

## **Bridging the Policy Gap**

A two day peer review bringing together policy makers and service users to improve the way local authorities help people with disabilities gain employment.

Client	London Borough of Newham / Poverty Alliance
Venue	West Ham United Football Club
Duration	Two days
Invites	Personal invites to nominated professionals working with people with disabilities and to service users nominated by the professionals. These communications were individually tailored to the needs of each participant using emails, letters and phone calls. We also distributed flyers to community centres and placed adverts in the local newspaper.
Delegates	Local policy makers, local service users and peers from Glasgow and Cardiff.
Numbers	Fully subscribed with 35 service users and 40 policy makers and other professionals.
Speakers	Senior professionals from the local authority and voluntary organisations.
Exhibitors	Displays from local authority departments and voluntary organisations.
Format	A short description of each policy followed by round table discussions in small groups with feedback to the whole group repeated three times each day.

The Bridging the Policy Gap event was unusual in that both professional service providers and service users worked together throughout the event. Most public sector events are targeted at either service providers or service users.

We managed all aspects of the event including promoting the sessions to both service providers and service users. We used our client's contacts as a starting point and identified other participants through referrals and research.

The 75 participants spent most of the two days working in smaller groups exploring topics around helping people with disabilities return to employment.