

## Fact sheet 6 Engaging with employer disability forums

Whether or not you have capacity to set up a Disabled members Self Organised Group you will still need to keep an eye on the Employer Forums within your Branch here is why

- Employer forum are often talking shops that may have no power to create improvement and influence, they do however help us to see the focus of the employer
- Join the forum and encourage other disabled members to join these forums and talk to colleagues within the forum about the benefits of joining UNISON
- Create a swell of disabled members to either form that disabled members SOG or if you have one already encourage these new members to join your SOG to build strength and a wider understanding of the issues affecting disabled members with this employer
- Use the forum to enhance and not undermine our Union or Self Organised Groups because we are democratic, and we have the support and power of UNISON behind us to improve the working environment and terms and conditions for our disabled members
- At a forum you may be able to meet future stewards or leaders who you can encourage to join UNISON and be active
- you might know of members already – who have a passion for Equality and who you can approach to become more active in UNISON – you can get help and advice with this from your branch or region
- Your work around Self Organising might highlight for you some further development you might like to further your skills, take a look at our education programme [https://southeast.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/sites/41/2022/02/UNISON\\_Training2022\\_V3.pdf](https://southeast.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/sites/41/2022/02/UNISON_Training2022_V3.pdf)
- Highlight to the forum that 2022 is UNISON Year of Disabled Workers and we have a programme of monthly Webinars for members and potential members