



Joint MDF/MSDG Inclusivity Task & Finish Group

Meeting Notes

23rd May 2022

Present: Simon Satchwell-Giles (Newman), Ann-Marie Lee (BCU), Rose Roberto (BGU), Lesley Thompson (Lincoln), Carol Keddie (DMU), Liz Lafferty (Keele)

22/01 Event Scheduling

The meeting discussed a format for an event, which, in the first instance, would be presented at the Mercian Conference in September. If this is not possible, then the group plans to host a separate event during the academic year 2022/23. It was noted even if the group presents at the conference, there is still potential to re-run the event at another point in the year as well.

22/02 Content Planning

The group discussed how powerful storytelling and personal testimonials can be to help people to understand the issues around accessible training. There were also discussions around attitudes to disability. The group agree they wanted to present something which was more than just a 'tick sheet', but invited and encouraged people to engage with the issues critically and reflectively, with a result that accessibility became central to their practice. There was also some reflection and discussion of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles.

From these discussions it was possible to formulate an outline structure for an event to engage more library staff in the region in this area.

- Storytelling from people with disabilities or accessibility needs that help to underline the problems and barriers faced
- Presentation of an inclusive training guide, including principles of UDL and how building in inclusivity creates rich learning environments for everyone, not just those with 'additional needs'
- Some ideas/discussions of specific tools and models which people can use to build their inclusive pedagogical practice.

22/03 Group Responsibilities

Consequently, to move things forward initial group responsibilities were divided as follows:

- **Simon/Rose:** Writing the session proposal for the conference and overall facilitation of the presentation
- **Liz/Carol:** Research on principles and theory of inclusive training to be collated into an 'inclusive training guide' to be presented to delegates
- **Lesley/Ann-Marie:** Research on tools (practical, apps, services, etc.) and models and their uses that delegates can discuss or add to in the end part of the session.

It was however acknowledged these roles could be discussed further and amended, if necessary.



It was noted there was no need to share drafts or finished products just the barebones details to discuss and shape over the summer. It was further noted that the conference call deadline was 13th June 2022ⁱ, and hence there was some urgency in terms of preparing a session outline in time to meet this.

ACTION: ALL to work on areas of responsibility as outlined above

22/04 AOB

Group members were encouraged to share insights or updates in between meetings. Simon would collate some notes and share with the Executive Officer to report on the group's progress to Steering Group.

ACTION: Simon to write outline meeting notes and share with all plus the Executive Officer

Endnotes

ⁱ See: <https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news-call-for-speakers-2022>