Disability – A desirable disadvantage

‘How do you create a culture of self-examination to make your organisation more inclusive?’ 5 July, Aon, 7.45–10.00am

Chaired by Kate Nash OBE, Purple Space

Four in ten disabled people say they’ve lost out on a job because of how employers perceived their impairments. Yet in such a challenging market place for talent, a huge pool of candidates is being overlooked. Hear first-hand experience of the ‘desirable disadvantage’ from having a disability and the positive capabilities disabled candidates bring to the table, whose life is prefaced by ‘swimming against the tide’.

Dominic Christian, CEO of Aon UK Ltd and Executive Chairman of Aon Benfield International, Aon

Dominic Christian is CEO of Aon UK Ltd and Executive Chairman of Aon Benfield International. He is a member of the Global Executive of Aon.

Dominic is a Director of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, a Director of The Bermuda Society and Chairman of the Lloyd’s Tercentenary Research Foundation. In 2014 he was elected as a Member of the Council of Lloyd’s. For 2015/16 he was President of the Insurance Institute of London. He was recently re-elected to the Court of Common Council of The City of London. He chairs the Inclusion@Lloyd’s Group – a contemporary approach to Diversity and Inclusion being in his view central to future business success.

Kate Nash OBE, Founder, Purple Space

Kate Nash OBE is the world’s leading authority in ‘Networkology’ — the science behind the growth of workplace networks/resource groups. Kate set up a hub of best practice in running disabled employee networks publishing the first best practice guide in 2009, with a UK Ministerial launch.

In October 2015 Kate founded PurpleSpace – the world’s first professional development hub for disabled employee networks bringing together 850,000 disabled employees from across employee networks. It delivers best practice and leadership know-how to network leaders, and resilience and confidence training for disabled employees.

In 2007 Kate was awarded an OBE for services to disabled people.

Yasmin Sheikh, Founder, Diverse Matters

Yasmin Sheikh is the founder of Diverse Matters. She is a Disability Consultant, coach, trainer and multi-award winning speaker. She is a former lawyer where she was at international law firm, Clyde & Co LLP for 10 years. In 2008, she sustained a spinal stroke aged 29, which resulted in her having to use a wheelchair.

Yasmin now helps both individuals and organisations to tap into our skills, be resilient, overcome challenges and also have confidence around disability (both visible and non-visible) to ensure people truly flourish though her workshops, webinars, events and speaking.

Graeme Whippy, Disability Workplace Specialist, Channel 4

Graeme is a business disability consultant who helps organisations remove barriers to employing and serving disabled people. He is an expert in IT Accessibility and won the award for ‘Outstanding Contribution by an Individual’ at the UK Financial Sector Technology awards, 2009.

He also created an award-winning approach to making workplace adjustments for disabled employees, and the Dementia Friendly Financial Services charter.

Graeme joined Channel 4 Television in 2016 to help them become an exemplar employer for disabled people, building upon their reputation for representing disability on-screen and creating change in the creative media sector.

Graeme was awarded an MBE in 2016 for his services to people with dementia and disabilities.

Hector Minto, Senior Technology Evangelist (Accessibility), Microsoft

Hector Minto has worked in the field of Assistive Technology (AT), Alternative Communication (AAC) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) for 19 years, focusing on emerging technology and how to maximize its effectiveness across the wide range of people with physical, learning and sensory disabilities. A critical part of Hector’s role is to learn from Microsoft customers how we can continue to adapt to the changing needs of the diverse population we support, and to provide this feedback directly to the Microsoft product teams for ongoing improvement of the accessibility of our products, websites, and services.
VENUE

THE AON CENTRE
The Leadenhall Building
122 Leadenhall Street
London EC3V 4AN

Nearby rail and underground stations:
Bank (Northern, Central, Waterloo & City lines, Docklands Light Railway) – 7 minute stroll.
Liverpool Street (Central, Circle, Metropolitan, Hammersmith & City lines and main line services) – 9 minute stroll.
Monument (Circle, District lines) – 8 minute stroll.
Fenchurch Street (main line services) – 8 minute stroll.

TIMINGS

7.45am  Guests arrive, breakfast, networking opportunity
8.00am  Session begins, welcome and introduction from Chair Kate Nash OBE, Founder, Purple Space
8.10am  Welcome from host and sponsor
Dominic Christian, CEO of Aon UK Ltd and Executive Chairman of Aon Benfield International, Aon
8.15am  Disability - a desirable disadvantage video by the Lord Mayor’s Appeal
8.20am  Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley, The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor
8.25am  Graeme Whipp y, Disability Workplace Specialist, Channel 4
Hear how Channel 4 has changed its whole culture and fully integrated disability as part of its business.
8.40am  Hector Minto, Senior Technology Evangelist (Accessibility), Microsoft
Microsoft realised that it was missing out on an amazing amount of talent and is now actively recruiting from an untapped talent pool — people with autism. The unique strengths and abilities that each individual brings significantly adds to what the business can deliver and achieve.
8.55am  Yasmin Sheikh, Founder, Diverse Matters
Hear from Yasmin Sheikh who, aged 29, as a successful career woman, awoke one day and was paralysed. Learn how she has developed twelve skills since then and what people with a disability can bring to a business.
9.10am  Questions to panel
9.30am  Session roundup and closing remarks by Chair, Kate Nash OBE, Founder, Purple Space
9.35am  Session closes, networking opportunity
10.00am  Guests depart

Recruitment: ‘Changing the recruitment lens – finding untapped talent’

7 September, 7.45 – 10.00am
Sponsored and hosted by

If you would like to be added to the Power of Diversity mailing list please contact:
T: 020 7332 1582  E: diversity@thelordmayorsappeal.org
For more information go to
www.thelordmayorsappeal.org  @LMAppeal  The Lord Mayor’s Appeal

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