

JUST DIFFERENT

learning about disability and difference

Toby Hewson Biography



Toby has extensive experience of speaking in schools, colleges, academies, universities, at seminars and conferences both in the UK and abroad. He has wide experience in the voluntary sector, ranging from giving talks to young people in his old school, to training as an independent visitor for the Children's society.

Toby is 33, has cerebral palsy (a long term condition that affects the ability to control muscles), uses a communication aid, has a wheelchair to get around and also employs a support team.

When he's not working or campaigning, his interests range from sport to a casual drink in the pub. For many years Toby played Boccia (a game similar to Boules) at international level and was a member of the Great Britain squad. He now has a Boccia refereeing Qualification. Toby was a 'Gamesmaker' at the London 2012 Paralympics.

Toby's ambition is that disabled children (and their parents) no longer have to struggle to get the education they desperately need and deserve. He strives for the day when disabled people are accepted

and celebrated in our society, and are provided with the support, equipment and resources they need to live full, active and independent lives.

Some of Toby's achievements ...

Worked extensively with the Dare Foundation at Brighton University.

Winner of the 2006 National ChildLine Awards for his work inspiring Children and Young people using communication equipment.

In October 2006 Toby gave evidence in the House of Commons to the All Party Disablement Group on Disability.

Trustee of the Independent Living Association for three years.

Trustee Deputy Chairman and past Chairman of Communication Matters.

Past Trustee and Treasurer of 1 Voice (charity supporting people with complex communication needs).

Trained independent visitor for the Children's Society.

Community Hero of the year Award 2012

Nominated finalist in National Skills for Care Awards in 2013

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