

Sian Foster Head of Operations





Common themes

- Socio economic background
- Family support
- Peer support
- Missing out on education
- Care system
- Lack of inspiration and aspiration
- Diagnosis
- Marginalised
- **SKILLS**



Tick list

- Focus on
 - Academic Qualifications
 - How they are doing with studies
 - How much they were doing with studies



- **Life skills/employability skills**
 - Communication
 - Team work
 - Dealing with complex situations and problem solving
 - Perseverance and resourcefulness
 - Appreciating the wins
 - Learning to learn and receive feedback – resilience
 - Passion and aspiration



Our unified overarching beliefs

- Change
- Preparation
- Every young adult has the right to progress
- Create choice



Statistics – national picture

- Less than 4.8% of young adults known to Local Authority are in paid employment (NHS Digital, 2018)
- Work is generally good for health (Dame Carol Black, Expert Advisor on work and health DWP)
- Median age of death for those with moderate Learning Disability, not in paid employment is **63yrs old** vs 82yrs men 85yrs women (University of Bristol Centre for disability studies, 2019)
- 60% of young adults graduating from a DFN Project SEARCH programme enter into paid employment – 70% if you include those who enter into part time work (DFN Project SEARCH, 2022)



Lewis

- Little aspiration
- Little career exploration - 'see it, to be it'
- Carousel of education at entry level
- Expectation of life on benefits and 'destination sofa'
- **Learning by doing**, rather than classroom activity
- Lack of confidence and self-worth
- Aspirational pathway
- Impact on Family/parent/carer



DFN Project SEARCH Supported Internships

- Transitional year
- Marketable and transferable skills
- Professional organisation
- Collaboration of experts
- Continual improvement
- Focus on serving young adults with learning disability and/or autism

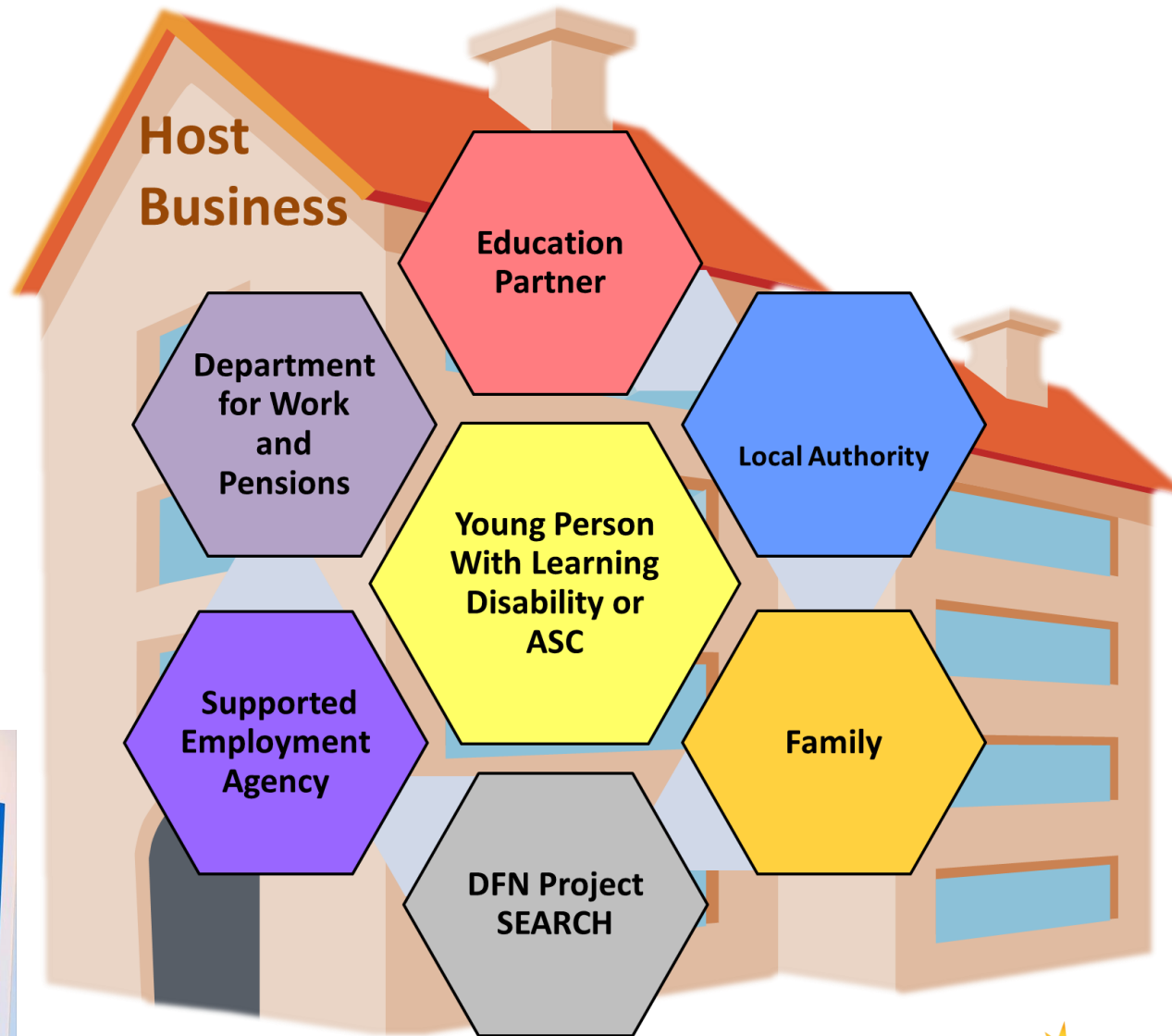


- Aspiration
- Layered on skills
- Improved health
- Peer connection
- Job outcome!



Partnership

- Host business
- Local Authority
- Education Provider
- Supported Employment provider
- DWP
- Family
- DFN Project SEARCH
- Young person



Lancashire and DFN Project SEARCH

- Lancashire has vision!
- Lancashire County Council
- Calico
- Progress Housing
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Royal Lancaster Infirmary
- ELHT Blackburn Royal Infirmary (Blackburn with Darwen)
- Places for People (2024)
- Asda Colne (2024)
- Asda Blackburn (2024 Blackburn with Darwen and LCC)



What is your why?

- Wait for the change? Or instigate the change? People **don't** buy what you do, they buy **why** you do it
- The future is created by knowing your why. What drives you?
- Gather inspiration other from attendees – heart vs head - Gather the whys!
- Challenge the HiPPOs who say can't!
Highest Paid Persons Opinions



Call to action!

- Change happens with us – courage to challenge
- Transition and Preparation for is key
- Create CHOICE by spreading the word
- Neurodiversity a reflection of the community we serve!



For more information...

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