

Disability Sheffield CIL

Meet the innovators

Meeting priority four: Developing the skills and knowledge of the workforce in information sharing and cyber security to embed digital working.

Background

Disability Sheffield, the lead for this project is a disabled people's user-led organisation. Working across Sheffield Region the organisation promotes inclusive living and campaigns for equality.

The main partnership for this project is the Sheffield individual employer and personal assistant (PA) development group which is made up of individual employers, PAs, family carers, Sheffield City Council, Disability Sheffield and Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Groups. It has existed for over ten years and has experience of co-producing a range of projects including peer coaching and mentoring framework, PA handbook and safe restraints toolkit.

What is the Workforce Development Innovation Fund investing in?

We are aiming to provide individual employers and personal assistants with the opportunity to learn more about digital working practices including information sharing. This is to ensure that everything is undertaken securely, confidentially and within legal frameworks.

Working practices could include:

- Individual employers organising shift patterns and sharing employee personal contact details between employees to enable this to happen.
- Individual employers providing confidential information digitally to the local authority and other organisations.
- PAs supporting individual employers in accessing and responding to email correspondence which may include confidential information.
- PAs supporting individual employers to manage their financial affairs.
- Organisations such as local authorities and managed bank account providers sending sensitive information to individuals.

What resources will be developed?

We will be developing:

- A 'creature comfort' style film animation highlighting safe practice in the use of digital technology and data-sharing which should make it easier to understand.
- A workshop-style resource to enable individual employers to explore in more detail the options for managing their workforce through digital technology.

What next?

The project aims to change practice through enabling individual employers to:

- Use improved and secure digital systems for managing their PAs and sharing information with organisations.
- Have more control over ensuring that their home IT systems are suitable for managing their workforce and direct payment.
- Support their PAs in using safer digital systems for communication between each other allowing for more efficient and autonomous team work.
- Develop secure and safe ways of sharing information between themselves, local authority staff and other organisations.

