

CONNECTED FUTURES EAST MIDLANDS - NEWS AUGUST 2026

Meet the Team

Alfie joined the team at the end of July from a supported internship programme in Nottinghamshire. He is looking forward to gaining experience of employment, having the opportunity to share his lived experiences and to hear from and learn about the lived experiences of other young people with learning disabilities. Alfie brings a range of skills and strengths, including teamwork, developing and sharing ideas, and helping other people whenever possible. He is looking forward to all the new experiences that the role of Ambassador will bring and amplifying the voice of young people with Autism and/or learning disabilities.

WELCOME ✨
to the TEAM



“If young people don't have a say on what they want and aren't listened to, why would they bother to say what they want to improve?
Everyone's view is valid.”

Research into Inclusive Recruitment Practices - written by Joseph

As a team, it was our first time doing desktop research like this, but it was really exciting. For evidence, what we found out was really interesting, and I would love to share it with all the readers of this newsletter, so let's begin.

Positives

- There was a lot of information out there, so you can get an idea of what inclusive recruitment is and the different ways it is being used. Depending on which website you went to, it gave you a good understanding of marginalised communities within inclusive recruitment.

Negatives

- A lot of the inclusive recruitment websites want to teach you about inclusive recruitment, but sometimes the information ends up behind a paywall, so you can't access the service for free.
- The information given to you on these different websites are not unified answers so you get a different understanding from different websites, which makes it more confusing to understand as a whole what inclusive recruitment is.



Scan the QR to view the report or follow the link [here](#).

Evaluation Workshop - written by Abi

The Connected Futures Ambassadors took part in an Evaluation Workshop, gaining a deeper understanding of how evaluation helps measure the impact of the programme and supports ongoing learning and improvement. We explored the evaluators' key aims, including understanding the difference Connected Futures Ambassadors are making, learning how organisations are working together and whether this develops over time, listening to people's experiences, supporting learning and change, and sharing learning more effectively across the programme.

We also discussed the Conditions of Change framework, focusing on structural, reformative and relational change, and how evaluation can help identify both the positive changes that have taken place and areas where further development may be needed.

Through a series of interactive activities, we practised designing open and unbiased questions, using effective follow-up techniques to encourage richer feedback, and analysing responses by identifying common themes and patterns. The workshop was both insightful and engaging, providing practical skills that will help ensure the voices and experiences of participants are accurately captured and used to shape the future of Connected Futures.



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