



**ELECTION
2010**

A MANIFESTO FOR VALUING PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND

This manifesto is for what we think a new government in Westminster might do to help people with learning disabilities in Scotland.



MAKING EMPLOYMENT REALLY WORK

Most people with a learning disability want to work, and want employment in ordinary jobs.

In Scotland few adults with learning disabilities have any form of paid work.

There should be support provided to make this possible.

We think the government should ;

1. Recognise “learning disability” as a special group of people requiring support
2. Keep good records about how many people with learning disabilities are claiming benefits and on work programmes
3. Provide training in learning disability training issues for all Job Centre Plus staff.



4. Make local councils and other public bodies employ more people with learning disabilities and tell us how they get on.

5. Have a special national supported employment programme to help people with learning disabilities get work and improve the types of jobs that people are able to get. This should be a long term project that looks at what individuals need.



6. Make Access to Work better to help people get the support they need and extended to cover voluntary work.

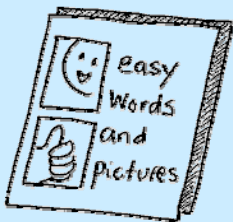


A BETTER WELFARE BENEFITS SYSTEM

Most people with a learning disability live on benefits and are poor. They have too little money to enable them to do the things they want to do.

The government could help by:

1. Making sure that the level of disability benefits are high enough to cover the extra costs of disability



2. Paying Carers Allowance after retirement from work.
3. Making benefit forms simpler and telling more advisers about learning disability.

4. Changing welfare benefits to support the people with learning disabilities get into work.

5. Helping people with learning disabilities and their carers get better welfare advice. This would identify support needs for individuals, provide face to face support and focus on better access to existing advice services.

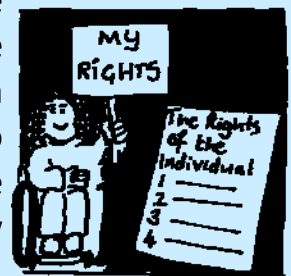


EQUALITY FOR ALL

People with learning disabilities face a lot of discrimination. Some people hide their disability by pretending to read or only doing things they already know well.

New Equality laws should have a good definition of disability which takes account of different circumstances and different types of disability.

There should be more outside inspection of how a public body tries to be fair and we should know how they do.



When people are not happy then there should be better ways of sorting out problems.



The LEARNING DISABILITY ALLIANCE SCOTLAND campaigns with and for people with learning disabilities to achieve social change that makes a real difference to their lives. Its membership is drawn from voluntary organisations working with and supporting people with learning disabilities from all across Scotland.

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