

Disability and Mental Health Champion – Update, October 2016

It has been a busy summer for me in my Champion role, as I've been meeting with local groups, charities and companies to see the work they're doing and discuss how I can help to champion that work. I've met with Community Restart, Pendle Support, The Good Life Project, Age UK and am meeting with Action for ASD in the next week, and these are just a small sample of the groups I've had the pleasure of meeting with.

Pendle Support were kind enough to show me their Changing Space, which is now fully installed and available to anyone in Pendle who may need it. I'm really pleased to see that kind of facility in the area, and I look forward to keeping in touch with Pendle Support and their partner initiative, Enable U.

I attended the Mental Health Challenge's AGM last Tuesday (11th) in St Albans, which was attended by Champions from across the country and had briefings from various charities as well as Public Health England and the Centre for Mental Health. I'm glad to see a greater focus on mental health, however we still have much to do to ensure that parity of esteem is truly a goal that's achievable.

The Scrutiny Committee is continuing its investigation into mental health processes in Pendle, and following some of the details given at the Mental Health Challenge AGM I'll be putting forward some new strands for possible discussion as part of the 2017/18 work stream.

I'll also be arranging a meeting with other Champions in the coming weeks to discuss how we can work together on subjects that affect all our Champion roles.

If you have any questions or comments then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Wayne Blackburn

Disability and Mental Health Champion