

Dining WITH A Difference[®]

What is it?

Dining is just what it says – a dinner with a difference.

Senior Executives from one or more of Britain's major companies or public sector bodies are invited to dine with Britain's leading authorities on "disability as it affects business".

The carefully-choreographed evening provides a unique opportunity to explore how disability affects your people, your customers and clients, and the communities in which you do business.

Senior players leave with a new perspective, new energy, fresh insights and inspired to lead their organisations into action.

What's more, the evening is fun, challenging and fast moving.

What happens at a Dining event?

The dinner is a subtle mélange of fact and humour, challenge and support.

Course by course, diners are guided on a journey through disability as it affects people, society and the organisations in which we work.

Each diner becomes on the one hand, more relaxed and comfortable with their disabled hosts and, on the other, better able to describe the emerging disability agenda for business and for the communities in which they operate.

Each course tackles a particular theme – with diners seated on separate tables each led by a member of the **Dining** team. There is always a frank and open exchange of personal experiences and views. Each diner is encouraged to consider in very practical terms what needs to be done if their companies are to build on achievements so far and move into high performance.



Why should you consider Dining?

Because leadership matters.
Because disability-confident leaders are good for business.

Here's what previous diners have said:

"Good to have safe time out to focus"

"A great way to persuade the top team to add disability to their already long list of business priorities"

**"How do you help your Board to become 'disability confident'?
You take them to a rather special dinner party..."**

"In 3 hours, it moved my senior players from good intentions and policy commitment to action and business benefit"

So there are many reasons, but the overwhelming argument is this:

Disability-confident organisations do a better job employing good people; they anticipate the rising expectations of a huge and growing customer base; and they minimize the legal and reputational risks associated with the old way of doing things.

Private companies like Barclays, Royal Mail, National Grid, Ernst & Young, Accenture and public sector organisations like the BBC and Jobcentre Plus and charities like Business in the Community and Jewish Care have all found that **Dining** has made a big difference to the way they do business.

**"All the credit goes to you and the team.
It was just the ticket in terms of motivation to act"**

Allan Leighton Chairman - Royal Mail

How did Dining evolve?

The **Dining** concept came about after conversations between James Partridge and Phil Friend some years ago. The project became a reality in 2000 with considerable help from the Employers' Forum on Disability, the Board of (what was then) Consignia, and Margaret Hodge MP, former Minister for Disabled People. The first dinners were "eaten" in the autumn of 2000, with the demand growing year on year.

Who is on the Dining team?

The **Dining** Directors are some of the UK's leading disability opinion formers and authorities – all are business people in their own right and Associates of the Employers' Forum on Disability.

Phil Friend OBE is founder of the UK's leading disability consultancy, Minty & Friend. In advising business on disability issues, he is renowned for his provocative and challenging style, his clients value his practical approach to making a difference - both to their 'bottom lines' and the lives of disabled people.

Simon Minty is CEO of Minty & Friend. He has advised a wide range of prestigious organisations, both public and private sector, on effective disability strategies and, in his own passionate, yet humorous style, assisted them in assessing and revising their approach to disabled employees and customers.

James Partridge OBE is one of the UK's leading authorities on transforming business cultures so that employees are valued regardless of difference. As founder and Chief Executive of the charity Changing Faces, James has advised many major companies and government bodies on disability and equality issues.

Stephen Lloyd founded the Diversity Division of The Grass Roots Group in early 1998, since when it has grown to become the leading supplier of diversity awareness resources in the UK. He has worked with around 300 companies, government departments and public sector organisations on disability and diversity.

Dining's Directors are supported by a group of skilled Associates, including Kate Nash OBE (Creator of Ultimate People Networks) and Alice Maynard (Director of Future Inclusion), who have a wide experience in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

How can I organise a Dining event?

Any organisation can host an event - please contact:

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THIS LEAFLET IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Thanks once again for the thought provoking dinner, it lived up to its billing of Dining with a Difference

John Warburton
National Diversity
Team Leader
- Jobcentre Plus

An enjoyable and challenging experience - very worthwhile

Nick Winsor
Group Director
- National Grid plc

On a personal level I found this event so valuable the first time I attended that I was keen to host in-house. I appreciated the way that you were willing to customise the offering for Ernst and Young and it paid dividends with thirty of our partners leaving the event engaged and motivated to drive the change we want to see. This is a really unique and innovative approach to disability training, particularly suited to a firm's leadership

Robin Heath
Leadership Team
- Ernst & Young

Dining with a Difference is hugely entertaining and immensely interesting ... but it is also direct and unsettling ... one of the few events I have been to that has genuinely gripped and engaged the entire audience

Dan Flint
Resources Global HR Director
- Accenture

Thank you so much for our recent Dining with a Difference dinner. I've had terrific feedback. The dinner has also galvanised other actions in various parts of the business. You did a great job with us and it made an impact

Mike Pederson
Managing Director
- Barclays Private Bank

The evening exceeded my expectations, which were already high

Brian Popplestone
Managing Director
- Fulcrum Connections Ltd