



JOE WASTELL

PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



My name is Joe Wastell and I come from Kent. Since leaving full time education I found many of us with learning disabilities were unprepared by the education system to take a full and active part in society. Because of this I set up a group called Disability Medway where people with disabilities and their carers can discuss issues affecting them and be encouraged to take a full part in the political system.

I believe that if we do not use our vote politicians will continue to make decisions affecting us without considering our views.

If I am elected to the LDEs representative body I would encourage it to continue holding the government to account and make political parties actively seek our votes rather than taking us for granted. Having moderate learning disabilities and experiencing the special education system first hand has given me a lot of understanding of the problems we face. I am passionate that we should be able to access the same rights and services taken for granted by the rest of society.



Learning Disability England



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Since leaving full time education I have become a local union representative at my place of work with the GMB. In my role as a union representative, I am trying to improve the way people with disabilities especially people with learning disabilities are treated in work. I have also continued to study to increase my understanding of society and the political system so I can continue to improve the life chances of those of us with a learning disability. I have knowledge and experience of how those of us with a learning disability can be treated and because of this will listen to every member's opinion and views and take them seriously. I will seek to give everyone a voice.



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