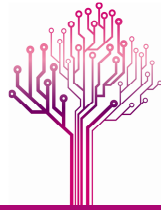


Develop



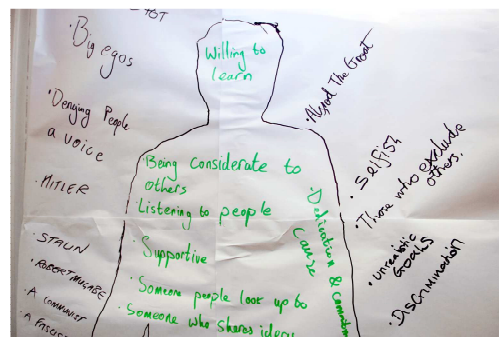
The Alliance for Inclusive Education Young Disabled Leaders of the Future Project

Perhaps the most familiar role of infrastructure is in developing the capacity of frontline organisations to deliver their work. This ranges from providing support on governance issues or financial planning through to helping organisations to consider future challenges.

Done well this helps organisations become more efficient, effective and innovative, meaning they can provide more and better services to their users. For funders an investment in support at this level can reap many times the benefits of dividing the money amongst frontline organisations.

As part of their development work, the Alliance for Inclusive Education is running a 'Young Disabled Leaders of the Future Project' that aims to build the capacity of disabled people's organisations to include young disabled people in their activities. The Alliance recognises that unless a new generation of disabled leaders is ready to take up the reins, it will become difficult to build and sustain the capacity of disabled people's organisations. This will affect their ability to play a lead role in ensuring full equality and human rights for disabled people.

With the support of the Alliance two organisations are now implementing activities to involve young disabled people in their work to inspire them to become future leaders. This includes a young disabled people's leadership programme, 'coffee with the chair' meetings and volunteer work placements. Caroline Golding from the Norfolk Coalition of Disabled People has found that as a result "our organisation is benefiting from a fresh burst of enthusiasm and ideas and looks forward to being able to involve new members as future volunteers, trustees or employees".



Photographs provided by Alliance for Inclusive Education.

This development work has had a clear impact on the individuals participating in the activities. Golding says "The young disabled people involved are gaining huge amounts of confidence in themselves but also in their ability to talk about rights and what they expect of the world." Of her involvement in Darlington Action on Disability's activities one participant even said "it has changed my life forever".

This is a very real example of how developing the capacity of a frontline organisation can have an effect on their service users. In the next stage of the project the Alliance will produce a national resource to help more organisations to involve young disabled people. With over 200 disabled people's organisations in the country the work of the alliance could have a profound impact on the lives of young disabled people.

Find out more

For more information on the Young Disabled Leaders of the Future Project or the Alliance for Inclusive Education, please visit their website: www.allfie.org.uk