

# A Guide to Joining the Experience Network





## What is the Experience Network?

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The Experience Network is the name for the lived experience workstream which is part of the Apt PSP.

The purpose of this workstream is to ensure people who have lived experience are at the centre of everything we do at Apt. The group is intended to bring a range of people with lived experience of disability or long-term health conditions together with people who have a passion for working with employers to develop their understanding of employing disabled people and having a diverse workforce.

By including people with lived experience in all aspects of our work, we inform practice, add credibility and create opportunities.

## What is Apt?

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Apt is a Public Social Partnership (PSP) funded by the Scottish Government, on a mission to reduce the Disability Employment Gap.

A PSP is a partnership of organisations that have chosen to work together to develop and deliver pilot projects, allowing us to try new ideas and discover if they produce good results, in this case more disabled people getting and retaining jobs.

Apt is the name of our PSP and our purpose is to reduce of the Disability Employment Gap, by working with employers in Scotland and helping them to be better at attracting, recruiting and retaining disabled people and those with long-term health conditions.



## Why get involved?

We are recruiting for volunteers to become new members of the Experience Network. This is to ensure we have a diverse pool of people with varying and different knowledge and experience of being a disabled person in employment.

Our ambition at Apt is to develop a Centre of Excellence for Scotland's employers.

By working with us you can play a major role in building this groundbreaking initiative that will transform our workplaces and the opportunities available to disabled people who want to work and play a full role in our community.

## What is your Role?

Our Experience Network are consulting on the design and development of pilot projects, delivering training to employers and working with them to test our ideas.

Those who participate in this workstream will also be able to contribute across the other workstreams as it's important that all our work benefits from the lived experience of disabled people themselves. In some cases, members of our Experience Network will act as consultants to the other workstreams, supporting and enhancing their delivery of training and other services.

## What can you expect?

Monthly workstream meetings



Training opportunities



Networking



Opportunities for paid consultancy



Participation in developing blogs/vlogs and news stories



Full support from colleagues and peers.

You'll be expected to attend monthly online workstream meetings but participation in training or consultancy is optional and full training and support will be provided. The PSP pays volunteers for their time when this is appropriate. Our Lived Experience Co-ordinator can give you more details on this.

# What our current group say



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I chose to join Apt to help raise awareness of the barriers faced by disabled people in employment and help make a small difference towards greater equality in the workplace.

*Alyson Woodhouse*

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I participate with Apt as I believe it is a great opportunity for those with lived experience of disability to be part of the goal of overcoming the barriers that face disabled people in employment.

*Brian Thomson*

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Without supported employment, I doubt if I would have ever found meaningful work so I want to ensure others get the same opportunities I got and Apt provides this.

*Neil Skene*

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As someone diagnosed with a disability in recent years, my involvement in Apt has given me the opportunity to share my ideas, experience and knowledge in a respectful, positive, supportive and constructive setting.

*Katharine Jackson*

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As the Lived Experience Co-ordinator for Apt I feel that this has been an ideal opportunity to use my lived experience to assist employers, but it has also been a learning experience for me as I learned so much from my colleagues in the lived experience network.

*Dr Danielle Farrel*

## Contact Us

Ask Apt! Start the conversation, meet our Lived Experience Co-ordinator and find out more about the work of our Experience Network.



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