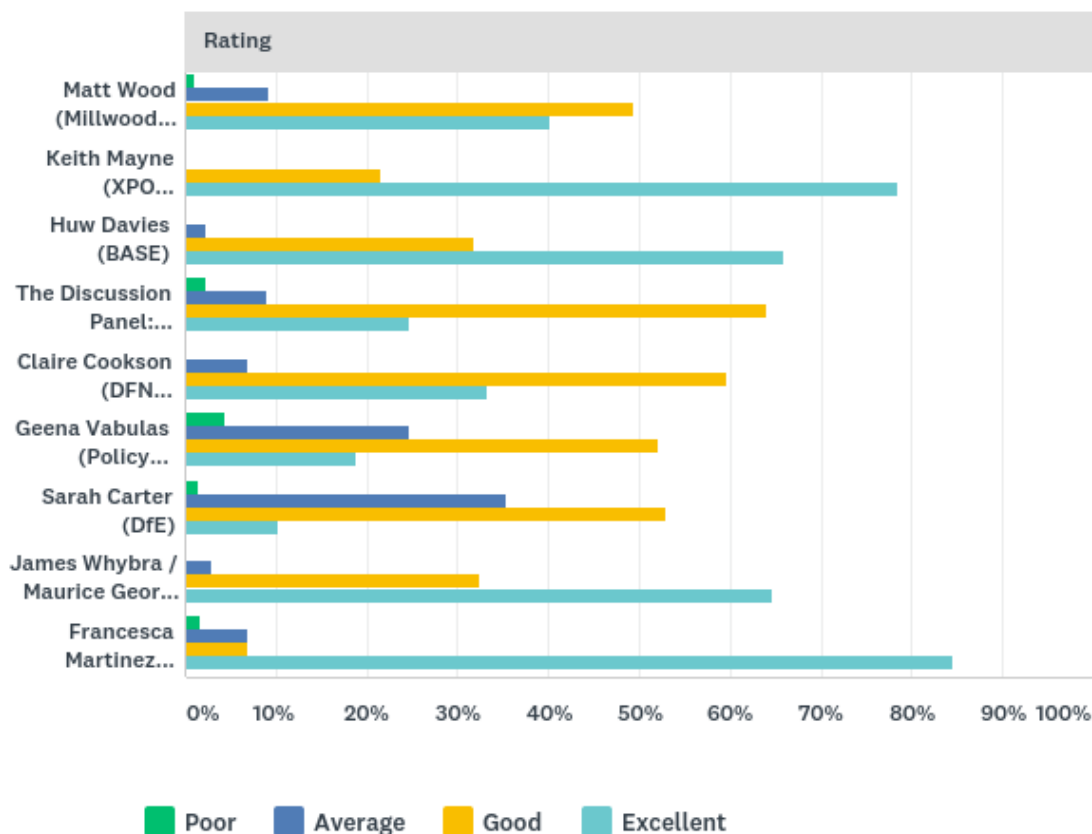


Q2 How did you rate the speakers?



Another excellent line up of panel members and speakers.

Unfortunately had to leave before I heard Francesca, the lunch could have been shorter with an earlier finish time.

This is the first and not last time I attend this conference and if I'm really honest.... it was the BEST conference I have attended in all of my professional working life.

My first venture and opportunity to attend a BASE conference before even attending any regional BASE meetings. I didn't know what to expect but found it enjoyable, informing, motivating - the chance to meet other across the entire UK working in similar roles with similar challenges. The venue location and facilities, food and hospitality, workshops and guest speaker, dinner and awards were well managed, a full schedule and the 2-days flew by. In hindsight, I may have possibly picked one or two workshop changes, not quite knowing what to expect and whether the discussions within the workshops had direct impact on my own work.

Would like to have a disability MP there to answer questions and listen to us professionals about the struggles this government are making for disabled people.

The discussion panel, I found very difficult to understand - some of the abbreviations I did not understand. I did like the talk from Keith regarding his personal experience and was very pleased that they won an award.

Keith XPO and James and Maurice were highlights by far.

I could only attend the first day so didn't get to see speakers in the Wednesday.

Had to leave early on day 2 - apologies. Day one speakers were outstanding overall, I thought.

A great range of speakers from different sectors. All were interesting to listen to and cumulatively they recharged our enthusiasm for Supported Employment.

Good range of speakers inspiration and thought provoking.

For the most part excellent and illuminating speakers.

I was unable to attend the Wednesday afternoon session but was impressed with the range of speakers and variety of topics. All relevant to current industry issues / challenges.

A truly inspiring couple of days.

The speakers at the start of the conference were encouraging and it was reassuring to see how well they were working with our providers.

I particularly enjoyed the film clips of people achieving in their environments.

Francesca Martinez is an articulate inspiring individual and she brought the whole conference to a wonderful close, looking at changing perspectives and forcing people to think outwith the BOX. We are all DIFFERENT and DISABLED but we don't use the word DISABLED to describe typical individuals. Different is positive and enlightening as is wobbly!!!!

We left at lunchtime on Day 2 so unable to comment on Day 2 speakers.

A really good combination of local and national experts, displaying expertise in "how it's done" or very sound and up-to-date policy knowledge and understanding. I felt very well informed. It would be great to have the links to the videos shown by the speakers - they were very powerful.

I thought Keith was brilliant- he discussed things in a basic way and I felt fully engaged with their journey. I found the panel a tad confusing and at one point was convinced people were talking about IBS... but that's just me!!

Had to return to work on day as found out we had an imminent Ofsted inspection!

Really great conference and learnt a lot. Well done to all concerned.

As shown above, everyone was excellent without exception. For me, a few stood out even further: Francesca delivered such a perfect show - part comedy, part honesty, and a whole lot of genuine truth. James and Maurice provided great information which showed me where my programme has strengths, and where it requires improvements - their presentation was of real value to me. I took something away from each and every one - my notebook is well filled and a hearty report is in the pipeline.

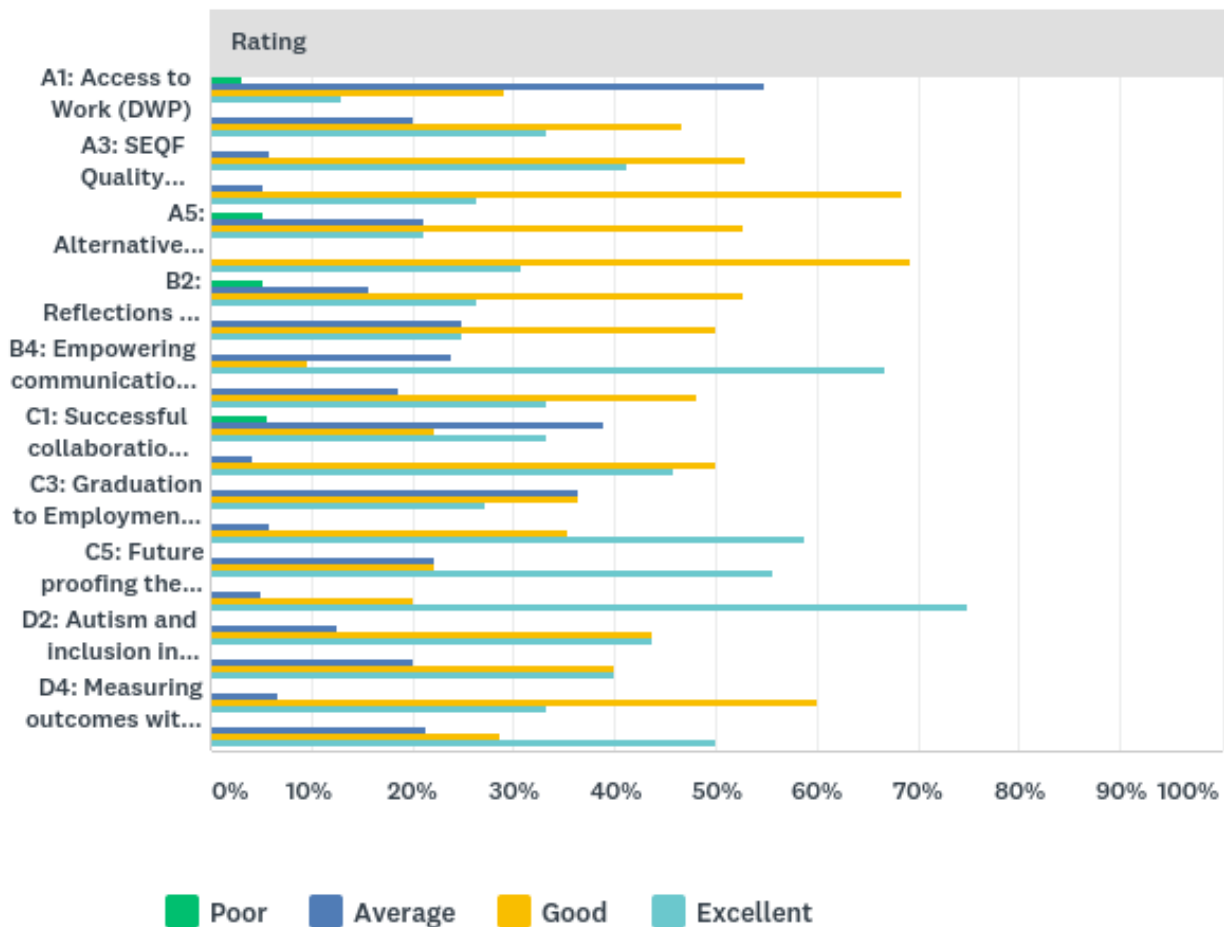
Was disappointed to miss Francesca. Please can we be acronym free.

I was particularly struck by how well Huw facilitates Q&A sessions and am sorry I was only able to attend on 5th November.

I couldn't attend the sessions where I have not given a response.

Really liked that XPO Logistics gave a discussion and showcased their journey just out of love! One of my favourite talks of the conference.

Q3 How did you rate the workshops?



I really enjoyed all the workshops I took part in. A3 was brilliant and a great way forward to regulate our work. My knowledge on supported business is not great, hence why I went to the workshop. Sadly I'm still confused as to how and where these will work. However, it's a space I will watch.

Access to Work seemed to send representative from wrong departments. The reps didn't know much more than what we already know so took back lots of queries.

I found the sessions where they encouraged group activities to be most useful as it started up conversations and encouraged new ideas to be shared. Some sessions were encouraging sales of services or products this was less useful.

Excellent choice and mix of workshops with excellent learning points and sharing and promoting good practice

ATW did not have opportunities to answer questions and were too vague. Reflections on TSI was interesting however felt like it was more about recruiting trainers. Future proofing supported businesses was interesting. It was mentioned on repeated occasions about joining up funding. Closing the disability employment gap- was interesting. I found talking with the other providers in the room great.

Did not attend all workshops, and no option to add that?

I really enjoyed the workshops I attended. They were informative, interactive and fun.

TSI workshop focused more on the careers of the trainers and reflections of their careers and did not do enough to emphasise the power of the model. Focused on the delivery and history in America too much and not enough emphasis on how TSI is being effective in this country. Accessible employment was

relevant to my role and the group work allowed for good practice to be shared. Very effective Raising Aspirations for people with LD very inspiring. Trainers were down to earth, humorous and bounced off each other. Best double act of the conference!

D1 was the best seminar I have been to in a long time. It was very informative, whilst drawing on real life case studies and showed the excellent work being done in Northamptonshire whilst also sharing ideas that we can implement in other areas.

Good variety of speakers and workshops.

A shame to have to miss so much interesting stuff - I suppose the solution is to bring a colleague next year.

All of the speakers and workshops were fantastic. I really enjoyed and got a lot from the conference.

I loved the Raising Aspirations session...great presentation and great speakers!

I didn't feel that A5: Alternative Funding: thinking out of the box (Pembrokeshire CC) delivered on the title of the workshop. It was interesting to hear about the great work they are doing but there were no real suggestions. Maybe it was only meant for local authorities?

The presentations are all delivered to the highest of standards and time is always given to discuss and evaluate content. Delivered by passionate well-informed individuals.

B4: Empowering communication in SEND transitions (Books Beyond Words) - This workshop felt like it was just selling its books. I thought it would be more theory and practice around communication in SEND Transition.

The air conditioner in the room was noisy and made it difficult to hear the speaker in workshop C4 and D4.

All experts in the field. I connected well with workshop delegates from many different backgrounds and didn't assume much prior knowledge. I was afraid the workshops were going to be only employer-focused but that was not the case.

I felt the Brain in Hand was good - it was definitely an area we'd like to explore. There wasn't a discussion around price so not really sure if it is an option. Books Beyond Words was really good - potentially because it was about the individual. I thought of a million book titles during the workshop. Worked with a lovely man through the workshop, which was lovely as I kept seeing him throughout the 2 days.

I found workshop B5 particularly interesting as I have been considering setting up a similar group in Pembrokeshire. Not only were the speaker inspiring, but they gave a great insight into how this was done by them and ideas on how I could set this up. It was great to discuss this with other delegates who have initiated this or who are thinking of setting up a similar group. The speakers from Triangle Consulting (and also Liverpool LA), were very helpful and it was great to have a discussion with them following their workshop as we currently use the Work Star but have found that this is not appropriate for everyone we support. The Pathway Star seems more accessible for some of our participants.

Difficult to hear in some workshops due to lots of noise next door, the names of the rooms were confusing as very similar to each other so not very sensory friendly.

Great choice of workshops, too many to choose from!

Again, each workshop I attended provided me with a wealth of information and ideas - some aspects gave me confidence that I am well on track and in the right direction (my programme is still young and in development), and some provided valuable ideas to build into development and progression.

D5 although interesting didn't quite hit the mark as a workshop. Felt like they were trying to get something from attendees (funding, members, marketing ideas) so the balance was off. Maybe a stall would be more appropriate. A2 was very interesting and will change my practice as a job coach. Excited to feed back this

approach to self-employment to my colleagues. B2 was helpful for me as someone who already uses Systematic Instruction

The workshops that allowed for 'takeaways' or shared or co-produced problem solving were the most impactful for myself as a practitioner. Claire's workshop on inclusive apprenticeships could not have been more helpful!

Had real difficulty understanding the chap from AtW. Conference was as good as ever. Always fired up with inspiration by the time that I leave. Thanks.

When we were in the rooms with the divider down the middle sometimes it was very difficult to hear the speakers.

DWP talk did not give us a further insight into AtW and how to go about this. I would be interested to see if they share their team names and contact information. Dynamic training - I enjoyed this, but we discussed more about the funding stream. I was hoping for more information on how we could get more providers to be open and honest about inclusive apprenticeships Cornwall Council talk - wow!!! Just brilliant and fantastic to hear the changes!

Q4 How good was the pre-conference information and organisation?



Excellent

Very good and informative.

The room discount on the base website was actually more than what was offered by the hotel, we booked through booking.com as it was much cheaper. The hotel didn't provide delegates a preferential rate even though they said they had. However, everything else was as expected.

On account of not booking I don't know!

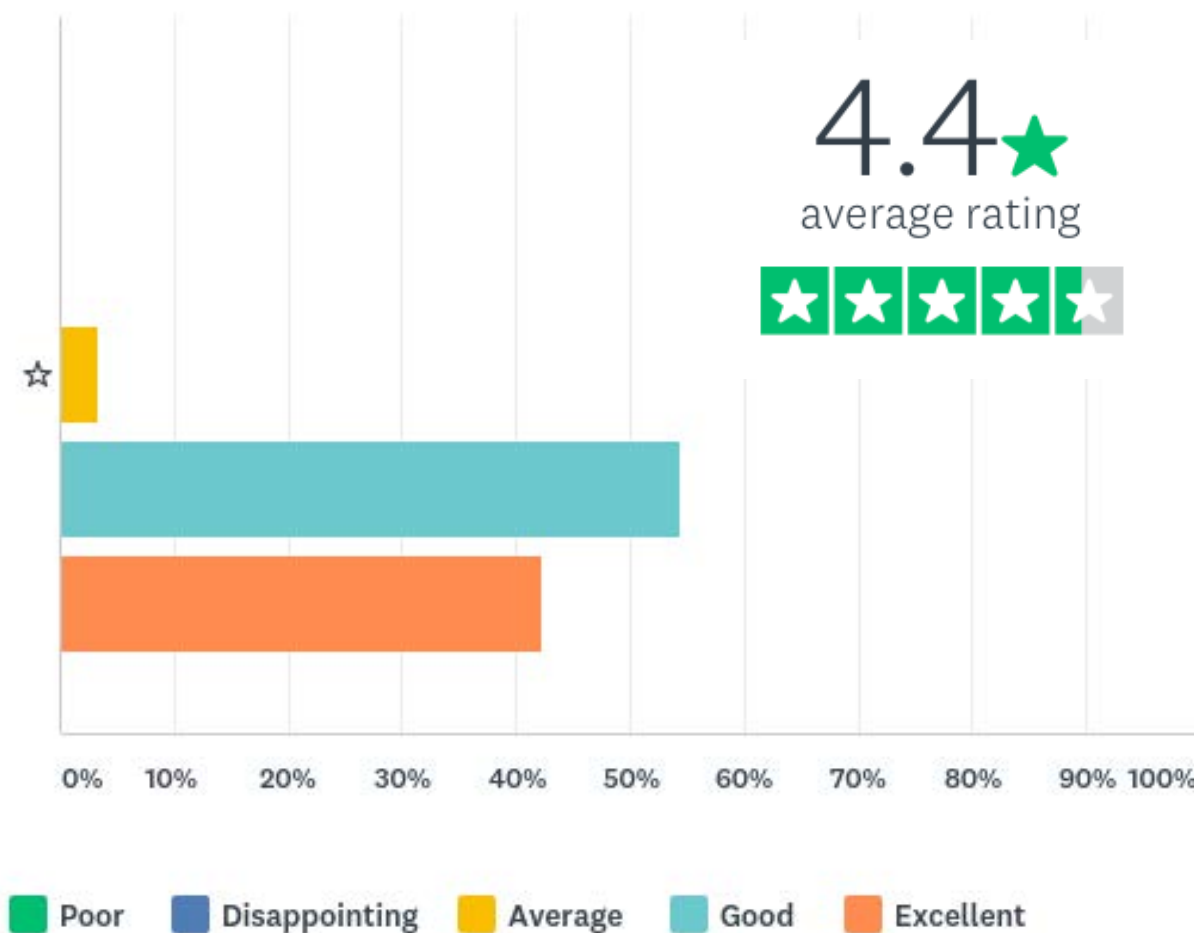
Would have been good to get the programme details a bit earlier so my colleague and I could decide which workshops to attend

Quite straight forward and no issues at all.

Having replaced a colleague on the list, I received the information only a couple of days beforehand. The information provided was clear and I felt well informed before attending.

I would have liked to have had the timetable sooner.

Q5 How did you find the conference brochure?



It would have really helped to have the address and contact details of the venue on the programme this helps at a glance to see where the conference is being held.

Excellent.

My name has been miss-spelt 2 years in a row.

Was lovely to see we had a big advert in this. Made me feel very proud.

However, I would have liked this further in advance as if I had known the actual start time of the speakers, I probably wouldn't have stayed at the hotel the night before. That may have been my misreading of the pre-conference information, but I understood the conference to start at 9am.

Would have appreciated having the brochure a little earlier so could plot my time more effectively.

Perfect - Informative and we really appreciate having the LIVE Changing Room in it!

It was very useful to have a list of all delegates attending as this helped with networking (not having attended before, this was useful). Also, it was useful to have information regarding the workshops.

Wrong days listed.

Where was the bag??????????

Q6 How good was the conference registration?



Always friendly, welcoming and encouraging colleagues, puts one at ease upon arrival.

Perfect.

Very friendly.

Very smooth and straight forward.

No issues at all.

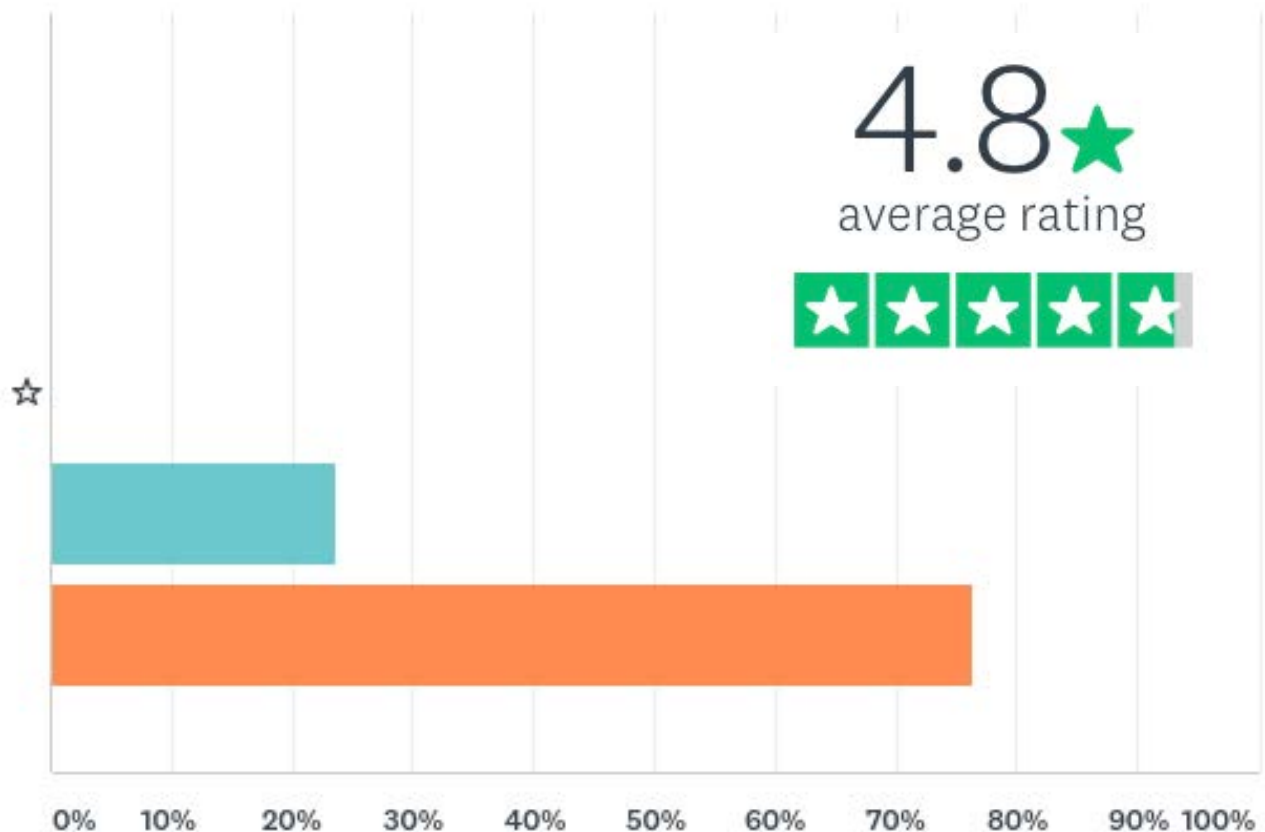
A colleague was originally registered. However, it was easy enough to change her name to mine on the delegate list.

Straight forward.

Very quick.

Unable to comment as I was not involved in this aspect.

Q7 How well was the event organised?



■ Poor ■ Disappointing ■ Average ■ Good ■ Excellent

Enjoyed every single stage of it, dinner reception excellent. Entertainment and above all the awards is breath taking to see colleagues who have worked hard being recognised.

Really well organised and flowed really well.

No problems and people were on hand to help with navigating to different spaces such as the lecture theatres.

Very well organised but not oppressive.

The event was well organised. However I feel that it was primarily aimed at organisations and legislation in England. It would be worth doing some work to engage those in Wales and Scotland in order to build up networks in these areas.

I had no problem knowing what was next, where I was meant to be, and what to expect.

Easy to find locations for workshops, with plenty of people on hand to signpost.

Q8 How would you rate the conference dinner and awards?



The evening awards was brilliant, its great to see what people have been achieving across the county.

Good timing- not too long and not too short.

The awards is breath taking - to see colleagues who have worked hard being recognised, dinner just excellent always looking forward to it.

A heart warming and amazingly welcoming event.

Lots of mash!

Did not attend.

Great band, food and service!

Very enjoyable to see all of the winners and listen to their stories, it must be a very difficult decision to be made.

I would have liked a choice of food, but apart from that it was a nice dinner and awards ceremony.

I couldn't attend unfortunately.

Really good fun. Great awards and stories and band were brilliant.

Excellent meal, staff were incredibly polite and helpful.

Bit more variety in music would have been cool and it would have been nice to know a little more about the David Grainger award. However it was a really interesting night and it was excellent to see people and organisations getting highly commended awards as well as winning outright.

Found the awards really moving this year and also highly entertaining, thank you.

A great evening, great band, it was set up really nicely. Food was disappointing from a vegetarian perspective - it would have been great to know what food was being served!

Really appreciated being able to attend and share in the award ceremony. The meal was lovely. Thank you.

The food was disappointing compared to the lunches.

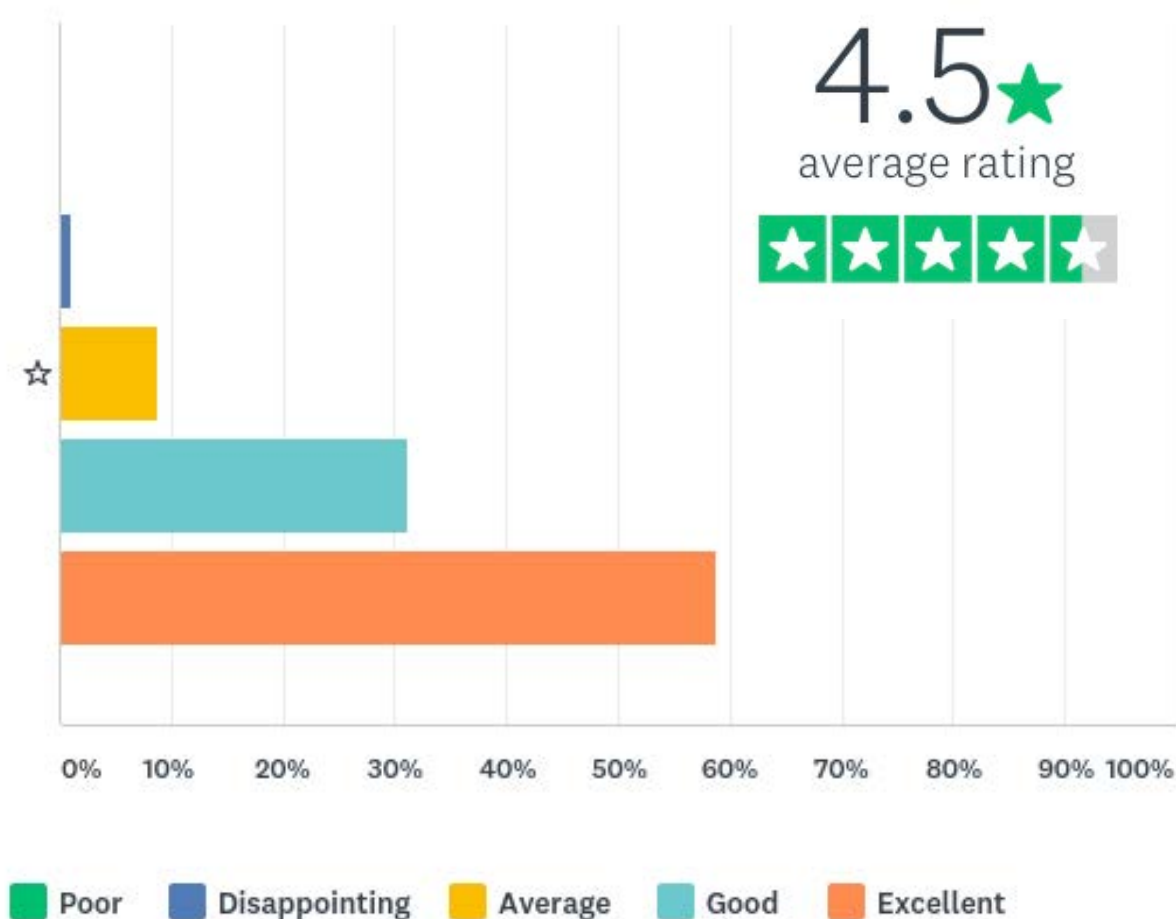
This is a hard one as the awards and the evening were great but the food was very average.

Last year I had issues with gluten free food - this year I was very well provided for, with the dinner service staff ensuring that my needs were well and truly met! The event was again, a fabulous celebration of achievements and successes, well planned and it went very smoothly - no late-night fire alarms this time!

We were robbed in the dance off :)

Really enjoyable and inspiring.

Q9 How suitable was the venue and location?



Great public transport links.

Venue was good and good location close to train station.

A short walk from the station is always great - please could you just make it value for money.

Didn't find it as easy to network here as other venues you have had before - maybe too many different rooms?

Drinks were over priced.

Central location.

The car park was a bit of a nightmare to find. However the venue had everything I needed. Was strange that the bathrooms were situated on a different floor to the restaurant.

Excellent central location with good links to public transport and easy to get to the town centre. The hotel was expensive, especially considering we are public sector and therefore don't have a big budget for events like this. However, the hotel was a good choice for the conference as there were so many conference rooms and facilities.

Great location.

Potential to have the same valuable ideas/discussions in a more economic venue.

Good to see that glass water bottles were used rather than plastic.

Nice venue bit of a maze to navigate- maybe introduce a quiet room. Location was excellent particularly as I was staying in a different hotel.

Central location with great transport links.

Totally appreciate your trying to capture an area that everyone can get to but Manchester was a long way to come from the south east! Leicester will be much better next year!

I was worried that it was going to be difficult to find - but found it quite easy.

It was a convenient location and the hotel staff were very helpful.

Good central location accessible to trams.

£30 parking! :(

Nice venue, would have been nicer to have it all on same floor and maybe a quiet room for anyone who needed a quiet space to go to?

No wifi was a big issue!!!

Location was excellent, the hotel is a bit tired in places (mainly the rooms - I felt it was lower standard than travelodge but higher price).

Q10 How good were the food and facilities?



Too many cakes :) ha!

We did see a mouse!

Makes a change having to make my daily sandwiches for work.

Heating fluctuated.

No wifi?

Rodents in the main hall, re-using napkins, broken fixtures etc.

No concerns had everything I required.

Lunch was excellent, really enjoyed a hot lunch and choice of meals. Breakfast was also good.

The venue was excellent, the hotel staff were very helpful and the catering was excellent. However, it was let down by the extreme heat in the main hall. The temperature was so high that at times I had to stand outside the door to avoid melting.

Food was excellent. Facilities good too.

The venue was not as good as previous years - depending on which queue you got your food from at lunchtime, it was cold! Also, wifi very poor both in the conference centre and the accommodation. This is

not a reflection on BASE but I feel for the phenomenal amount of money it costs BASE to put on these conferences, the venue did not seem to give the same value for money as previous years.

Friendly staff, good choice of fresh food, very clean.

Only one, two cubical toilets near the rooms.

Good range of food for different tastes and dietary preferences. A bit of a trek to the toilets though (none on main conference room level) and those on the workshop floor rather small.

I really enjoyed and appreciated having lunch provided- so thank you. It was also thoughtful to tea and coffee on tap. It makes things very comfortable. The venue was easy to navigate around.

Amazing food and facilities, the chef and his team did a fantastic job. Paul the concierge was also amazing and helpful, so friendly in talking to us and giving us information we needed.

The facilities were excellent as were the hotel staff.

Good provision for vegans at dinner and lunch.

More toilets on each floor.

Facilities were very good and lunches were excellent.

No issues at all: I ate well, and had a full cup of coffee whenever I needed one!

All the rooms were very hot!

Q11 How would you rate the conference overall?



My second BASE conference and as always I walked away with new contacts, hope that supported employment has a "place" in the world of work but above all, the reassurance that we are doing a good job and its a battle we are all facing.

Great networking event, increased knowledge and resources from other providers.

The whole experience was good. However when I was on the stage presenting a workshop I was very nervous.

Some of the seminars I attended weren't particularly engaging, however the key messages were delivered. I enjoyed the speakers in the main hall.

I thought it was really useful and gained a lot of insights that I am in the process of passing on to my colleagues. Could be made a little more autism friendly however it was an incredibly worthwhile and productive experience.

Very important to hear about and see all of the amazing best practice support which is being offered across the UK.

The variety of speakers was good, but feel there wasn't enough opportunity to network. The food was pretty average and a rodent was seen scuttling about in the main hall!

There were parts where I didn't fully understand the discussion - but that's just my own limitations. On the whole I felt it was well organised, inclusive and informative. It was a friendly, supportive environment and I fully was immersed in it.

I came away from the conference with ideas on how to implement actions with regards to Disability Confident Action Group and differentiating support with the regards to the Pathway Star. It was a fantastic opportunity to discuss ideas and how to implement them with those who are at the same stage of a process or have already implemented it.

It is always good to see such a strong BASE team supporting our sector.

Excellent - despite the Mercure Hotel - so many niggles and admin issues over booking and payment!

I took a lot away from the conference - information, ideas, thoughts, and new contacts. It is a great opportunity to learn, to meet people and network, and to receive that boost in confidence that I am on the right track with my programme.

A really varied and interesting conference with a good range of workshops.

Q12 What did we do well?



I enjoyed the whole event.

The conference was very well organised, with very informative workshops covering a good range of topics. I especially enjoyed listening to Francesca Martinez, a great way to end this year's BASE conference.

Some of the guest speakers were very inspirational

Workshops and speakers were excellent.

Organization was extremely well done varied workshops and speakers.

Good at keeping to times. Good guest speakers. Great seeing Francesca and having her at the end of the conference to encourage more participants to stay till the end. This worked very well. Inviting AtW although they didn't send reps who had any solutions for issues we are all currently facing.

Range of workshops.

Well organised event, very informative.

The variety of talks to attend.

BASE conference to me always well organised. I find these conferences very useful and important too. BASE is doing an awfully lots of work to get DWP and the Government as a whole to recognise the good work that organisations like us are doing to support fellow citizens with support needs into employment. That is why I find these conference important; it brings us together to share the good works that each of us is doing across the country and can learn more from it and see what else we can do to improve what we are already doing.

Very well organized with pertinent content.

2nd day of talks and workshops were better than the first day.

Everything really. From a-z, especially the final 'act', what a stroke of genius!

Brought like-minded people together, facilitating discussion in problematic areas, highlighting positive outcomes and sharing best practice.

Workshops were well organised, over all plan for the 2 days ran smoothly. Guest speakers and panels were informative.

Planning, good networking and contacts, sharing of best practice.

Speakers and range of topics.

General organization and structure was very good plus very good variety of workshops.

It was interesting for me to meet other people from around the country and to see how others are working. Very well organised and the structure was good, the right time for everything to happen did not feel rushed at all.

Excellent organisation excellent networking opportunities great to meet and learn about other services.

Great location, we were well fed and plenty of refreshments throughout the two days. A good variety of seminars to choose from and some informative speakers. I learned a lot, and I really appreciated the opportunity to network and learn what is going on in other areas.

I felt the event was professional and informative and inspirational.

The award ceremony and a good variety of workshops

Great conference. Workshops were varied, awards evening fun, great band. Great to see a number of employers involved in the conference.

I thought the event was well organised and very informative.

Well organised, lots of passionate and varied speakers, great venue.

Organisation was spot on as always.

A range of speakers covering topical subjects and a great insight in to the different components of supported employment in a variety of settings.

A variation of topics and ongoing issues.

Good communications; very helpful organisation.

Good selection of speakers and workshops - even after all these years the BASE conferences are a learning and development opportunity for me.

Organisationally it was super. Interaction with other workers was beneficial as networking across agencies was brilliant.

Good range of speakers and workshops. I like the 2 day event with awards dinner in between. Comedians have been great last 2 years, but I thought it worked better in the evening if possible. BASE NEC really friendly and helpful. Good value for money.

The conference was well organised and enjoyable with lots of valuable information. As a guest I felt we were well looked after.

Everything ran on time, lots of people to ask if not sure where to go etc.

Booking Francesca Martinez was a stroke of genius. Hilarious and thought- provoking.

Quality of presentations was consistently good and the hotel for the most part was an inspired choice.

Variety of speakers and topic.

Wonderful networking.

The set up from start to finish, strong speakers, interesting content, great atmosphere and the band were also fab.

I thought the event was planned and executed well. The rooms for workshops were well labelled and the organisation and timing was brilliant. Very current information and good interaction and group collaboration.

Diversity of workshops and topics covered over the 2 days. Fantastic entertainment!!! Great networking and sharing of information.

Organisation and time management.

It was my first time attending to the conference. All the organisation of the event was excellent, alongside the distribution of the activities and the workshops. The conference and awards night was an excellent space to socialise and recognise all the advances that have been made in terms of supported employment, throughout the country.

Keith from XPO was excellent! Bringing that inspiring business perspective - he was engaging and informative in his presentation. The variety of workshops was great, however some of my choices were disappointing in their presentation.

BASE staff were very knowledgeable and friendly.

Interesting speakers.

Great range of speakers and workshop presenters.

Keith Payne was inspirational. I feel he made such an impact with XPO's journey and to see Aaron at the awards was awesome! Was a lovely award ceremony, well done.

The way the programme of events was set out well with adequate breaks and time for discussion etc.

Q13 What would you like to see different next time?

table lots see really attend Nothing think networking time session
people even workshops Maybe
conference awards good supported
supported employment opportunity work find also employment day

I would love to see employers attend who thinking about supported employment. For them to see there really is support out there and its not risky, or a HR headache and speak to others how have employed people and talk to us. i think, when you see supported employment as a group/countywide approach, it becomes less of a risk and more of "how can we get involved."

Coming from Jersey, we are fortunate to not have the same difficulties with funding that apply to many of the services in the UK. Understandably this dominates a lot of the discussion at events such as this but as my first BASE conference since starting in this field only 3 months ago, I found it was very top heavy with discussions of a financial nature. I would have enjoyed the pleasure of learning more about the different services and approaches in operation across the UK.

Nothing.

Address and contact details of venue on programme value for money venue.

Different hotel, I was on the top floor and my key card continually did not work. I was having to wait a long time to be able to catch the lift back down to sort this out which was quite frustrating.

Nothing really,

The Q&A times there were a lot of questions and not as much time. I wonder if a people could write down additional questions, then after theses are answered share will all electronically?

Invite a 'work and health programme' provider to gain their perspective on supported employment. More NHS providers who deliver IPS to secondary mental health patient referrals.

Disability minsters, businesses wanting to find out more.....

Maybe over 1 day.

Some of the workshops seemed to be more like the provider selling their product rather than actually shearing best practice or meaningful knowledge.

Maybe a form which has the abbreviations written down in the welcome packs on the tables, so I can relate to what people are talking about. This I did struggle on.

At times too much jargon from some of the speakers, some of the subjects subject matter was not as relevant to my role so keeping up the jargon was much more challenging.

I would like the option of evening only tickets, so we can invite more of our team to join in with the awards and dinner as a celebration of what we are doing. We couldn't afford to have more to the whole

conference, but we would have liked more people to come just for the evening. This may also boost some income for BASE, as teams who have been nominated for awards would most likely want to bring more people to celebrate with them. I would have liked to see more clients/advocates/experts by experience as speakers. I would have liked to hear their first hand experiences and how supported employment has impacted on their lives. It would be good to have more of a celebration of our clients. Even if this was by pre-recorded video, if it wasn't feasible for any clients to attend. I would have liked to see more employers, maybe a mini employer engagement event could be set up in one of the seminar slots. If we invited national companies, who have locations all over, we could engage with them and perhaps offer our clients case studies to them for prospective employment. it would also be a way to educate and inform employers. Would like some of the more popular seminars to be repeated so there was an opportunity to attend if they clashed with another seminar that was also of interest.

I would like workshops to be more interactive. As I couldn't attend the dinner I would've liked more networking opportunities. I would like to hear more from people with lived experience.

As a lot of people tend to leave early on the second day due to travel arrangements, I wonder if it would be worth starting the second day earlier (as most attendees are staying locally) and ending the day at midday. So you get maximum attendance, but allow for those with long journeys in front of them.

I think it would have been nice to have a marketplace, there were only a couple of stands and I think that having a marketplace is a great way for people to network and gain valuable information about services.

When we booked the workshop we weren't initially told that there was also an exhibition table.

A civilised temperature in the main hall! That is really the only change I would make.

Just a thought but if you are looking to increase numbers it might be worth trying to market at employers more (you could do this through member links) - make workshops targeted at warm lead employers - even if this was just one day of the conference it might be a good angle? Different target markets over the two days - discount if you come for both days?

Next time would be good to see more diversity at the conference if possible. The decision to read out Aaron's (XPO employee) words when XPO won an award was frustrating, as he was confident with speaking, and no other award winners had their words read out. This was patronising and went against the ethos of the entire conference.

Not able to see all content on the screen in the main hall. Panel members at the table on the stage were clearly self-conscious at times as people tried to see around them. Even when they weren't there, all of the information wasn't visible. Lack of wifi and aircon were disappointing. A shorter lunch break on Day 2 and a slightly earlier finish might have allowed more people to stay for Francesca's slot. Partitioned workshop rooms on the third floor meant that noise levels carried. I had to move from the back row to front row of B5 (Victoria Park) as I couldn't hear the presentation because of the noise from the next room.

Maybe a bit of an improvement on the autism access generally. For instance I recommend taking a look at some of the techniques that Autscope use such as interaction badges and a sensory/quiet room. Also the conference could have a sort of ice-breaking session/ designated/networking session) particularly for people who are either less skilled in networking or who are attending BASE conference for their first time.

Nothing!

More information beforehand, easier to find.

Candidates who are or have been supported into work given a slot to talk about their journey /experience.

More about mental health.

Less time for lunch breaks and an earlier finish.

A couple of workshops for people that are new or that are not familiar with supported employment. I found the "Back to Basics: the 5 stages of Supported Employment (BASE)" workshop, really useful and according to my need.

More networking opportunities built in - maybe something where half the hall stay put on a table and the other half move around the tables in set time intervals? This would be great on the first morning.

I wouldn't change a thing. You did it perfectly.

It's a shame that we had to choose between so many great workshops per session. Perhaps next time there could be more workshops throughout the day so people can attend more and don't miss out.

ATW 'session' as part of the conference instead as a workshop to avoid competition for other workshops and ensure everybody can attend this session??

This again, is down to my own limitations- but there were a lot of acronyms and I kept scribbling away to try and find out what they meant.

I didn't enjoy the discussion panel but I think this is because of the role I am in I don't really have to deal with Commissioning & Funding of Supported Employment. This would be more managers and senior positions. Maybe there could be something else in another room for anyone who is an employment support officer or lower grade with something more relevant

Not sure at the moment.

A wider variety of speakers outside of the workshops.

I think the conference can be used as a safe space for the discussion of a few more controversial issues and potential radical policies would make it even more interesting and engaging. I didn't hear any mention of the increasing minimum wage and it's impact on job outcomes or the topic of wage subsidies. Also a discussion around welfare benefits and their incentives/disincentives and how to challenge individuals, work with families, etc.

It would be good to learn more from other team's successes, perhaps this could be showcased by asking members to submit evidence-based poster presentations that could be displayed throughout the conference.

Would like to see some sessions on sharing supported employment practice as it would be a good opportunity to do this and there was limited opportunity to do this in the workshops.

Shorter lunch on second day. More air con.

Less jargon/formal lectures

It was a shame there were not more exhibitors as it was very empty in that room!! I also think its a shame that people do leave before the end of the day on day two, maybe start the day earlier on day two so conference ends earlier?

Access to work was a bit disappointing as they didn't seem to know their subject well enough.

Better quality white wine at the dinner.

Given that numbers are down, and the future of the conference hangs in the balance, for me the main thing is that it continues!

There was a groundswell of delegates asking for EHCP outcome writing with Employment as a focus. Second day - start at 9 to finish slightly earlier?

More representation from people who are supported employees, especially at the awards ceremony.

Nothing - the format works (don't change it to one day, especially if get sponsorship).

Perhaps cheaper accommodation on site and also discounts for group bookings/table bookings for the dinner and awards?

Just wish I could be in more than one workshop at a time!

I would be keen to have the opportunity to network more. Also keen for the use of LinkedIn to be promoted, lots of delegates had LinkedIn but possibly promoting this next year.

Q14 Do you have any general comments you'd like to make?

excellent hear network people attend support event think thank
really conference organisations good lots great
next year BASE hard work always supported employment work

Can't wait for next year.....

I thought the overall conference was well organised and the hotel staff and services were excellent.

Lots of opportunities to network.

It's always good to network with representatives from other supported employment organisations and share good practices.

The London Borough of Newham would like to thank Huw for all his hard work in engineering and promoting the good work we are doing. Above all helping to squeeze some funds from DWP as well as the Government For example; proof of Concept would have not happened without you. We genuinely thank you for your dedicated commitment.

An excellent conference I really enjoyed it.

It would of been nice to hear, if you were considering becoming a supported business how best to go about this.

Please spell my name and organisation name right next year please.

I really enjoyed the event, thank you.

Although its good value I think the conference is expensive. I was only able to attend as it was local and I incurred no transport or accommodation costs. Therefore doubtful I could attend next year. It would've suited my authority to have a reduced price not including dinner.

Well done to everyone involved brilliant!

Targeting SEN schools, colleges and training providers to attend the conference and being part of the wider BASE network would be very positive. Allowing students with SEN to be prepared early on in life for employment must have an impact on long-term outcomes.

I do wonder if maybe moving the conference to be every other year would encourage a greater turnout and give the organisers more time to organise and source high quality, relevant speakers.

I just want to say it really is a feel good factor conference and one of my favourites and this is down to the people who run it :)

Generally an enjoyable conference. I hadn't come across BASE before but I found it to be both a professional and a friendly organisation.

It was always easy to spot the BASE folks - you were always near by if we needed anything.

I would definitely like to attend in the future as it was my first time.

Another really useful, inspirational and thought provoking conference. Thank you BASE!

Excellent conference as always. I understand the thinking around having two, one-day conferences but I think it would be much less useful and enjoyable for all and may end up costing a similar amount? Half of my team would go to one and half to another which means we lose that valuable time together. Thanks to Huw and the committee for a great event from which me and my team all left feeling positive and re-energised, which is so important in the challenging and rewarding world of supported employment. Great to hear ideas and celebrate success. Also good to give ourselves a pat on the back and remember that our work is important and appreciated.

I am interested in letting you use my feedback however I would need to run this by my colleagues first.

Thank you as always for a wonderful event.

Thanks for a great conference. All your hard work paid off; see you next year.

The 2 day event gives a great deal of opportunity to gather lots of information and it delves into the good the bad and the ugly never shying away from reality and this is refreshing. Huw's interjections are always welcome. Thank you.

Very informative, a great opportunity to reflect on our own practice and how we can learn and develop our service.

The conference has had a huge effect on me. It was inspiring and uplifting. I heard about new ways of doing things and new ways that technology could be used to achieve goals. The best workshop for me was the Disability Confident Action Group one. It's inspired me to set up a group in my area and I'm looking forward to starting that. Keep up the good work. It's so worthwhile.

Thank you for having LIVE attend the conference and presenting a workshop. We got amazing feedback and support.

The location and overall conference was really good and I really enjoyed meeting other people from over different parts of the UK doing the same jobs, it was great to network and share ideas, its a shame there are not more events like this to attend. Keith Mayne (XPO Logistics) was amazing and really inspirational and gave a really uplifting talk - he clearly has a passion for business and success and has really embraced supporting employees with downs syndrome. He is a very motivating man.

The event was well organised. However I feel that it was primarily aimed at organisations and legislation in England. It would be worth doing some work to engage those in Wales and Scotland in order to build up networks in these areas.

Excellent event and thoroughly enjoyed it!

Too warm in the venue so people were uncomfortable as unable to focus fully. Otherwise a great conference, lots of informed discussions and sharing of ideas.

Thank you and hope to see you next year.

I never knew Huw went to a special school for the comically challenged

Thanks again Huw and all at BASE for your hard work. You all make it look really easy - which I am certain it isn't! I hope to bring more members of my team next year, and as I mentioned to a couple of you: if our college premises would be of use for BASE events, I would be very keen to support - you need to visit to see what we can offer!

Happy to be part of any working party to help engage a wider audience (including from Education Sector) to attend the BASE conference.

Being relatively new to Supported Employment, this was an excellent way to network with people from different organisations and hear about good practice in action, which will inform our strategy for the future.

I learnt lots and made a lot of new connections, thank you.

Eye opening for me - would love to attend again.

I loved it! Informative, interesting and some fantastic people out there doing what we love so thank you for bringing these together!