



## **PERS Opening Doors – new free advice services for disabled people in Yorkshire and Humber**

### **For disabled people employing personal assistants and other care staff**

The responsibilities of being an employer can be daunting but this new project is here to help. PERS, a West Yorkshire charity advises, trains and supports workers and employers in employment law and is pleased to be able to offer specialist advice services **free** to disabled people and their allies.

### **For disabled people who need information about their rights at work**

PERS also provides some free advice to disabled people in **Yorkshire and the Humber** about their own rights at work. This service is for those in work and those seeking employment.

### **Free Training Opportunities**

PERS delivers free training to disabled people and their allies in **West Yorkshire** who are employers. Current courses are: Advantages and disadvantages of employing a PA (Personal Assistant), Recruiting your PA, Managing your PA.

### **Improving local access to support**

Could you or your group help open doors to employment advice for disabled people? PERS would like to hear from people interested in becoming **volunteer employment rights facilitators** across West Yorkshire, increasing access to advice in their own communities and signposting people on to the PERS Employment Rights team. Free training and support will be provided.

### **Working with organisations, groups and networks**

Perhaps your organisation or group could work in partnership with the project? If you would like to find out more, are interested in getting involved or have questions or ideas PERS would love to hear from you. Contact us on 01924 428033 or e-mail [admin@pers.org.uk](mailto:admin@pers.org.uk)

**PERS would appreciate your help in passing this information on through your own networks.**





## What services do we provide?

We have been awarded a grant by the Big Lottery for a three year project to deliver services for the benefit of disabled people.

We offer the following services:

- Telephone or email advice on all aspects of employment law and HR to those employing, or thinking of employing, Personal Assistants. The service is backed up with a wide range of employment-related documentation available on our website. This service is available across the Yorkshire and the Humber Region.
- Telephone or email advice on the employment rights of disabled people either seeking work or already in work. Again, the service is backed up with publications explaining the employment rights of individuals in work and those seeking work. This service is available across the Yorkshire and the Humber Region.
- Training courses on the employment-related aspects of working with Personal Assistants. This service is available only across West Yorkshire.
- Training for disabled people and groups working with disabled people designed to equip them with the skills and knowledge to offer local support on employment issues. This service is available only across West Yorkshire.

Over the next three years we will also be exploring ways of using social media and the internet to provide advice and support.

## Who can use these services?

Our telephone advice line and email service is open to disabled people (self-funders as well as those in receipt of local authority financial support) in the Yorkshire and Humber Region. We will also advise family members of disabled people who act on their behalf as employers of PAs, and friends or disability organisations who support them.

Our training courses will be delivered in West Yorkshire though they will be advertised across the region.





## **User-led Organisations and Groups working with and for Disabled People**

We are keen to work with organisations and groups who work with and for disabled people and we would welcome a call from those who would like to work with us – perhaps we could deliver a training session for your group or organisation locally.

We want information about how we can help to reach as many disabled people as possible and would like to enlist your support in publicising our services.

We would love to hear from you about how we can make our services more accessible to you or those you work with and support. To share your ideas contact Sue at [sue@pers.org.uk](mailto:sue@pers.org.uk)

### **Is there a charge for our advice?**

There is no charge for our advice under this programme. We are able to offer the service free because it is being funded by the Big Lottery.

It is the same with the HR policies, model letters, forms, leaflets and guidance which can be downloaded from our website – they are also available free.

### **Who are we?**

You might not have heard of PERS before. We are a registered charity and have been working in the voluntary sector for more than 25 years. We provide employment related support (employment law and HR) to the sector and we also provide employment rights advice to individuals who might be having problems at their place of work.

Our team of Employment Law and HR advisors are all highly skilled with an in-depth knowledge of current employment law and best practice. They can provide you with the right advice and support to find practical solutions to employment issues.





## How do you access our services?

Contact one of our advisors about your employment law and HR issues - ring our advice line on 01924 428 030 and speak directly to one of the team.

Email our advisors at [admin@pers.org.uk](mailto:admin@pers.org.uk)

Visit our website [www.pers.org.uk](http://www.pers.org.uk) to get access to our employment documentation and information about training events.

Follow us on twitter @PERSAdvice

Do let us know if you need any assistance to access the service or you need us to communicate in a different way and we will try our best to help.

## Forthcoming Training for disabled employers:

These are at the Carlisle Business Centre in Bradford BD8 8BD and have been arranged with support from the Bradford Alliance on Community Care.

**9th April 10am – 1 pm** Recruiting a personal assistant

**11th Jun 10 am– 1pm** Managing personal assistants

## Forthcoming Training for Volunteer Employment Rights Facilitators:

This course will help people interested in becoming facilitators gain confidence to advise disabled people on employment matters with support from our advice team. The course is a full day and is offered twice at different venues.

**19<sup>th</sup> March 10am -4pm** St George's Centre, Leeds LS1 3BR

**30<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 4pm** Carers Resource Centre, Shipley BD18 3DZ

For further information about training contact [Annegilchrist@pers.org.uk](mailto:Annegilchrist@pers.org.uk)

