

CONNECTED FUTURES EAST MIDLANDS - NEWS MAY 2026

Meet the Team

Abi is the newest Connected Futures Ambassador (CFA), and joins Joe and Logan. Abi's interest in the CFA role starts from a desire to make a difference for other people like her and to give them the support they need to get a job, as well as teach employers about the changes they need to make when hiring a person with learning disabilities and Autism. She is keen to hear about young people's lived experiences, either looking for, or in work, to find ways to improve their experiences and outcomes.

**WELCOME ✨
to the TEAM**



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Young people are the future and they have a lot more knowledge of what is going on in the world. They know what they want or need to change because they are living it now.
”

Connected Futures Ambassador Work in Progress

Joe and Logan have already been working hard and here Joe reflects on his experiences to date:

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Starting the role of Ambassador has been fun because I feel I am slowly making a change in my job. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know all the people we will be working with. I really enjoyed my EMCCA induction and finding out a bit more about what they do. I feel a lot more confident in my role. I am looking forward to starting new projects and interacting with young people through the Experience Forum workshops and continuing work to develop these.
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Experience Forum Workshop Development

The Ambassadors have been working hard to develop bespoke Experience Forum workshops to enable young people to share their lived experiences of Autism and learning disability and what would enable them to feel more confident and positively develop and progress into work. The very first priority of the Ambassadors was to create and offer a menu of options to young people to enable the workshop to provide meaningful and achievable activities for each group they would be working with. Development activities undertaken to date include:

- Initial thoughts about the workshop – what would it look like, who would deliver it to, what are we trying to achieve with the workshop and how we will deliver it in ways that are accessible to everybody.
- The pros and cons of different workshop activities – definitely no role play!
- We wanted to deliver three different activities in the workshop. We identified which activities would work best in the different sections.
- We identified questions we could ask that would enable participants to share their lived experiences and activities that would facilitate this.
- We identified different groups of young people we could deliver the workshop to, as well as parents and carers, educators and employers, who would have different workshop needs.
- We used other resources like the “Youth Voice Toolkit” to give us more ideas.
- We will be testing out our first activities towards the end of May.



If you want any further information, please email jane.rodd@debp.org