**The Welfare Reform and Work Bill: SHLD Members attend**

**All Party Parliamentary Group**

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| 5th Nov 2.jpg |  |
|  | On 5th November 2015 Sue Ledger and Jan Walmsley from SHLD went to a meeting about the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. |
| http://intranet.mencap.org.uk/accessibleimages/lores_images/Office_desk1.jpghttp://intranet.mencap.org.uk/accessibleimages/lores_images/Place_Job_Centre.jpg  http://intranet.mencap.org.uk/accessibleimages/lores_images/Own_money.jpg | The meeting talked about how to get more disabled people into work  and changes the government want to make to benefits |
| http://losingit.me.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/IMG_5134.jpg | The meeting was at Portcullis House, opposite Big Ben  MPs and Members of the House of Lords came to hear what disabled people had to say |
| C:\Users\Susan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\2J7LLYV8\2183168-40721-hands-holding-each-other-a-symbol-of-friendship-and-cooperation-illustration[1].jpg  Heaton-Harris, Chris  http://i1.dailyrecord.co.uk/incoming/article5857779.ece/ALTERNATES/s615b/JS61155749.jpg | This was a shared meeting of the APPG on Learning disability and the APPG on Disability  The APPG on Learning Disability is chaired by Chris Heaton-Harris MP  The APPG on Disability is chaired by Dr Lisa Cameron MP  Both welcomed people to the meeting |
| https://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/UserData/8/7/2/Info00000278/bigmug.jpg  http://losingit.me.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/IMG_5134.jpg | Justin Tomlinson MP, minister for disabled people, talked about the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.  The minister wants more disabled people to find jobs.  He thinks employers need support to take on more disabled people.  The government need to make cuts and freezes to some work-related benefits |
| https://media.licdn.com/media/p/4/005/05a/335/2a09070.jpgPhil Reynoldsjpg | Victoria Holloway and Phil Reynolds, Co-chairs of the Disability Benefits Consortium spoke about jobs and changes to benefits  They were worried about disabled people receiving less money and about people who are not well enough to work. |
| rebecca | Rebecca’s story.  Rebecca has a learning disability. She told her story of trying to get a job and receiving benefits.  She said she wanted to work and that it was very hard to find a full time job.  The benefit system is too complicated. Sometimes your money can be stopped and this is hard to sort out. |
| http://intranet.mencap.org.uk/accessibleimages/lores_images/Question-3.jpg | There was a question and answer session. Lots of people wanted to ask questions to the ministers  People asked why the system couldn’t be made more simple to understand.  People cannot understand the benefit forms or rules  People said the right support was needed to find jobs.  There are still problems about the way disabled people are assessed for benefits.  Helping disabled people to set up their own businesses may be one way forward.  Apprenticeships should be available to people with learning disabilities |
| http://intranet.mencap.org.uk/accessibleimages/lores_images/clock_02-00.jpghttp://intranet.mencap.org.uk/accessibleimages/lores_images/clock_01-00.jpg  Ismail image2 | The meeting was from 1-2pm. There wasn’t enough time to answer everybody’s questions.  The minister said that questions could be sent to [Ismail.Kaji@mencap.org](mailto:Ismail.Kaji@mencap.org).  Ismail helps to organise the parliamentary meetings. |
| http://i1.dailyrecord.co.uk/incoming/article5857779.ece/ALTERNATES/s615b/JS61155749.jpgHeaton-Harris, Chrishttps://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/UserData/8/7/2/Info00000278/bigmug.jpg | The ministers thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions. |

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