CHANGE

Council of Europe Presentation

CHANGE

Shaun Webster MBE
International project worker

Agenda

Today, I will talk about:

- Who we are, what we do and how we work at CHANGE
- The importance of standing up for people with learning disabilities' rights to health, employment and housing
- Real Life Stories of co-working, co-leading, and co-designing at CHANGE
- Our vision for the future

Who we are

We are a leading national human rights organisation led by Disabled People. We work across the UK and internationally employing people with learning disabilities on proper salaries to co-lead on our work. We work for the human rights of people with learning disabilities.

What we do at CHANGE

We work for the rights of people with learning disabilities by:

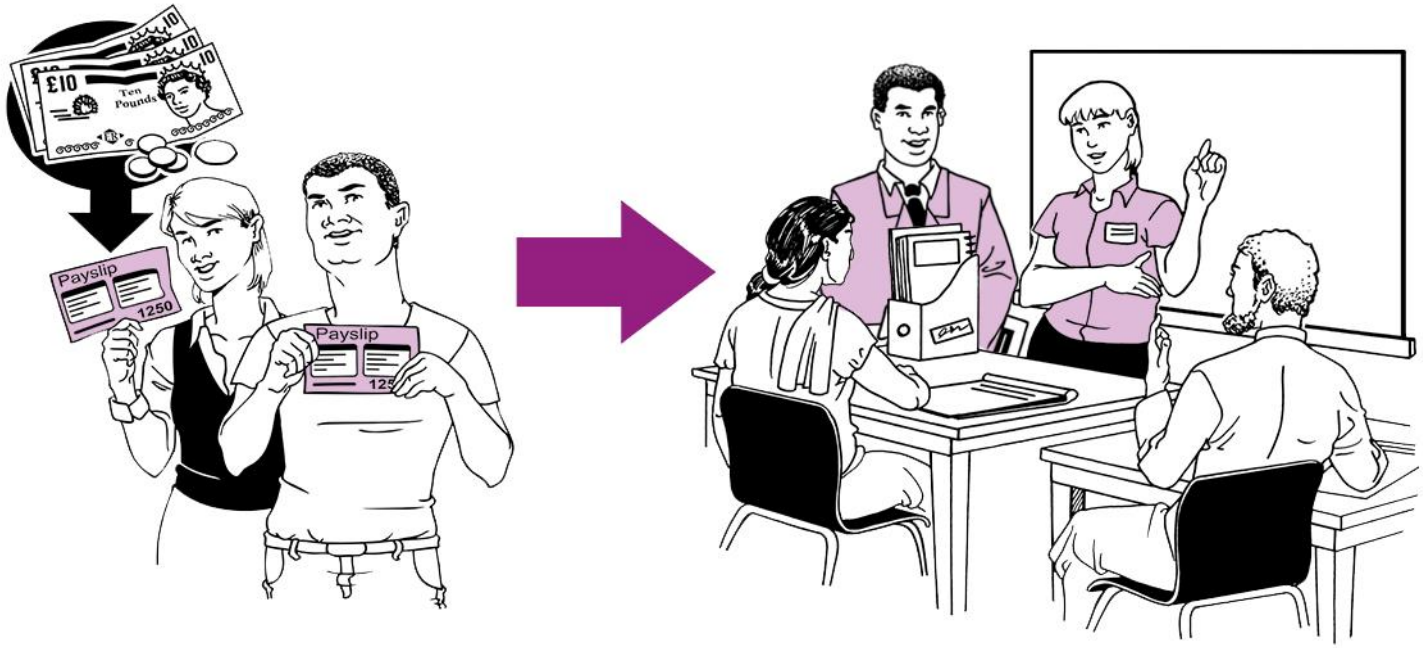
- Co-researching different areas of people's lives
- Co-creating accessible information and Easy Read
- Co-designing projects
- Co-delivering training
- Changing society's attitude towards us

Areas of work

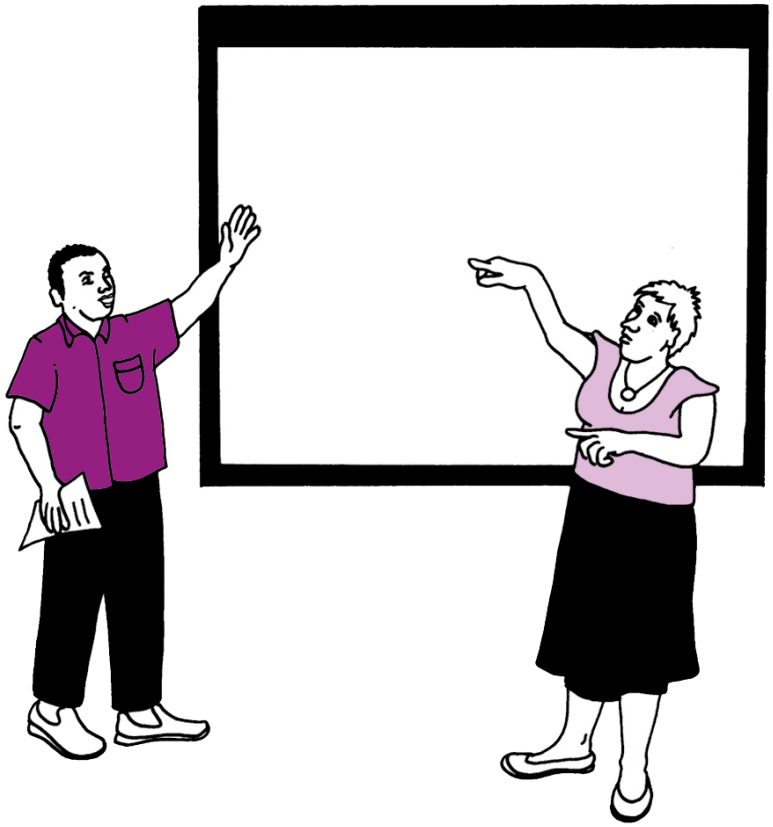
- Inclusion and equality
- Access to Health
- Access to Parenting support and information
- Access to Employment
- Access to Social Care
- Access to Justice

How we work at CHANGE

We employ people with learning disabilities as co-workers to co-run projects, using a Peer-to-Peer model.



Co-Working



When a person with a learning disability and a person without a learning disability work together on the same project, it is called co-working.

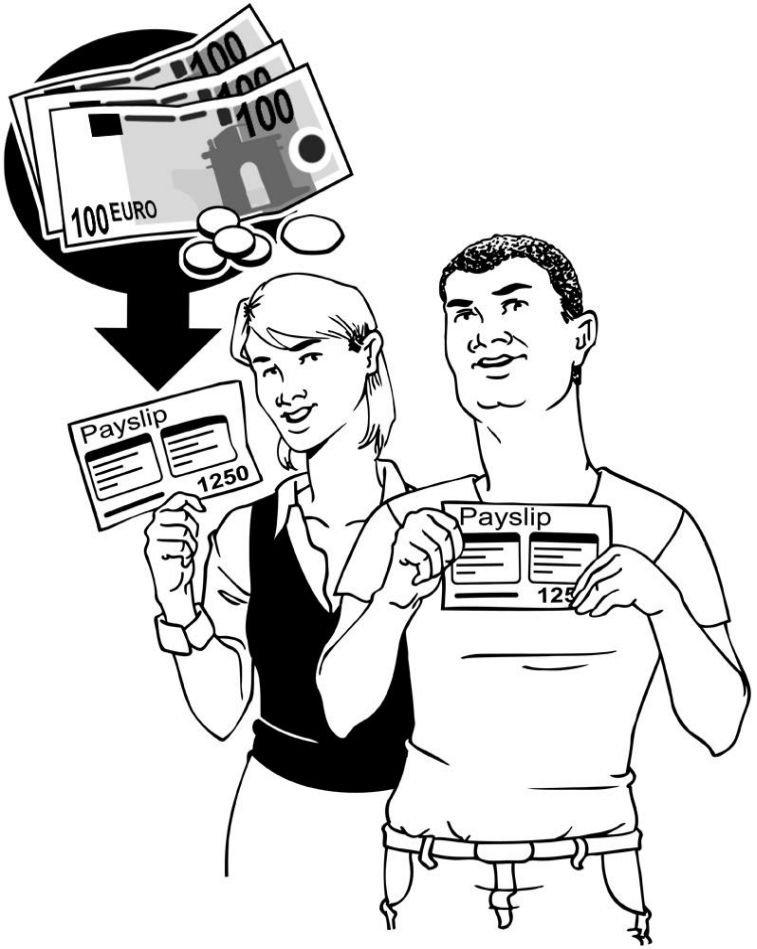
Co-Working

- We share our skills
- We learn from each other
- We are paid the same salary

Co-Working

People with Learning Disabilities at CHANGE:

- Are the experts
- Are trainers
- Are consultants
- Are researchers
- Are campaigners
- Are teachers!



Standing up for our rights: Employment

Only 6% of people with learning disabilities are in paid work in the UK.

Most people with learning disabilities are therefore unemployed or working as volunteers and not getting paid.

Many people with learning disabilities find it hard to find work as they are scared to admit they have a disability.

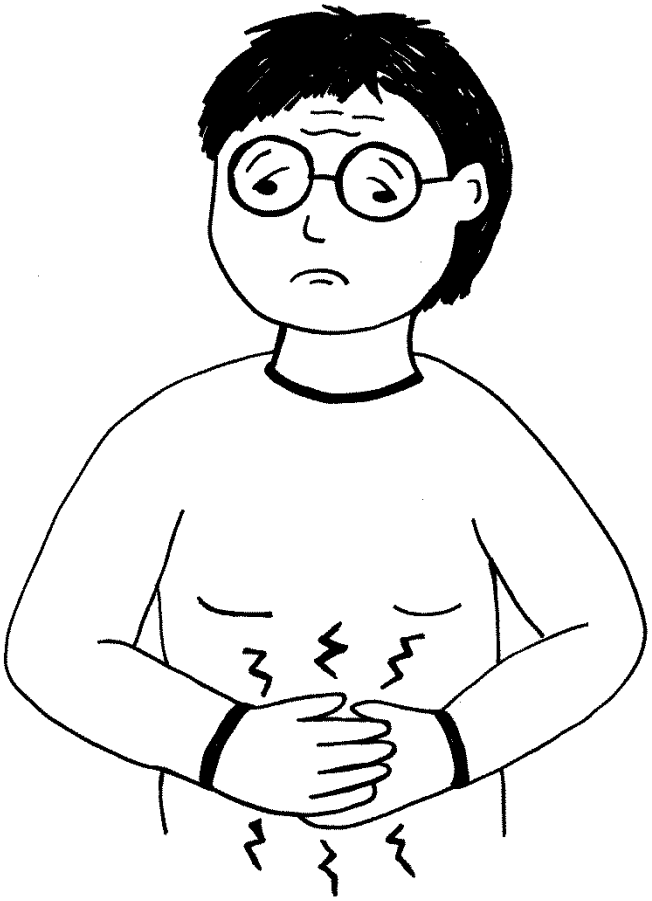
65% of people with learning disability want to work.

Standing up for our rights: Housing

There are currently 13.3 million disabled people in the UK. There are 1.5 Million people with learning disabilities in the UK.

There is currently a move for people with learning disability to live independently in their own homes with the support they need to do this.

Standing up for our rights: Health



According to research, 40% of people with a learning disability reported a difficulty using health services.

On average women with a learning disability died 20 years sooner than women in the general population, and men with a learning disability died 13 years sooner than men in the general population.

These differences are to do with the way people with a learning disability are treated by health, mental health and social care services, as well as lifestyle factors (Emerson et al. 2011; Emerson and Baines 2010; Holly and Sharp 2014; Townsend 2011).

Real life stories

I used to work in a warehouse, just sweeping floors. I wanted to do stock checks but when I asked the manager, they said I was too slow. I was bullied because I have a learning disability. Since working at CHANGE, I have:

- Received an MBE for services as advocate for people with learning disabilities
- Co-run projects about closing down institutions (LUMOS), employment (Jobs Worth Doing), and keeping safe online.
- Delivered training about co-working and peer support in the UK, Europe and Internationally.
- Recently become the volunteer project coordinator.

Real Life stories

Before CHANGE, I was very low in confidence. I wanted to turn my negative experience into positive. My first paid role at CHANGE was as a project worker on a parenting project. Since then, I have :

- Travelled around the world delivering specialist training
- Co-run projects on parenting, cancer and employment.
- Been an advocate for women with learning disabilities (women's hour- BBC radio 4)

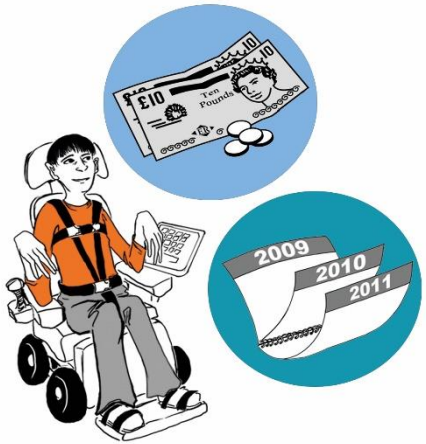
Real Life Stories

Rachel Moody
Illustrator

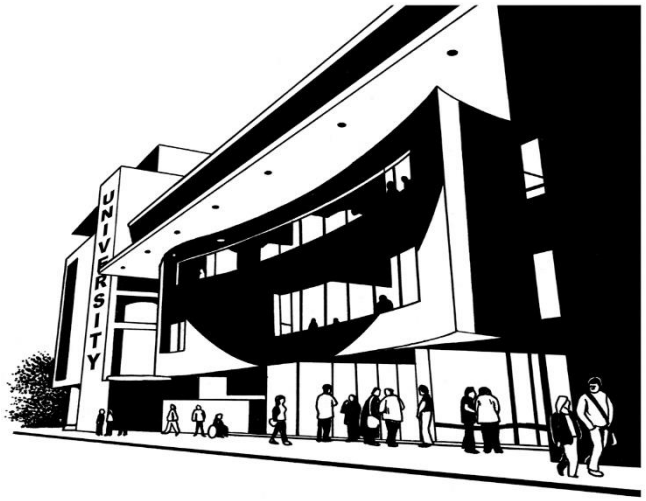
I did a lot of voluntary work as I found it hard to find work.

Don't dismiss people. Look at our standards and not qualifications and look for other skills.

At CHANGE, I illustrate projects such as the Easy read document for the Council of Disabled Children.



Co-researching and co-designing: Learning by Doing Together.



CHANGE is working together with Leeds University and 3 provider organisations on a research project called **Learning by doing together**.

Our aim is for organisations to start employing highly trained people with learning disabilities to become peer support workers.

We are researching and co-designing the peer support roles with people with learning disabilities.

drill
Disability Research on Independent Living & Learning

Co-designing and co-producing: Children's books.

CHANGE

We make books for children around the world who are leaving institutions.

Because they are easy to understand, they can be used in the UK all the way to Haiti!

Co-training: CBM in Thailand

We have delivered training in Thailand to people from 45 countries on:

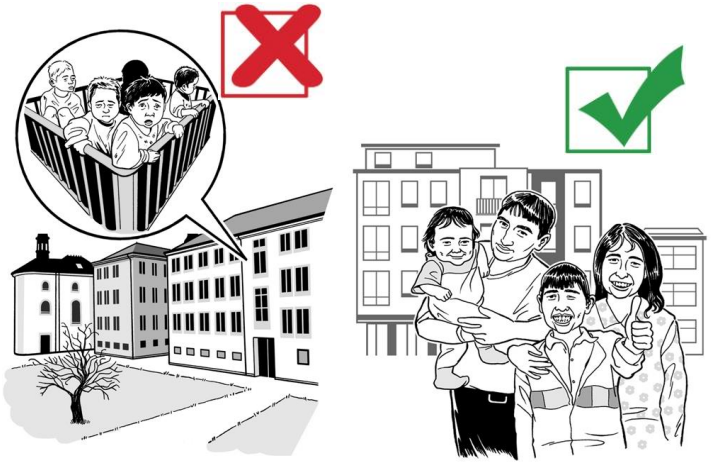
- better communication
- making Easy Read
- co-working

the overseas disability charity

cbm

together we can do more

Co-working: Lumos



CHANGE and **LUMOS** worked together to help take children out of institutions.
We believe that children should be able to live in the community.

It is CHANGE's job to show how young people with learning disabilities can be involved in this work.

LUMOS
Working to transform the lives of disadvantaged children

Examples of our resources

CHANGE

CHANGE Resources

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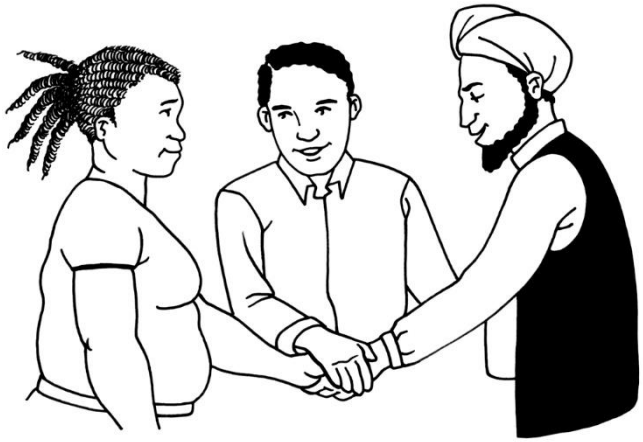
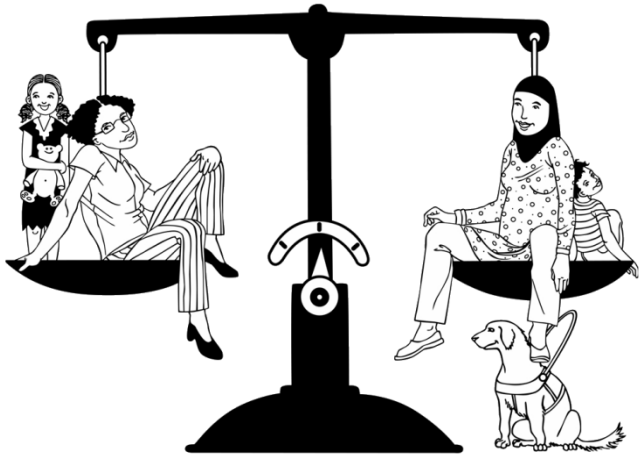
Our vision for the future: inclusion and equality





At CHANGE, we value people's skills and experience.

We are all different and we can all bring interesting perspectives when working together.

We believe in co-creating an inclusive and equal society in which everyone's voice is valued and heard.

We do this everyday through our co-working model and by sharing our experiences around the world.

We want to inspire others to do the same!

Question Time

Thank -You

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