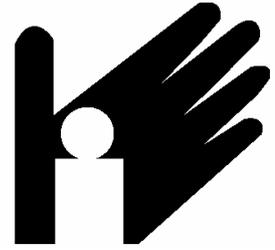


Just Services Limited
supporting groups and communities



Disability Writes

@

www.disabilitywrites.org.uk

**Using Direct Payments and
Individual Budgets to access
an online, highly accessible,
interactive and specialist
creative writing school for
disabled people**

Introduction

Over the last few years there have been several Government initiatives that aim to transform the services that disabled people, older people and people with learning disabilities/difficulties use. For people who need personal and domestic care, Direct Payments have increased the choices available. People have more control and are able to employ their own staff or engage agencies themselves to provide the service they need. The introduction of Individual Budgets has challenged service providers in both the community and voluntary sectors to offer a much greater range of services, imaginatively provided and organised, that people want to use. The emphasis is on “choice and control”. Just Services works with older people, people with learning disabilities/difficulties and disabled people. It offers specialist services that are now available using Direct Payments and Individual Budgets.

Who are Just Services?

Just Services was established in 1999 by the founder Directors, Liz Kinross and Liz MacKenzie, with a view to supporting groups and communities to gain a stronger voice in society in a variety of ways including creative writing and being published as writers. Just Services has a small group of Advisor Directors who represent the groups and communities we work with. All Just Services’ staff undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks before they can work with us and all are committed to addressing the inequalities faced by disadvantaged groups in our society. All our staff understand and follow Safeguarding Adults guidelines.

What is Disability Writes? www.disabilitywrites.org.uk

A highly accessible and interactive online creative writing school where people can learn and develop creative writing skills. As far as we know, this is the only online creative writing school in the world specifically set up to enable disabled people to learn and develop creative writing skills. This is what disabled people who have used the site say:

“The site encouraged me to write, not to give up in what is an increasingly difficult market to make any breakthrough.”

"It helped me develop my writing. I developed as a person and as a writer."

"I liked the way it worked for me. I had time and support which I do not get normally and contact with other disabled people. I do not know any disabled writers locally."

When is it available?

24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Who is it for?

Disabled adults of all ages. When we talk about disabled people, we mean people who self-define as disabled, including people with physical and sensory impairments, long term medical health conditions, learning disabilities/difficulties and mental health problems. We recognise that some people have impairments or illnesses that are 'hidden'.

How is the website organised?

The site is managed and moderated by Just Services staff who have both creative writing expertise and an understanding of the barriers facing disabled people interested in creative writing. The site is fully accessible, has a peer forum and a place to submit 'work in progress' for feedback and guidance. The site also offers regular writing challenges and exercises for the development of skills. It is particularly beneficial to people unable to leave their homes easily. Disabled people have to register online to join Disability Writes.

How much does it cost?

£40 a month.

How is the payment made?

As an annual subscription of £480 payable by cheque or through Pay Pal which can be accessed via www.disabilitywrites.org.uk or by monthly direct debit. This can be paid using Direct Payments or Individual Budgets – we can provide any receipts/invoices needed.

How does Disability Writes meet the seven outcomes of "Independence, Well Being and Choice"?

- A chance to develop creative writing skills

- Opportunities for having work published on the website and in other publications
- Overcoming barriers to inclusion
- Feedback on 3 poems (max 100 lines each) or 2000 words of prose per month
- A recognition of the effect impairment has in entering the field of creative writing
- Unlimited access to a peer forum.
- Relief from social isolation
- Information about creative writing
- Guest feedback sessions
- Ability to work at one's own pace at home at any time
- Safeguarding of adults through a fully moderated website
- Specialist creative writing tutors
- An annual magazine with selected writing from subscribers
- The opportunity to earn money through writing by developing writing skills

For more information contact: Liz Mackenzie

Tel 0116 2293102 email justandwhitehill@yahoo.com