

CANadda 1ST BIRTHDAY AND LAUNCH
SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST
SPEECH

I can't believe a year ago I was starting CANadda up. I never thought this time last year how much I would have achieved in that time. I would never have been able to have achieved everything with out the help and support of the committee and support team, as they all deserve a big thank you. I still to this day haven't realised how big CANadda's potential could be, but I do recognise that there is still a lot of work CANadda need to do, to make a huge difference to adults in Lincolnshire who have ASD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADHD.

Even though we are here today to launch CANadda's new leaflet and poster as we are raising awareness to the public and employers, we also have some very big but exciting projects that we are working on behind the scenes and I am sure in time you will get to know about them.

Raising awareness to the public is so important as many people do have a lack of understanding in Lincolnshire of ASD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADHD. So on behalf on CANadda I do hope the poster that will be going around Lincolnshire will help in making the public have a better understanding as we are all different, it is just a name that is attached to their condition.

CANadda's new leaflet, we are hoping to help raise awareness to employers.

In a real world we would like to see all employers positive about disabled people and we mustn't forget the companies in Lincolnshire that do a great job and do employ adults that have a learning disability or condition.

We need to get the message across to adults, that if you are in employment and you are having difficulties, there is help and support that they can get, as every Job Centre Plus office has a Disability Employment Adviser who specifically deals with people with health conditions, as they don't just help people find work, they also help people keep their jobs.

We also need to get the message across to employers that if they have an adult with a leaning disability or condition, that adult may at times need some extra support and there is extra support out there like Shaw Trust and MenCap and again they can seek support and advice from the Disability Employment Adviser.

We also want employers to know that in the UK, adults with a learning disability or condition find it extremely hard to get employed yet a high

percentage of them want to find work. They can have a great amount of knowledge as they think differently and learn differently, giving them strengths in various areas, as there are advantages to having a learning disability or condition.

There are many famous people and professionals who have a learning disability or condition and are very successful. They offer a wide range of talents and skills in their chosen profession. Many have average or above average intelligence. Many lead a very normal life without the need for support.

Inclusion of people with learning disabilities can bring a lot of advantages to companies and the world around us. It is the lack of understanding of ASD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADHD that may deter employers from hiring.

Since starting CANadda, we have managed to obtain several grants and donations to help us on our way; two of the grants have funded so far our raising awareness campaign in Lincolnshire, one was from the Women's Network Methodist Church, the other one was from The PIP Fund which is a Community Development Grant (Healthy Communities), Lincolnshire County Council. I would like to say a big thank you to them and for their support. Also CANadda mustn't forget the support we have received over the last year from the Washingborough Methodist Church.

I would like to thank you all for coming and supporting this event and look forward to another year within CANadda.

Thank You.

Debbie Marshall
Chair of CANadda