

All about

CODA

Career Opportunities with Disadvantage Awareness

What is Codaonline?

Codaonline is an exciting new website that holds an easy to understand version of a CV, designed so learning disabled job seekers can record their skills and abilities to help themselves into employment.

The CV part of the site is called My CV. The layout is designed in an accessible format with pictures to help describe what content is required. Multimedia options and uploading videos can also be used to show a variety of information about the job seeker. There is an audio option to describe many of the instructions for those with visual impairments.

The content of My CV has been designed to reflect the achievements of people with learning disabilities so they are able to show their skills, qualifications and training. A job seeker can also describe the sort of job and conditions they would like to work in to help an employer make the right placement.

Why is this so important?

Evidence shows that working can give people with learning disabilities more confidence and a more valued sense of inclusion in both their community and in wider society. It puts them in charge of their income and gives more spending power and responsibility.

But there are an estimated 800,000 adults with learning disabilities of working age, of which only 11% have a paid job, often a part time one*. Common reasons behind this shocking statistic are low expectations by both learning disabled job seekers and employers, coupled with lack of training and few opportunities for job seekers to present their skills. This is where Codaonline steps in.

How Codaonline can help

Traditional employment practices aren't working for people with learning disabilities. The Codaonline website aims to address this in a practical and uncomplicated way by offering people an accessible online tool to make showcasing their skills easier.



Unlike the traditional concept of a typed CV, Codaonline has My CV. Just like a standard CV, it lets people show information about their experience, abilities and strengths. Unlike a standard CV, it is an online resource which uses accessible and multimedia technology. This means people with learning disabilities can bypass the usual hurdles of language, writing ability and recognised lists of formal qualifications, and instead show potential employers what they are capable of in a more versatile and person-centred way.

Hosted on a secure, dedicated web portal, employers will be able to access and view job seeker's My CV and find out more about their key competencies, learning level (including formal and informal learning) and work experience, helping them more accurately assess their potential as successful employees.

●● Where can I find out more about Codaonline?

For more information, contact Diane Lightfoot at United Response diane.lightfoot@unitedresponse.org.uk. Or try out the Codaonline site at www.codaonline.com

*Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities