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# Welcome

## The Supported Business Alliance: One year on



# Presenters

- Linda McIntyre - Watford Workshop
- Sarah Sharlott – Realise Futures
- Peter Keeley - Industrial Services Group (ISG)
- Richard Welfoot - Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind (MTIB)

# Agenda

1. The Alliance – a short presentation
2. The Alliance website and marketing
3. Breakout groups
4. Feedback from the groups
5. Questions, feedback
6. Close

# The Alliance Core Steering Group

- CLARITY
- Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind (MTIB)
- Realise Futures
- Watford Workshops
- Industrial Services Group
- Pluss

# What is a Supported Business?

- A service where more than 50% of the workers are disabled persons who by reason of the nature or severity of their disability are unable to take up work in the open labour market.
- Is Supportive a better description?

## Why form the Alliance?

- Improve Government Understanding of what we do
- Definition of the brand of Supported Business (distinct from Remploy)
- Need to strengthen and develop our role within future disability employment programmes
- Demonstrate we are not an out dated “ah Bless” service

# Adding strength: The Alliance

The Alliance believes that ALL disabled people should have the opportunity of sustained employment regardless of the complexity of their barriers.



The Alliance believes that Supported Businesses provide a valuable option for some disabled people in the achievement of this overall objective.

# The Alliance: shared values

## Shared core values:

- Real jobs
- Holistic support
- Independence
- Peer-to-peer support
- Commercial
- Changing perception
- Innovation
- Sustainability





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# Alliance Members to date



Cefndy Healthcare &  
Manufacturing

CLARITY (GWB)

County Print Finishers

E-Cycle Ltd

Industrial Services Group (ISG)

ISCAL

Monwel Limited

Moorland Plastics

MTIB

Newco

Norman Industries

Pathway Workshop

Pluss

RBLI

Realise Futures

Tremorvah Industries

Vision Products

Watford Workshop

White Crystal

Yorkcraft

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# History and achievements 1

- July 2013 Initial working Group Established
- April 2014 Proposal Document “A View From Supported Business “ submitted to DWP
- July 2014 Secretary of State visit to CLARITY
- February 2015 Visit by Kevin Keenan (DWP Lead on Disability Employment) to CLARITY
- May 2015 Creation of our strategy to ensure the successful future of Supported Business

## History and achievements 2

- Protected place funding extended until April 2017
- Re-kindled Governments interest in Supported Business as a viable entity within Work Programmes
- Direct engagement with Secretary of State and Senior DWP Officials
- Improved mutual understanding of what can be achieved from future DWP programmes

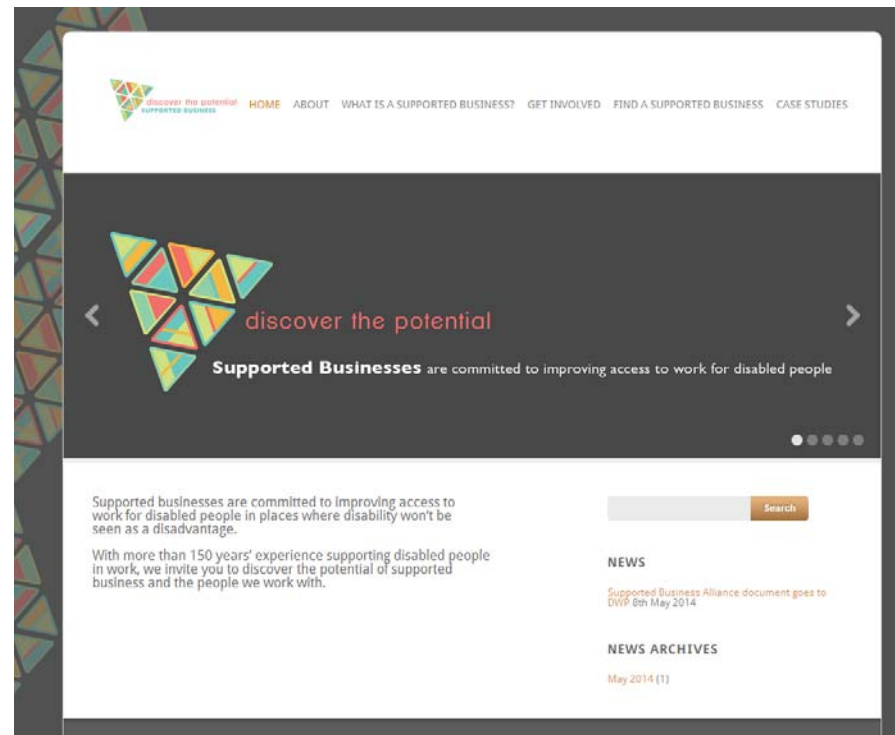
## The Alliance: next priorities

- Second Submission to DWP made and follow up planned
- Formation of the Alliance as a potential Special Purpose Vehicle for future bidding activity
- Use of Social Return On Investment Model to demonstrate the value of Supported Business
- Attendance at all Consultation events on future DWP programme developments

# Securing our future

- The businesses have an important part to play in the future of specialist disability employment delivery
- We continue to align ourselves with the aims of BASE
- We will forge stronger partnerships with Social Enterprise UK, Social Firms England, and associated Trade Bodies and Campaigning Organisations

# The Supported Business Alliance website and marketing



[www.discoverthepotential.org](http://www.discoverthepotential.org)

# Breakout activity

## Group one – commercial opportunities

How can the remaining supported businesses work together to secure future contracts?

## Group two – Government and policy makers

How can we make supported businesses the model of choice for disabled people, government bodies, and employers?

## Group three – employment

How could the transition from supported business to mainstream employment be made easier to drive increases in job outcomes?

## Group four – the future

What effect will the change from minimum wage to living wage have on the employment of disabled people?

# Feedback from the groups

Overview and summary





**Thank you for attending and for your  
contribution today**

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