



Statement of Inclusiveness

On 16th November 2013 the trustees of Sea-Change discussed their policy about who the charity works with.

There is a broad spread of clients across the full range of apparent material wellbeing or poverty; from mainstream school and youth groups, fee-paying schools and others through to those from homes with few material goods, even homeless; people experiencing palpable exclusion in terms of education and life choices; with learning difficulties and disabilities; recovering from substance abuse or at risk of offending; from difficult backgrounds.

Generally it has been the charity's practice to describe the major group of clients as experiencing disadvantage, which is true though simplistic. There are two problems with this description: firstly, it describes people in a way they may not choose to describe themselves and consequently labels them. This can be particularly evident with people with learning difficulties or disabilities where they may not consider themselves primarily as different at all, but it is generally applicable across a range of clients and does not sufficiently invite focus on their positive aspects. Secondly, it encourages a view that disadvantage is the most important identifier of people deserving support. Sea-Change's experience has shown that young people experiencing material deprivation or disadvantage are far from the only ones needing help growing up and developing their life chances.

Consequently, the philosophy of the charity is best described as inclusive, supporting people from any background and of any ability seeking the benefits of shared endeavour, learning about themselves and their world.