



The Disability Rights UK newsletter co-edited with and for young people

Stay informed with news and information on your journey
through education, training and work

🌲 🌲 Wishing you Season's Greetings 🌲 🌲

Disability in Employment

A poem by Ella Sanderson

"You have Asperger's?"

"We must put you on our website."

To boost their ego.

To make them seem disability conscious

When in fact they are not.

They push you down.

To the bottom.

Of the pile.

The pile of disabilities that sit and get dust in the corner.

like tins of discarded paint.

Different? What is that?

Don't stand up speak out.

Fall into place, into line.

Smudged paint on a canvas

Lost.

Aged 14-24?

Find out about study and work and support on offer at the national Youth Offer

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/national-youth-offer/>

Online apprenticeships

Though the corona virus epidemic has put many apprenticeships on hold, there are options available online such as in IT and digital marketing.

Find out more on:

- The Amazing Apprenticeships [website](#)
 - [Skills and Training UK](#)
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Additional funding for new apprenticeships

The government announced new incentives that are available to businesses until 31 March 2021. A £2,000 payment for employers who recruit new apprentices aged 16-24 and £1,500 for new apprentices aged 25 years and over.

Payments will be in addition to the existing £1,000 payment the government already provides to support apprentices aged 16-18 or 19-25 for those who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Find out more about [apprenticeship funding](#)

The Last Straw by Roxanne Steel

On 1st October 2020 the ban of single use plastic straw came into force

This is part of government plan to cut down on single use plastics in a bid to protect our environment after it is estimated England use over 4.7 million plastic straws a year, so the move seems to be everyone's interest, right?

However did you know plastic straws were actually invented as an assistive medical device for disabled people and many argue a suitable alternative straw for this particular purpose has not been found; paper straws for example are a choking hazard to some, causing a lot of people to lose that part of their independence.

A blow felt most heavily on the anniversary of the Equality Act

We would love to know what you think about the straw ban:

- ***Should the government make exemptions to this ban until a suitable alternative is found?***
- ***How have you been coping would you like to share how you are combatting the ban?***

Get in touch!

Email getahead@disabilityrights.org

We love to help share your experiences!

Online work experience opportunities at the Financial Times!

The Financial Times is one of the world's leading news organisations, recognised internationally for its authority, integrity and accuracy. It is part of Nikkei Inc., which provides a broad range of information, news and services for the global business community.

This year the Financial Times will partner with Disability Rights UK to offer 10 online work experience placements. One week for 5 young people aged 16 - 18; and one week for 5 young people aged 18 - 25.

These will not be journalist placements. This is about the business of news! So all the areas that go to support the FT delivering our news to a global audience.

What's the content of the Online Work Experience Placement?

Placements will take place early February and run for 5 days, Monday – Friday from 10am - 3pm each day (with an hour for lunch from 1 – 2pm).

You will join a group of young people who will be taking part in the virtual work experience placement. You will be working on a project, networking, solving problems, participating in workshops. Learning how to work remotely and collaboratively.

Consists of:

- Induction where you will learn to use the google suite tools for collaboratively working.
- Morning and afternoon hangout brief and catch ups
- Team collaborative working on your business plan/idea
- Interviewing/networking with FT employees
- Researching
- Vision boards session
- GROW session
- Friday online presentation to FT employees and D&I Partner

To apply for one of these placements you need to answer the following question:
“Why do you want to take part in the FT Work Experience Programme?”

Please include your name and age and send your answer to [**jacqui.dobson@ft.com**](mailto:jacqui.dobson@ft.com)
We look forward to hearing from you.

Silent Solution

What to do if you need urgent police help through the 999 service but can't speak. Understanding how to make a silent call to the emergency services could help someone who is in a vulnerable position.

Please take a look at the [**Silent Solution Guide**](#) and share it.

What is Superhero Series?



It's big. It's bold. It's gutsy. It's the UK's one and only disability sports series for the Everyday Superhero! Our mission is simple: to create fun, full-throttle mass-participation sports events where people with disabilities – AKA Everyday Superheroes – call the shots and don't have to worry about cut-off times or equipment restrictions.

- [Superheroeseries](#)
 - superheroeseries.co.uk/upcoming-events
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Virtual Walks *by Jess*

During lockdown I was successful in gaining funding from Phakama to organise 'Virtual Walks', breaking down the feeling of isolation whilst we are social distancing. Using Google Street View and Zoom I went on 'Virtual Walks' with others. I asked the participants if they would like to share places that are important to them, they are missing or places they would like to visit. We visited local places such as Coventry, a day trip to Barcelona, to a day out at a museum.

Go to [Virtual Walks](#) on YouTube

Regional news

Essex

Essex County Council has embarked upon a programme of change for provision and services with the ambition to profoundly improve the outcomes and life experience of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). In supporting this change ECC created a SEND Targeted Employment team that are working across organisational boundaries, passionate in developing the pathways into employment supporting jobseekers with SEND into paid employment. Ensuring that their vocational aspirations are heard in order to have a bright ambitious future moving into the 21st century job market

The team's early developments are already making changes in Essex by increasing the awareness of pathways to employment Inclusive Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Supported Internships and Social Enterprises across Essex. Some of these successes are:

- Raising the profile and importance of Vocational Profiling
- ECC first Inclusive Apprenticeships
- Introduction and pilot of a SEND traineeship
- Supported Internship quality standards that focus on employment outcomes
- Development of sustainable options for Social Enterprises
- SEND specific employers' engagement with an increased approach to inclusive employment.

For more information please contact: targetedemployment@essex.gov.uk

Share your regional news, best practice stories, initiatives, and success stories with us and contact: [getahead @disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

Upcoming free webinars - online meetings



1. Vision Impairment - The journey to adulthood

Disability Rights UK in partnership with the Thomas Pocklington Trust will be running a webinar.

The session will give a brief overview of Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) research carried out by Thomas Pocklington Trust and Birmingham University in summer 2020. It will also consider specific challenges facing vision impaired (VI) children and young people when moving through all forms of education towards employment, and the initiatives and support available to enable positive and successful transition between settings. The presentation will be followed by Q&A and discussion.

Presenters:

Gareth Brydon: Gareth has 47 years lived experience of vision impairment and has worked in the sight loss sector in a variety of education/employment roles for the past 20 years. Gareth is currently the Children & Young People Manager at Thomas Pocklington Trust.

Tara Chattaway: Tara manages the Student Support Service at Thomas Pocklington Trust. She has worked in the sight loss sector for 14 years and the wider charity sector for more than 17. She is an experienced policy, influencing and advocacy manager.

When: **January 21st, 2021- 10:00 am – 11.30am**

Register in advance for this webinar [here](#)

2. Post - 16 pathways and support in education, training, and work

Yearly DR UK /DSU conference for careers and enterprise advisers, job coaches, teachers, employers, family carers and others working with disabled young people.

When: **February 25th and 26th, 2021**

For further information on the conference contact: DSU@disabilityrightsuk.org

Share your talent

Are you a budding young journalist, photographer or artist? Send us your articles, photographs or artwork and get a **£10 Amazon e-voucher** if it is published in the Get Ahead magazine or newsletter!

Upcoming events and activities for your diaries

January 2021

- Dry January
- Veganuary
- January 4 - World Braille Day
- January 6 - February 21 - Big Schools' Birdwatch
- January 11- Paget's Awareness Day
- January 11- National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- January 27- Chocolate Cake Day

The VIP Singers are a group of Visually-Impaired people and their friend. They made [this video](#) for the Guide Dog Association's Christmas Wishes Event in 2020.

Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) Student Support Service is here for students with vision impairment aged 16+, their families and professionals. We support students to get in to and to get the most out of Further or Higher Education. We have a range of resources available online covering all aspects including - applying for, getting through and moving on from further and higher education. Our resources can be found at www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/student-support

We also offer 1:1 support and guidance, please contact us at studentsupport@pocklington-trust.org.uk to find out more - we'd love to hear from you!

Disability Rights UK online resources

Join the discussion: [Disability Rights UK: Are we really all ready for this first COVID-19 jab?](#)

Get Yourself Active: Find ways to get active in your local area in a way that is right for you.

Online Factsheets:

- [Careers and Work](#) factsheets
- [Education](#) factsheets and guides

DR UK student helpline

- Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Telephone: 0330 995 0414
- Email: students@disabilityrightsuk.org



Doing Careers Differently. This guide is aimed at people with lived experience of disability or health conditions and at those advising or working with them. It demonstrates that disability does not mean a career dead end. It contains inspiring personal stories from disabled models and actors, media professionals, senior managers and entrepreneurs, showing that it is possible to rise up the career ladder, make work meaningful and earn a decent wage.

Contact us



 Email: Get-ahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

 Twitter: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://twitter.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Instagram: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://www.instagram.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Videos: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 [Get Ahead webpage](https://www.get-ahead.org.uk)



[DR UK website](https://www.dr-uk.org)



We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

[**Get-ahead@disabilityrightsuk.org**](mailto:Get-ahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

For a text-only and large-print version of the Get Ahead newsletter:

email: Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Access the Get Ahead newsletters and magazines on our [**Get Ahead webpage**](https://www.get-ahead.org.uk)

To receive notifications about the Get Ahead publications please sign up [**here**](#)

**Wishing you all a nice winter break and a
fantastic New Year!**

Disability Rights UK

We are disabled people leading change, and the voice of young disabled people has to be central to that change.