

Equal project – Assistive Technology for PWLD and their carers

Project summary

This multi-regional Theme A DP is to test the following hypothesis:

" we believe that Assistive Technology (AT) has a crucial role to play in empowering individuals and enhancing the employability for people with learning disabilities (PWLD) and their carers ".

AT is defined by this DP as: "any electronic product or service which supports independence to enhance employability, either for the individual or for their carer".

It will achieve this by:

1. Demonstrating how AT can support independent living for PWLD and their carers, increasing their employability and allowing them to take a full and active part in the communities in which they live.
2. Involving PWLD and their carers in the design, implementation, and delivery of AT devices within a variety of living environments.
3. Developing lifeskills software to enable PWLD and their carers to develop their skills in key areas, thereby enhancing their employability.

The above objectives will be achieved by:

- > Identifying barriers to the implementation of AT for PWLD and their carers
- > Developing an assessment tool for PWLD and their carers to enable the effective use of AT
- > Developing and accrediting training for PWLD and their carers, enabling them to implement AT within their living environments
- > Testing AT systems within different housing environments
- > Development and testing of lifeskills software designed and tested by PWLD and their carers
- > Development of an existing website on AT for PWLD and their carers.

This DP will work with key stakeholders in the private, public and voluntary sectors and will effectively mainstream and disseminate the key learning points from the partnership.

The partnership will challenge paternalistic culture for the support of PWLD and enable both staff and beneficiaries to explore new ways of working together to empower individuals to take decisions in their own lives.