

PRESS RELEASE

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Department of Equality Organises Further Training and Awareness on Learning Disabilities and Autism at a Higher Level

Following the success of its introductory training on learning disabilities for voluntary groups, the Department of Equality has now commissioned more intense training on the subject and will deliver a Tier 2 training which will be offered to those who have already undertaken the initial Tier 1 training.

The training is specifically aimed at volunteers of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), community groups and leaders of sporting and cultural groups who either already work with people with learning disabilities or would like to welcome to their organisations.

The training, titled “Effectively Supporting People with a Learning Disability and Autism, Requirements and Strategies (Tier 2)” will be delivered on 15th September 2018. It will once again be delivered by Colin Smith who has already delivered the introductory training on three occasions since November 2017. Colin Smith, RMNH, DipMHS, BSc (Hons) is an Independent Consultant within Learning Disabilities, Autism, Mental Health and Positive Behaviour and is the Managing Director, Trainer and Speaker at Care and Support (UK). The past introductory training, which has been delivered on three occasions has been attended by a total of 74 representatives from 19 groups.

Invitations to this training have already been sent to attendees of the Tier 1 training. However, if any volunteer of a Gibraltar NGO, Sporting Association or Cultural Society who already possess a basic knowledge and understanding of working with people with learning disabilities, Autism would like to attend the Tier 2 can apply to attend by sending an e-mail to equality@gibraltar.gov.gi or by calling 200 46253. Please note that there are limited spaces available.

Minister for Equality, the Hon Samantha Sacramento MP, said “I am very happy to see that the Learning with Disabilities and Autism training, specifically for volunteer groups, is progressing to the second stage. This training is not only helping to raise awareness, but very importantly, is also a big step in providing a better service to the community and promote inclusion of people with learning disabilities. This seminar will enhance the support offered by organisations who work exclusively with members with learning disabilities and will promote inclusion as mainstream organisations will be able to open themselves up to members or more members with learning

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disabilities to be included alongside their peers. Much interest has already been received from volunteers as to when the second part of this training is going to be delivered and we are glad to have commissioned such a training that will greatly benefit our community. It is wonderful to see genuine interest from people who give their personal time to provide a valuable service to the local community, I would like to say, to all those volunteers, that their work does not go unnoticed and that we all thank you.”