



Disabled Members July 2018 Report

KEY ISSUES

1. London Disabled Teachers' Network
2. Young Teachers' Conference
3. Taking the Stress Out of Studying
4. Resisting Resilience
5. Disabled Members' Conference

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**Disabled Teachers
Section**

[https://www.teachers
.org.uk/equality/disab
led-teachers](https://www.teachers.org.uk/equality/disabled-teachers)

**Disabled Teachers
Conference**

[https://www.teachers
.org.uk/equality/dtc/a
pplication](https://www.teachers.org.uk/equality/dtc/application)



London Disabled Teachers' Network

Above is a photograph of the London Teachers' Network Thanks to Richard Rieser for organising the event in a lovely room at the British Film Institute (BFI). The guest speaker was Marsh De Corda, the shadow minister of Disabled people. She outlined Labour's commitment to justice for Disabled people. It is very re-assuring that there is a real alternative to austerity and the punishing benefit system.

Mental Health
Charter

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/help-and-advice/health-and-safety/mental-health-charter>



Young Teachers' Conference

It was a joy to be invited to the young teachers' conference. It's so encouraging to meet young activists with a clear vision of how they want to see the National Education Union (NEU) moving forward. The most obvious disability equality challenge related to young teachers is their experience of mental ill health caused by workload and overbearing scrutiny.

Taking the Stress Out of Studying

Earlier in July, I went to speak to a small, but perfectly formed gathering to discuss the Taking the Stress Out of Studying (TSOS) campaign. This campaign is being led by Joe Booth, a 16 year old young man who has autism. To understand the campaign, visit the TSOS Facebook page and watch his videos. I was struck by how much common ground there is between teachers and pupils under stress. We discussed the narrowing of the curriculum and how petty rules get in the way of making learning a happy experience. Joe will be part of an "Exam Factories" workshop at the Disabled Members Conference in October.

Resisting Resilience

You may recall the discussion going on in the union at the moment about what our view of resilience training for young people and employer expectations about the resilience of teachers should be.

At the last executive we discussed a motion calling on us to stop using the slogan “resisting resilience” because some members are involved in projects such as the Resilience Revolution in Blackpool which are helping some young people achieve.

I understand why people see the benefits of such programmes, however, I think it is right for the NEU to continue to resist the current trend to blame staff and pupils alike for their lack of resilience when actually it is the rigid system which needs to change.

NEU Disabled Members Conference

Applications for the Disabled members’ conference on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st October (lunchtime to lunchtime) at the Oxford Belfrey Hotel are flowing in now. Please see the top of this report for the address. Half the places on the conference are already booked so please get your application in soon. The programme for the conference is still continuing to be developed but will be exploring the theme of what it means to be a disabled teacher. Sessions will include the mental health charter, how we see ourselves as teachers, UK Disability History Month (UKDHM), a specific workshop for Deaf and

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| | <p>deafened teachers and how can resist our schools being turned into exam factories. We will also be joined by the Changing Places campaign.</p> <p>Please do try to write and pass motions in your local associations to bring to the conference.</p> <p>As the end of the school year approaches, I hope you all have a restful summer.</p> |
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