

SUMMARY

Proposal from U Can Do I.T. re Improving Life Chances of Disabled People

1. Owning a computer and knowing how to operate it will make a massive difference to the quality of life of blind, deaf and disabled people.
2. Most disabled people living on Disability Living Allowance do not have the funds to buy computers, get the training and keep them running.
3. Disabled people have not, do not and will not use public access computer provision in any great number because of mobility problems and the need for special equipment.
4. We estimate that approximately 3% of people drawing Incapacity Benefit or DLA would want to develop computer skills and own their own computer. This amounts to 100,000 people in the UK (for details of this estimate see appendix attached to U Can Do I.T. Business Plan).
5. The total cost of this exercise would be £2,500 per person (see Business Plan as above). The cost would be covered over five years.
6. By supplying computers and giving training we would achieve an immediate measurable and permanent improvement to life chances of disabled people.
7. Opportunities for employment would be greatly improved if skills were developed for working from home. Currently no NVQ's exist in this sphere. We think that this gap in the current portfolio should be rectified.
8. The Data Protection Act inhibits the exchange of information between charities. Approved charities should be exempt from the provisions of the Act.
9. Over the last four and a half years U Can Do I.T. has developed a system for delivering training based on employing independent freelance tutors paid per lesson given in the home. This is a cost effective means of delivering training and could be extended throughout the UK.