Raising Aspirations for Adults with a Learning Disability

How far have we come?
Su Jarmulewski and Karen Collins
About us…

Karen has worked with adults with a disability for nearly 30 years as well as within the education sector, supporting people with a physical disability, before moving into day services. In her past life we believe she was a fairy!

Su has also worked in the care field for 30 years, initially as part of the transitions for people to be discharged from long stay hospitals into residential homes and the last 21 years working within day services….. She has also appeared on Rainbow…. Fact!!
The past...

As part of the adult social care provision, adults with a learning disability traditionally had their service provided by the local authority. Usually within a Day Centre with a ‘one size fits all’ approach.

In the 50’s through to the 90’s most day centres were called Adult Training Centres. Those who were able, did piece work for pennies a week—this was called an attendance allowance.

One size does not fit all
Our brief was to provide a new offer and transform our day service. We developed and deliver a person centred service that focuses on customer learning and employment aspirations, provides real voluntary and work opportunities and empowers our customers to be the very best versions of themselves!

Your future starts here......
What we don’t do...
What we do...do...

Care Plans
Care Plan Changes
Medication Charts
Manual Handling Programmes
Medication Risk Assessments
HAF Form
PEEPs
Individual Risk Assessment

Vocational Profiles
Vocational Development Plans
CV’s
Bespoke Manual Handling Programmes
Job coaching
Training Pathways

Don’t look back....
you’re not going that way....
Training Pathways...

**Green Pathway**
Vocational Training
- Manual Handling
- First Aid
- Fire Safety
- Food Hygiene

**Blue Pathway**
Preparation for Work
- Benefits
- CV Writing
- Interview Preparation
- Skills Analysis

**Purple Pathway**
Work Experience
- Work Placement
- Employable Me
- Job Coaching
- School 2 Work

**Red Pathway**
Independence
- Indi-trav
- Streetwise
- Volunteering
- Life-hacks
Stuart accessed our service wanting a job, LIVE supported him with the Blue and Purple Training Pathways- interview practice, help filling in application forms, and job coaching. We also supported him at interviews. Stuart secured a temporary under 16 hours a week at The Works in Kettering!

When this ended Stuart transitioned to EADS and he was supported to gain employment at Tesco's. He works for 16 hours a week in a permanent position. He has held this position for over a year!
IndiTrav Pathway…

Independent Travel Training (IndiTrav) is designed to help our customers increase their independence by developing knowledge and confidence.

Access to public transport will help them to make their own choices about how they live, where they go and what they do. We can support them with the best walking, cycling and train/bus routes and finding local taxi companies.

We enhance their training with our OneTouch system.

Travel training can help overcome barriers to:
- Employment
- Volunteering
- Visiting friends / events
- Independent journeys to school / college / work
I’d never travelled on my own before.

I needed support with where and when I would get the bus.

I felt nervous before IndiTrav, fearful in case I missed the bus or got off at the wrong bus stop. The IndiTrav training made me feel a lot more confident. It helped me learn about road safety, time and how to use my bus pass correctly.

The One Touch made me feel safe.

Now that I can travel on my own it has made a huge difference to my life. I can access my community on my own!

My favourite part about being able to travel independently is going into town and choosing where I can go for lunch on my own.
The One Touch System is a personal alarm and a tracker, for even more reassurance and also helps overcome the fears and concerns of parents and carers. It looks similar to a key fob, so doesn’t stand out in a crowd!
Jacob wanted to undertake IndiTrav training so he could get about independently.

He uses the OneTouch and now travels independently to and from town whenever he likes.

"I have completed my IndiTrav! It makes me feel more confident. I can travel to Drovers by myself and home again. I don't have any worries about travelling. I will be able to travel into town whenever I like. It makes me feel good!"

Jacob (travelling independently since 2019)
Ross secured employment as a Data Analyst and needed to undertake training in London. Funded by Access to Work, Ross was provided with a LIVE IndiTrav Buddy and was supported to travel to and from London and complete his training and take his final exam.
Meet Pru and Paul

LIVE Changing Room

Changing Lives...One Outfit At A Time
Our LIVE Changing Room…

We offer a bespoke service to job seekers referred to us by JCP or EADS.

Our customers appeal for donations, collect them, mend them, steam clean, size, display and support job seekers.

We also work with local colleges who offer (free!) hairdressing and beauty treatments to our Changing Room clients.

Our service reduces waste and pollution, whilst supporting job seekers.

We believe everybody deserves a job and body confidence matters!!

Fast fashion is currently one of the worlds biggest pollutants.
Heather was our first ever visitor to The Changing Room. We learned so much from the shared experience. Heather loved it so much she now volunteers with us.
Heather’s Story...

“When I arrived I was really, really nervous going in to The Changing Room, I almost cancelled my appointment. But, once I’d walked in to the room and met Karen and Elisia I felt 100% fine with them and wasn’t self-conscious or worried at all anymore.

As I left the changing room I felt like I was ready for an interview, it made me feel better about myself because I’d tried things that were different from what I’d normally wear. Leaving the changing room I knew that everything fitted me, I was happy with the clothes I had and was really happy with the fact the clothes were just in normal shopping bags so it looked like I’d just been into town shopping”
Partnership working...
County Star Awards...
Every year we have a local award event, that celebrates and recognises the efforts of our customers.

We then have a county event where all the LIVE teams attend and the local winners all go through to a shortlist and the stand out person wins the County Star Award.

These events are hugely successful as the contribution our customers make to their communities is recognised.
Last year we had a close up magician to wow the crowds before the award ceremony.
Raising Aspirations...

They say I dream too big,
I say they think too small.
Thank you for listening...any questions?