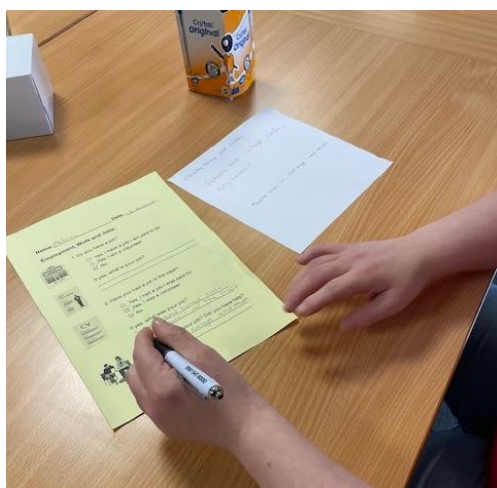




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Report April 2026

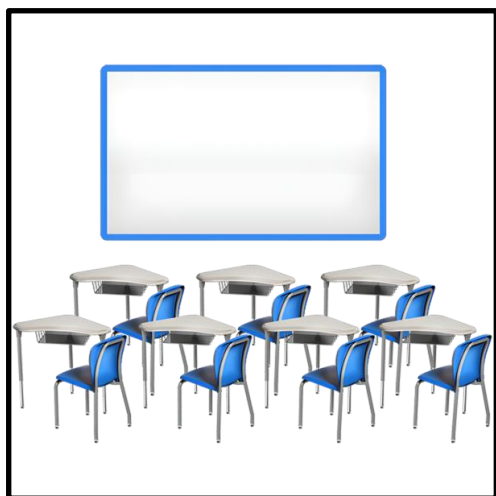


Inside...

Jobs

and

Training



Life Skills - Jobs, Skills and Education



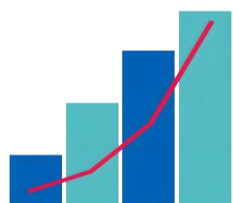
The fourth and final topic for this year was Life Skills. This is a big topic, and we focused on Jobs and Training. The Learning Disability Action Team wanted us to find out if learning disabled adults in Manchester were working, had worked in the past or wanted to work in the future.



We did 9 'Jobs and Training' workshops. This is one more than we did for the last topic, which we are pleased about. We did workshops at: Scout Drive, Ross Place, Hall Lane, Heathfield, Northfield, Manchester People First, Shaw Centre, One Club and Manchester College.



We were pleased we got to do a workshop at Manchester College, as they had cancelled the last one. It went really well, and they have asked us if we can do workshops at Central Library and Media City in the future.



In total, we spoke to 73 learning disabled adults. This is a little lower than last time (76), but it is still a good achievement.



First, we talked about Employment and Jobs and did a worksheet. We asked about paid and voluntary jobs.

Total Number	Paid Job Now	Voluntary Job Now	Paid work in past	Voluntary work in past	Would like a paid job	Would like a voluntary job
73	5	16	10	29	33	9

Notes:



- 1 person had done both paid and voluntary work
- 9 people want to do paid or voluntary work in the future

Comments:



- Only 5 people had paid jobs. These were: admin assistant, cleaner, security person, DJ and barber.
- Past paid work included: Shop Assistant/Shelf Stacker, Art Gallery, Care Worker (Older Persons Home), Cleaner and Restaurant/Cafe/Kitchen Assistant.
- The 16 people working as volunteers were working in hotels, cafes, shops, gardens, parks, animal centres, nurseries, and football grounds.





- A few people said they were working as volunteers at the day centre they go to. Doing things like washing the pots, cleaning and helping people on and off the buses.
- Many of the students at Manchester College were completing an internship. They had placements at hotels, libraries, cafes, museums, admin, animal care, social services, hospitals, and transport. Their placement worker found the job for them.
- All Manchester People First Committee members recorded their voluntary work on the committee.

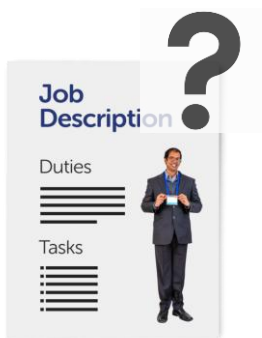
Who helped you find your job?

- The main help came from School/College/Day Centre/House staff



Other people who helped were:

- Family
- Social Worker
- Placement Worker (Internship/Pure)
- Workplace staff
- Noone - I did it myself



The main reasons for wanting a job were:

- To earn money (for holiday, a house, a pet)
- To get out of house and meet people
- To fill my time and keep me busy
- To help others



Some people wanted a job:

- To do things I enjoy (like cooking, talking)
- To learn new skills
- Be successful
- Live independently
- So I have a routine
- To keep me happy and so I enjoy life
- So I can have pride in what I am doing



We asked what people's dream job would be? Our favourites were:

- Ringmaster
- Prime Minister
- Bed Tester
- Secret Service Agent



We also asked about jobs people thought they could do. The most popular answers were:

- Restaurant/Cafe/Pub Worker
- Shop or Supermarket Assistant
- Cleaner

We put all the jobs into categories we found on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website:

- Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care - dog rescuer, dog walker, bin person, cleaner
- Business and Administration - admin assistant
- Care Services - nurse, doctor, carer, advocate
- Catering and Hospitality - air hostess, tour rep, travel agent, hotel/food critic, receptionist, chambermaid, cake shop





- Construction and Buildings - Architect
- Creative and Design - singer, DJ, dancer, artist, painter, photographer, theatre, comedian, entertainer, events
- Digital - computers, gaming
- Education and Early Years - teacher, assistant, nanny, childminder, library
- Hair and Beauty - hairdresser, barber, beautician
- Health and Science - football, swimming
- Protective - prison, police, fire, ambulance, army, coastguard
- Sales and Marketing - customer services, food bank
- Transport and Logistics - mechanic, cleaner, driver, postal worker

We wanted to know why people felt they could not get a job. Common barriers were:



- My disability and support needs
- A lack of confidence and feeling anxious/overwhelmed
- My Age (too old)
- Worry about benefits
- Don't know where to look
- A lack of training and qualifications
- The commitment and professionalism
- Poor concentration
- People assume I am not employable
- My communication
- Health, mobility and accessibility
- Organisations not being supportive
- Not having right equipment (visual aids)





Next, we talked about training and courses people had done since leaving school and any they would like to do in the future.

Total Number	Training now	Done training in the past	Would like training in future
76	15	45	51

Our Thoughts and Ideas:

- Not many people are doing training now, but over half have done in the past, and 51 would like to do more.
- We feel we need to help people find courses or put on more courses.
- We wondered if more courses could be set up at the day centres.
- It would be great if more people could get training that would lead to a job.
- The reasons people feel they cannot access training are similar to the reasons they feel they cannot get a job.



When we asked why people would like more training, they said:

- It will help me get a job
- I can do something I love
- To improve my skills
- To further my career
- To build my confidence
- To get out more





- I want to do what other people are doing
- **When we asked what was stopping them, they said:**
- My disability and support needs
- My health and age
- Commitment and time keeping issues
- Stress and over thinking
- My benefits and the cost
- They are hard to find or can't find one I like
- People saying I can't do stuff
- Not got the time
- Place closed down

The types of courses people would like are:



- Cooking, food preparation and safety
- Sewing and knitting
- Acting, dancing, music, singing
- Reading and Writing
- Art and photography
- Sports and fitness
- Retail and hospitality
- Marketing
- Hospital and care
- Animal care
- Building
- Technology, computers and gaming
- Cleaning
- Teaching
- Languages
- Beauty
- Money



Other News:



Blaine, Amber and Stephen have been awarded 3 hours of job support each from Access to Work. Lisa is providing this support.



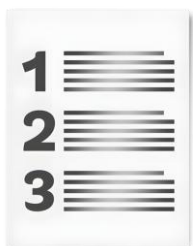
We have done a project with Manchester's Disability Supported Accommodation Service (DSAS). They asked us to help them plan and deliver a workshop to find out what adults with learning disabilities supported accommodation feel about staff who support them.



We are still trying to arrange a visit to 'The Voice', which is part of Mediline. We want to introduce ourselves and see if we can do workshops with them.



We are still trying to rearrange our visit to Capabilities, as we had to cancel it due to another priority. This is another day centre for adults with learning disabilities.



We have our topics for this year, but have not made any detailed plans yet. The topics are:

1. Health - we might focus on mental health
2. Social - sports and exercise
3. Getting About - Transport
4. Hate Crime and Safer Streets

Many Thanks, The Engagement Team