of major detriment to claimants and is unnecessary and possibly very distressing. In addition it seems a waste of resources to pay for the assessments of tens of thousands of disabled people to transfer them on to a system that they will not be staying on.'

Ms Lynch has written to Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael and Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith urging them to halt the introduction of PIP in Scotland.

However, a DWP spokesman said: 'Under the Personal Independence Payment, claimants receive a face-to-face assessment and regular reviews to ensure support is directed according to need. Latest figures show just that, with over 22% of people getting the highest level of support under PIP, compared to 16% under the outgoing DLA system. To halt this progress now would be to disadvantage disabled people across Scotland.'

Article taken from BBC News – Wednesday 21st January 2015

Consultations, Petitions, Research & Surveys

Benefit sanctions/delays and foodbanks

Inclusion Scotland has been approached by the Welfare Committee of the Scottish Parliament requesting specific examples of cases where benefit sanctions or benefit delays have contributed to someone having to use a foodbank.



If you are a disabled person and have had sanctions or delays that have resulted in you using a foodbank, we would be very keen to hear from you.

Please email Bill Scott - bills@inclusionScotland.org or telephone 0131 281 0861 for more information.

Poverty Leadership Panel



Would you like to influence decision-makers in Glasgow?
Would you like to make a difference in Glasgow? Would you like to have your voice heard in Glasgow?

If you answered yes to these questions and have direct experience of poverty and can volunteer your time please call David Ramsay on 0141 420 7272 or email: dramsay@ghn.org.uk

Would you like your voice heard in the discussions around disability and sex?

Maxine Meighan is a student at Edinburgh Napier University and is looking for people to assist with some research.

Participants will be asked their opinion on the topic and will then be free to lead the interview in an informal chat about the effects of disability on sexual identity.

The study hopes to explore the relationship between the body and sexuality in order to determine the impact of relationships in including or excluding disabled individuals from society.



Participation is entirely voluntary, if you would like to take part, or would like more information on the study please contact Maxine on 0750 394 9894 or Email:

10011415@live.napier.ac.uk

Events & Training

Self Directed Support (SDS) Awareness Week

SDS Awareness week is taking place from the 30th March to the 3rd April 2015 and the Scottish Government are looking to find out all the SDS related events that are taking place to collate all together into a newspaper.



Could you please send on any events that you are running or know about. We are also using the hashtag #SDSWeek so please tweet and take a selfie! Please send your events to Gemma Pettie on gemma@sdsscotland.org.uk or phone 0131 516 4195.

The Scottish Council on Deafness - Inaugural National Conference for Scotland's Deaf Sector

Thursday 12th March, The Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow - Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) hosts a landmark national conference aimed at placing Scotland's Deaf Sector at the fore of the public debate.



Scottish Council on Deafness
The Voice of Deaf People in Scotland

For full information or to book a space email: kellas@scod.org.uk or telephone 0141 248 2474.

Free training: Introduction to Equality in Scotland

Tuesday 17th March 2015, 10am-4.30pm at Teacher Building, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow



This Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights training course will help participants to understand key equality concepts and explore how the law protects people from discrimination. Places are free for voluntary and community sector workers, staff or board members.

To book email nadia@crer.org.uk or telephone 0141 418 6530.

Inclusion Scotland Newsletter



If you have any questions about the newsletter or anything you would like to include, please email us: information@inclusionScotland.org or contact 0141-559-5025.