

Minutes Of Learning Disability Focus Group Meeting

29 September 2003

Venue: 24 Ribchester Drive, Bury

ACTION

1. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

- We need a focus group to raise the awareness about the difficulties you have in finding and keeping a job.
- We are looking for ideas on how to improve the present situation.
- How can BURY EST improve its service?
- Who do we need to talk to so that we can improve things?
- How often will we meet – Every 3 Months?

2. WORK SEARCH DISCUSSION

- The job centre is more difficult to use now they have computers. It would be helpful if there was someone there to help.
- Job application forms can be difficult to fill in and confusing. Help completing the forms would be less stressful.
- Having the label ‘Learning Disability’ can stop clients getting a job. The group felt that employers could discriminate during interviews.
- Employers can be too quick to judge. Some clients felt they had been rejected just because of the way they look.
- Most people thought that interviews were unfair, especially traditional and telephone interviews. It was difficult to understand the questions.
- One client felt more confident having support at an interview rather than being alone.
- “Having the chance to look around a workplace before the interview was helpful” quoted one client. She had more idea what to expect.
- All the group members felt that working interviews or work

shadowing was a good idea. One client quoted: “Just because you may not do well at an interview, does not mean that you won’t do well in the job.”

- The Benefit System was confusing, simpler information on welfare benefits and tax credit required.
- Most clients felt that obtaining a job is a very slow process, and would like to look at ways of speeding the process up.

ACTION

3. KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Difficulties accessing and using the job centre.
- People felt that employers could discriminate during interviews.
- Working interviews seem to offer a better alternative to traditional or telephone interviews.
- Work experience is a good way to get to know what a job is about.
- People need more simpler information on welfare benefits and tax credits
- How can we speed up the process?

4. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- To arrange a date for the next Focus Group meeting, and to inform group members.
- To write up the minutes of the meeting and distribute them to group members.
- Focus Group Action Plan to be developed after the next meeting.

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