



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

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week will take place between the 6th – 12th of February 2023.

This year's theme is '**Skills for Life**' and reflects on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

Schools, colleges, employers, career advisers and thousands of students come together online to celebrate Apprenticeships in support of the Government-run National Apprenticeship Week.

Throughout the week, top employers and organisations come together to showcase their opportunities to thousands of attendees, who are actively seeking an apprenticeship.

See also: **Amazing Apprenticeships** for additional information.

Education and training choices



View all the different work and study choices available to you.

You can also **explore careers** to get ideas about the type of job you might like or see the many ways to get your dream job.

National Careers Service

Disabled Apprentice Network 2023 report launch!

The Disabled Apprentice Network (DAN) will launch its 2023 report *Speaking from experience: Getting It right for Disabled apprentices* on February 8th during National Apprenticeship Week.

It is Disability Rights UK's follow-up report to 2022's **Getting it Right for Disabled Apprentices**.

The report considers what works well through collecting and analysing young Disabled people's experiences of how they receive information about apprenticeships; their engagement with training providers and employers, and the support they have received. We also collected the views from various stakeholders who work with Disabled young people.

The **Disabled Apprentice Network** (DAN) is a forum for Disabled apprentices, where they can share their experiences and offer ideas and proposals on how to improve apprenticeships for Disabled people.

Contact **DSU@disabilityrightsuk.org** to join the online launch on February 8th, 2023, at 10:00 am.

Provider Access Legislation

New **Provider Access Legislation** takes effect from January 2023 and will apply to all schools and colleges in England. This short guide from Amazing Apprenticeships sets out the main points that your school needs to know.

Support for Disabled young people doing apprenticeships

Amazing Apprenticeships are working in partnership with Disability Rights UK to support individuals with a learning difficulty, disability or health condition to find out more about apprenticeships and the amazing opportunities available.

Support for disabled young people - Amazing Apprenticeships

Ask Oli

Are you interested in a career in Health but not sure where to start? Then **Ask Oli!** Are you working in the NHS/Royal Wolverhampton Trust and thinking about a career change or want to develop in your current role but not sure how? Then Ask Oli.

Ask Oli is our newly launched dedicated careers advice service for staff and those looking to start a career in the NHS.

We offer information, advice, guidance and support on:

- Exploring career and job ideas
- Finding and applying for apprenticeships
- Searching for jobs
- Work experience
- Voluntary work



If you require any further information, please contact us on **ask.oli@nhs.net**

Disability Confident employer scheme

The **Disability Confident scheme** aims to help employers make the most of the opportunities provided by employing Disabled people. It is voluntary and has been developed by employers and disabled people's representatives.

Disability Confident is creating a movement of change, encouraging employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

Being Disability Confident is a unique opportunity to lead the way in your community, and you might just discover someone your business cannot do without.

This document lists the employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme, and their status (committed, employer or leader).

[Employers that have signed up to the Disability Confident scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The Good Youth Employment Charter



The Good Youth Employment Charter was co-created with young people and a range of partners by Youth Employment UK in 2012.

The Good Youth Employment Charter recognises the importance of the following principles: Creating opportunity, recognising talent, fair employment, fair employment, youth voice.

Organisations are encouraged to work to the Principles of Good Youth Employment and can sign up free of charge to the Youth Friendly Employer Badge & be listed on the Youth Friendly Employer Database to be recognised for their commitment to the 5 principles.

When you sign up to the **Good Youth Employment Charter**, you will be given access to further support and guidance and access the partner Toolkit. You will also be able to download the Youth Friendly Employer Badge and update your listing on the Youth Friendly Employer Database.

Creative and Cultural Skills

Are you an apprentice or former apprentice working in the creative industries? We want to hear from you!

At Creative and Cultural Skills, we believe apprenticeships can give us a diverse and skilled creative workforce. We're joining forces with colleagues across archives, craft, design, heritage, libraries, literature, museums, music, performing art and visual arts, to celebrate apprenticeships and consider how to boost these vital opportunities to #WorkEarnLearn

If you are, or have been, an apprentice in one of these sectors, we'd love to hear from you at **communications@ccskills.org.uk**

Your stories

Get Ahead shares the unique talents and stories of young people who are doing apprenticeships, traineeships, supported internships, work experience or have done something special they want to share.

You too can get involved! Send your story to Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Noel

I am currently working at Electric Pavilion, which is a local restaurant, in Northampton, on a supported internship.

My day-to-day tasks at work vary on what tasks get set by my mentor on the day, but include tasks like, food preparation general cleaning, and putting away deliveries.

My favourite things to prepare are salad foods, I especially enjoy using the salad spinner after I have washed the baby gem lettuce.

I have been working at Electric pavilion for 3 months.

In the beginning it was interesting to understand how the world of work works, as I have never had a full-time job and the change to routine was hard to adapt to but, I quickly adjusted to the longer hours and being on my feet all day and enjoy going to work. I look forward to seeing what my tasks will be for the day.

My supported internship means I get regular visits from my job coach, and she works closely with my mentor at work to make sure I am happy in my environment.

We all work together to set myself termly targets to work on while on the job and this term is Knife skills, I feel like it's going well but still needs work, there are plenty of opportunities to practice because something always needs chopping. I am getting more and more confident with the bigger knives and hope to be able to chop foods as fast and neatly as my mentor one day.

Since working at electric pavilion, I have had to try new foods that I wouldn't have done before, for example a blackberry compote, and a pulled pork burger, which tasted amazing. My mentor encourages me to try all the food we prepare, so I know how it should taste every time.

I am enjoying my work placement and hope to continue my career in catering after my supported internship finalises in July.



Tom did an information support technician level 3 apprenticeship. He initially looked into going to college, but then decided that an apprenticeship was a better route.

His school, Undershaw (formerly Stepping Stones) did individualised support with Tom and explored which training provider would work best for him to offer the additional support with maths and English. Because of his health condition, Tom needed a reasonable adjustment and had his weekly work and study timetable reduced.

Tom says that his employer was very helpful and that “The apprenticeship was a learning curve. I liked the fact that I could make a mistake and not be told off about it.”

The Excellence Gateway’s Special Educational Needs and Disabilities exhibition site

This site brings together some of the most effective materials available on the [Excellence Gateway](#), as well as brand new material. This site will be of interest to teachers, support staff, managers and leaders, working in the FE sector, who want to improve the outcomes for learners with SEND.

[Special Educational Needs and Disability. Meeting the needs of learners with learning difficulties and / or disabilities](#)

Know your rights!

This website is part of Disability Rights UK’s Right to Participate project, funded by the Legal Education Foundation. The project aims to increase awareness of the Equality Act, especially the ways it can protect disabled people from discrimination in everyday situations.

Watch Disability Rights UK’s [The Right to Participate](#) Videos on:

- Employment: <https://vimeo.com/294755159/10fe5ce721>
- Out & About: <https://vimeo.com/294755123/351555b11b>
- Education: <https://vimeo.com/294755090/10ece652b1>



Helpline for students, apprentices and trainees



Disability Rights UK runs a **Disabled Students Helpline** which offers information and advice to disabled students, apprentices and trainees by phone and email on a range of topics including:

- applying to college, university and apprenticeships
- telling people about your disability
- financial assistance
- adjustments for disabled students and apprentices
- rights in post -16 education and training under the Equality Act 2010
- how to resolve any disagreements.

The helpline supports disabled students, apprentices, parents and carers and professionals supporting disabled students aged over 16 in England.

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

In addition to the helpline, Disability Rights UK also produces a range of free **education factsheets and guides** for disabled students, trainees and apprentices on post 16 education and training.

Disability Rights UK's **Into Apprenticeships 2022 guide** deals with common questions such as how to find an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and what support is available in the workplace.

There are several inspiring stories written by disabled apprentices about their own experiences and the challenges they have faced. The guide also contains a useful resources section listing further websites, publications and organisations which can help.

Personal Budgets Helpline

Telephone: 0330 995 0404

Opening hours: 9.30am-1.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

personalbudgets@disabilityrightsuk.org

Welfare Rights Helpline for Member Organisations

Telephone: 0203 687 0779

Opening hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

ken.butler@disabilityrightsuk.org

Contact Us

 Email: getahead@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.getahead.org.uk)

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

We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

For a text-only or 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.getahead.org.uk)

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

Disability Rights UK

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

