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Case Study - Joanna Jones - Learning Disability Liason Service

Hi – I'm Joanna Jones. I'm a Health Care Support Worker in the Cardiff Community Learning Disability Health Team for the NHS.

I am employed by the Regional Partnership Board, and am named as part of the Learning Disability Liaison Service.



My Role

My role helps my colleagues in the Cardiff Community Learning Disability Health Team/ Regional Partnership Board/ the LD Liaison Service and other organisations to make smoother, safer and accessible healthcare for people with a Learning Disability.

I continue to work with different departments. Seeing the difference my role makes to the team I am in and the impact on people with a Learning Disability makes my day joyful. It encourages me want to do the best I can at working hard.

My job to me, it's about making a difference for people with a Learning Disability who can often get disregarded in society, judged and ridiculed.

Learning Disabilities and Me

Imagine a world where people with a Learning Disability are always treated well. In everyday life, I have lots of friends who have a Learning Disability, and some family members who have a Learning Disability also.

I have Specific Learning Difficulties, diagnosed, when I was age 24, such as Dyslexia and other diagnosis too.

I have a diagnosis of Autism, diagnosed, when I was age 33. On two tests at different ages, it was shown I have a weak working memory, and a slower speed of processing information, but I do not let this make me feel sad. I choose to embrace and delight in who I am.



Some of the things I do....

I'm a member of a Christian group named 'Cardiff Causeway' twice a month for adults with additional needs, and help at 'Lighthouse 4 all' Church events throughout the year for children and young people with additional needs.

I'm also signed up to 'Roofbreaker' organisation that helps with accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities in Churches.

I do these things as well as the work I undertake for the Learning Disabilities Liaison Service

“At younger adult ages I struggled with feeling inadequate and low, and had a high level of depression, but now, for years I wake up grateful to have breath in my lungs, having an “attitude of gratitude”.

“There's so much to be grateful for every day”

This year, as in other years:

- I've helped make accessible information, and presentations.
- Planned and delivering training to students.
- Been excited to work with different staff and organisations to help make them more aware of learning disabilities.
- Have made videos.
- Been a change maker and making a difference
- Designed leaflets
- Checked other's easy reads
- Made easy read documents
- Gone to meetings online and person
- Done Public speaking and presentations
- Been creative
- Taken part in engagement work to help make Annual Health Checks safer
- Helped organise and taken part in a workshop on Sex and Relationships for people with Learning Disabilities and their families – this was research and engagement work.

“I wrote a quotation in 2022, it says,

“Keep the passion alive, so others can thrive”. This quotation shows that if we keep enthusiastic others will be impacted in a positive way.”

