



# Understanding and making good easy read

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Training session for professionals

## Contacts at CHANGE

**Stephanie Selwood**

Manager - [Stephanie@changepeople.org](mailto:Stephanie@changepeople.org)



0113 242 6619



[info@changepeople.org](mailto:info@changepeople.org)



## About CHANGE

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Here at CHANGE we work with and for people with learning disabilities to make their voices heard and equip them with the tools they need to become empowered, equal citizens and members of the community.

Although our primary focus is people with learning disabilities, our work applies to wider groups of people, inclusive of those who do not speak English as their first language and those who struggle with literacy.

We employ people with learning disabilities on industry standard wages and operate a co-working model to ensure they get all the support they need to achieve their best potential.

We have a team of people with learning disabilities called The Words to Pictures Team. They quality check all the information we produce to make sure that it is truly accessible and fit for purpose.

Because otherwise what would be the purpose of it all?

A big part of what we do is create information in accessible formats, because we believe that one of the first steps in becoming participant as opposed to a spectator in your life is understanding what goes on around you, especially with things that affect you.

*We have been making accessible information (also known as “easy read”) for over 20 years!*



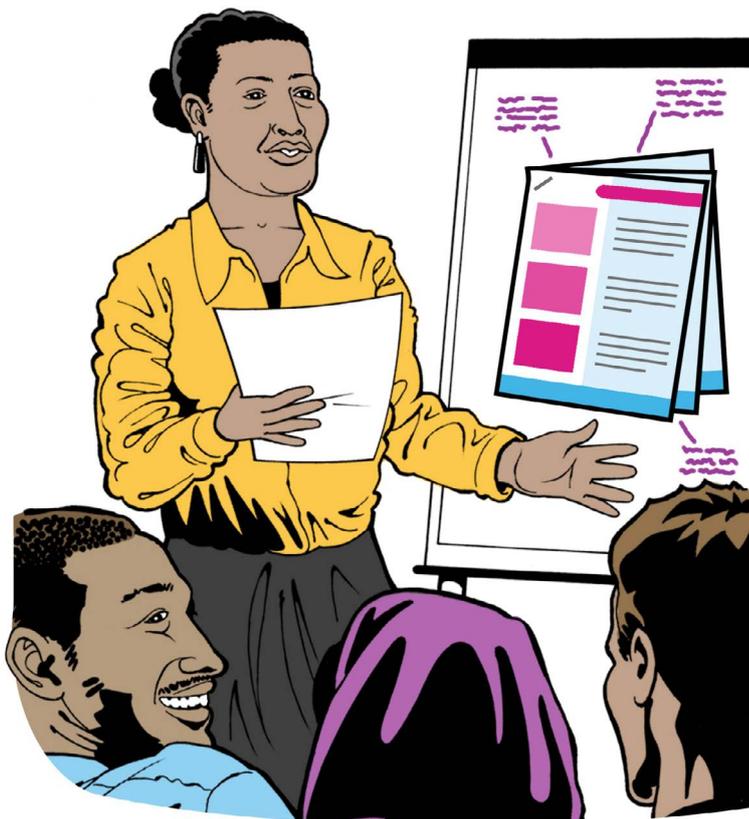
We run projects and training sessions to raise awareness and support professionals and people with learning disabilities in areas such as:

- hate crime, online safety and safeguarding;
- equality in employment and co-working model;
- supporting parents with learning disabilities in keeping and raising their children;
- moving from assessment and treatment units back into the community;
- sexuality, sexual health, friendship and relationships;
- cancer, diabetes, epilepsy and hepatitis awareness.

## What easy read training is about

The Accessible Information Standard has been introduced in June 2016 to make sure that people with a disability or sensory loss are given information in a way they can understand.

Throughout our over 20 years of experience, we have continuously developed the way we produce easy read, constantly improving our work by keeping up to date with the latest research available and engaging with our audiences to ensure quality. Easy read is a key tool in promoting inclusion, and its use stretches well beyond the audience it was initially developed for.



We today know that easy read supports:

- people with learning disabilities
- people who struggle with literacy
- people who struggle with understanding large amounts of information
- people who do not speak English as their first language



Our experience in producing easy read has taught us that there is no such thing as a “one size fits all” solution when it comes to producing easy read.

The bottom line is that, whatever technique you choose, whatever colour background, whatever visual representations (illustrations or photos), quality must prevail – these broad audiences need resources that are of the same quality standard as anybody else’s.

## What easy read training is about

Our new training session looks at the following topics:

- what is accessible information?
- what is easy read?
- the three components of an easy read document: text, design and images
- how to quality check your document

The session takes you through a narrative of inclusion, meant to explore the way we design communication, information and discourse.

# Better communications and accessible information

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The training session focuses on three key areas:

- Understanding the experiences of people with learning disabilities and the barriers they encounter in their daily lives
- Developing better practices in communicating and engaging with people with learning disabilities
- Understanding accessible information and easy read principles

The session takes you through a narrative of inclusion, meant to explore the way we design communication, information and discourse, and how attitudes impact message and approaches.

We walk you through each stage of producing easy read, from understanding your audience's needs to the final quality check of your resource, taking time at every stage to apply the knowledge through interactive activities.



## Learning by doing

We believe there is nothing better than a hands on approach to learning.

Our session is highly interactive, with examples and questions asked both ways.

This ensures that, at the end of the session, you have all the tools and knowledge you need to tailor the way you communicate with people with learning disabilities and that you can understand and apply the principles of easy read when creating your own documents.



## Session logistics

Each session is tailored to the specific needs of the clients, in order to ensure all examples, contextual information and activities are best suited to you.

Our sessions are developed for groups of up to 10 people. We can, by prior arrangement, accommodate groups of up to 15. For larger or smaller groups, get in touch and we can work together to find the most suitable format and delivery of this training session.

## Feedback from the groups we have trained

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“I found the course insightful and very useful in terms of being mindful of how we respond to people with learning disabilities or for whom English is not their first language.”

“The session was very well designed, good structure and participant involvement.”

“Form and function were consistent – they said it is important to make things easy to understand and they themselves did exactly that.”

“I found the training really informative and inspiring. I really liked the informal style and the exercises where we had a go at easy read, it certainly is a special skill! Also to learn about how to help people navigate their way through complex documents and how important the use of design is in creating a ‘staged path’ and having quality documents, not inferior ones.”

“Really excellent training. Clear, good fun and thought provoking.”



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Providing Independent Advocacy

Part of the Advonet Group



Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road,  
Leeds LS7 1AB



CHANGE: 0113 242 6619  
Advonet: 0113 244 0606



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