VALUING DIFFERENCE

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR DISABILITY EQUALITY
An **impairment** is when part of your mind or body doesn’t work, or does not work like most people’s.

There are many types of impairments, but they are all long-term and impact on how you do ordinary things.

With adjustments, **Disabled People** can do them differently.

**Doing DIFFICULTY**
- Walking
- Breathing

**Seeing DIFFICULTY**
- Spotting hazards

**Hearing DIFFICULTY**
- Communicating

**Thinking DIFFICULTY**
- Understanding
- Knowing

**Feeling DIFFICULTIES**
- Upset/Anxious
- Sad/Depressed

**VALUING DIFFERENCE**
As long as there have been humans there have been impairments. They are caused by:

- ACCIDENTS
- WAR
- DISEASE
- YOUR GENES
- POVERTY
- HUNGER
- LIVING STRESS

VALUING DIFFERENCE
For thousands of years people who are different have been viewed as Gods, bad, burdens, funny or freaks and often treated badly.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD, BEZ
CRUEL VIKING LEADER, IVARR THE BONELESS
EVIL KING RICHARD III
THE BLIND WITCH IN HANSEL AND GRETEL
BEGGARS: FIRST CHARITY, THEN LOCKED UP AWAY
THOSE WITH MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS: LOCKED UP AND KILLED IN NAZI GERMANY.
Despite this thinking, some disabled people have achieved a great deal in their lives.

**ALBERT EINSTEIN**
Scientist (Dyslexia/autism)

**FRIDA KAHLO**
Artist (Polio and damaged spine)

**ROSE AYLING-ELLIS**
Actress ‘EastEnders’ and winner ‘Strictly’ (Deaf)

**STEVIE WONDER**
Pop singer (Blind)

**SARAH GORDY**
TV Actor (Learning Difficulties-Downs Syndrome)
Things that prevent disabled people doing things are called **BARRIERS**

**BARRIERS CAN BE FOUND IN:**

- The way people think about you – **ATTITUDES**
- The way things are built or designed – **ENVIRONMENT**
- The way things are done—rules, laws, practices – **ORGANISATION**

People with different impairments face barriers that are similar and some are different, depending on their type of impairment. **ALL BARRIERS ARE DISABLING.**

**IMPAIRMENTS CANNOT BE GOT RID OF, BUT BARRIERS CAN BE.**
BARRIERS for a wheelchair user

- Stairs
- Kerb stones
- Narrow entrance

SOLUTIONS for a wheelchair user

- Ramp
- Drop kerb
- Width 850mm+

VALUING DIFFERENCE
BARRIERS for visually impaired & blind people

Text & small print

Dangerous crossing

SOLUTIONS for visually impaired & blind people

Braille

Pelican crossing

C-pen text to speech

VALUING DIFFERENCE
BARRIERS for hearing impaired and deaf people

- Telephone
- Speech & sounds
- Screens

SOLUTIONS for hearing impaired and deaf people

- Signing on smart phones
- Finger spelling & sign
- Caption

VALUING DIFFERENCE
BARRIERS for neurodiverse and learning disabled people

Complicated text

SOLUTIONS for neurodiverse and learning disabled people

Easy Read & pictograms

VALUING DIFFERENCE
BARRIERS for people with mental health issues

Despair & lack of support

Being overwhelmed by ignorance

SOLUTIONS for people with mental health issues

Developing Awareness of Mental Health

Therapeutic Understanding & Support

VALUING DIFFERENCE
DID YOU KNOW?

1 IN 5 CHILDREN FROM THE AGES 13-18 WILL LIVE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS

DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY ARE THE MOST COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES

ONLY 30% OF DEPRESSED TEENS ARE BEING TREATED

MENTAL ILLNESSES CAN AFFECT

90% OF THOSE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE HAD AN UNDERLYING MENTAL ILLNESS

PHYSICAL HEALTH

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION

RELATIONSHIPS
We have moved from disabled people being viewed as people to be pitied, treated badly and having things done for them, to viewing disabled people as human beings with equal rights held back by BARRIERS THAT MUST BE REMOVED.
Every human being has human rights. But Disabled People do not get all their rights. That’s why the United Nations made a new human rights agreement, called the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This was passed in December 2006.

Our government agreed in June 2009 to make sure that disabled people living in the UK – children, young people and adults – get all the rights in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UNCRPD.

The UK Government also agreed that people could take human rights complaints to the United Nations if it has not been possible to sort them out in this country.

Every human being has human rights.
But disabled people do not get all their rights.

THE EQUALITY ACT IN THE UK

Protects Disabled People from Discrimination, Hate Crime and Bullying and gives Disabled People a right to have reasonable adjustments made.
VALUING
DIFFERENCE