



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Jules Benton

[www.cosmiccactus.com](http://www.cosmiccactus.com)

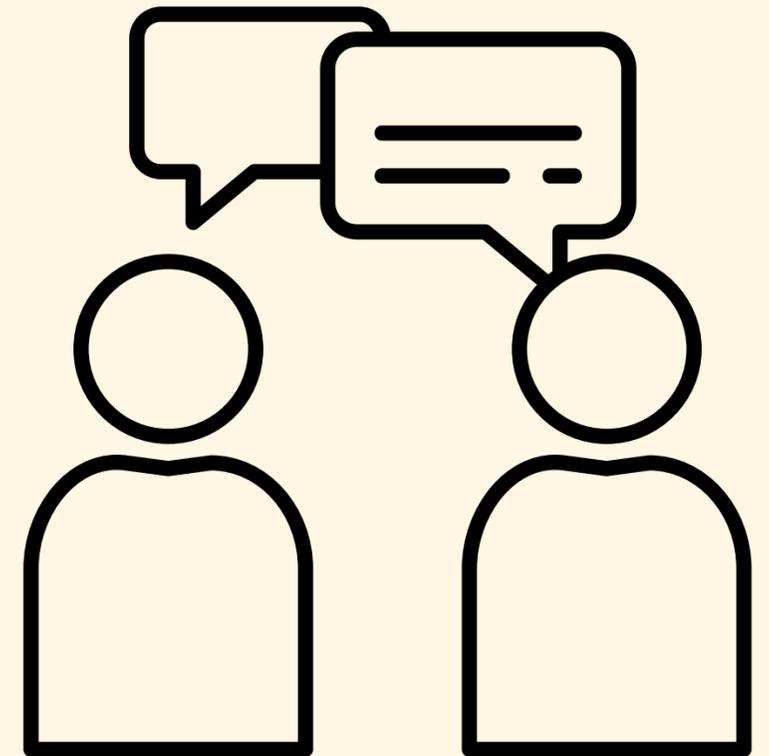
**ABOUT ME**

**WHY WORK WITH DISABLED PEOPLE/ YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

**HOW DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**WHY IS IT DIFFERENT**

**START EXPERIMENTING**





# introducing Jules

- Chief Executive of Cosmic Cactus – a company formed in Nov 2021 to provide Information, Advice, Guidance and Person-centred Support for Transition to Employment, Training, FE/HE and Adult Services. Cosmic Cactus work mainly, but not exclusively, in the BCP and Dorset Council areas.
- Focus: people who experience barriers to participation (such as discrimination, prejudice, disability, impairment, health issues, special educational needs, exclusion, marginalisation etc...)
- Over 35 years' experience working within the Public, Private and VCSE sectors as a manager of people & projects, Career Guidance Professional, trainer and consultant.
- Level 7 Diploma in Careers Guidance (DipCG), Connexions PA Diploma and a range of other qualifications including a Law Degree LLB(Hons), Numeracy and Literacy teaching qualifications, Mental Health First Aid L3, Playwork L3 and Makaton
- Delivers training, on CEIAG for people with an impairment, health condition or Special Educational Need, for organisations such as the Career Development Institute, Disability Rights UK and regional careers hubs, networks & companies.

# WHY?



- **CURIOUS**
- **FASCINATED**
- **IMPRESSED**
- **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

# INEQUALITY AND NEED

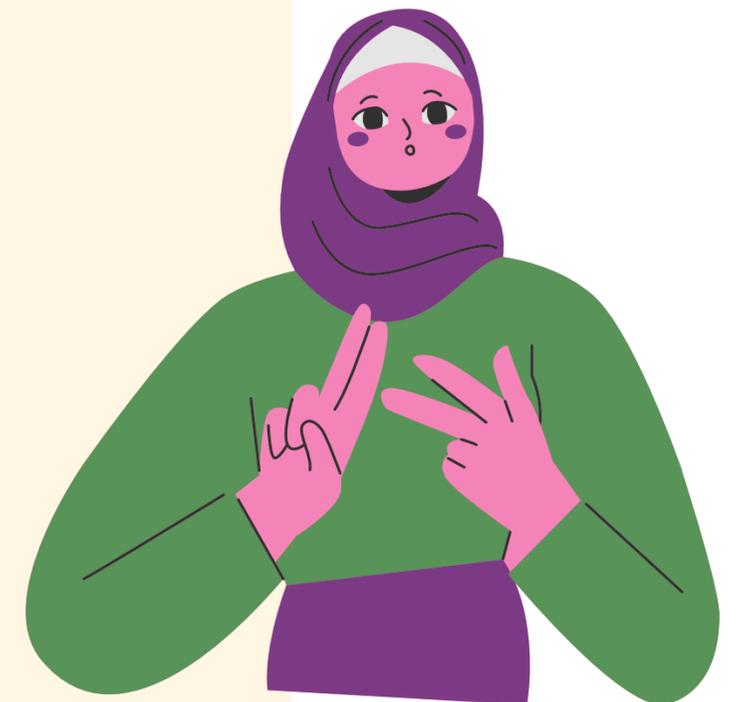
The disability employment rate was 53.6% in Q2 2023, compared to 82.5% for non-disabled people.

---

The rising number of people classed as disabled is associated with an increase in people reporting mental health conditions

---

One in three Disabled workers are working part-time



# SEND

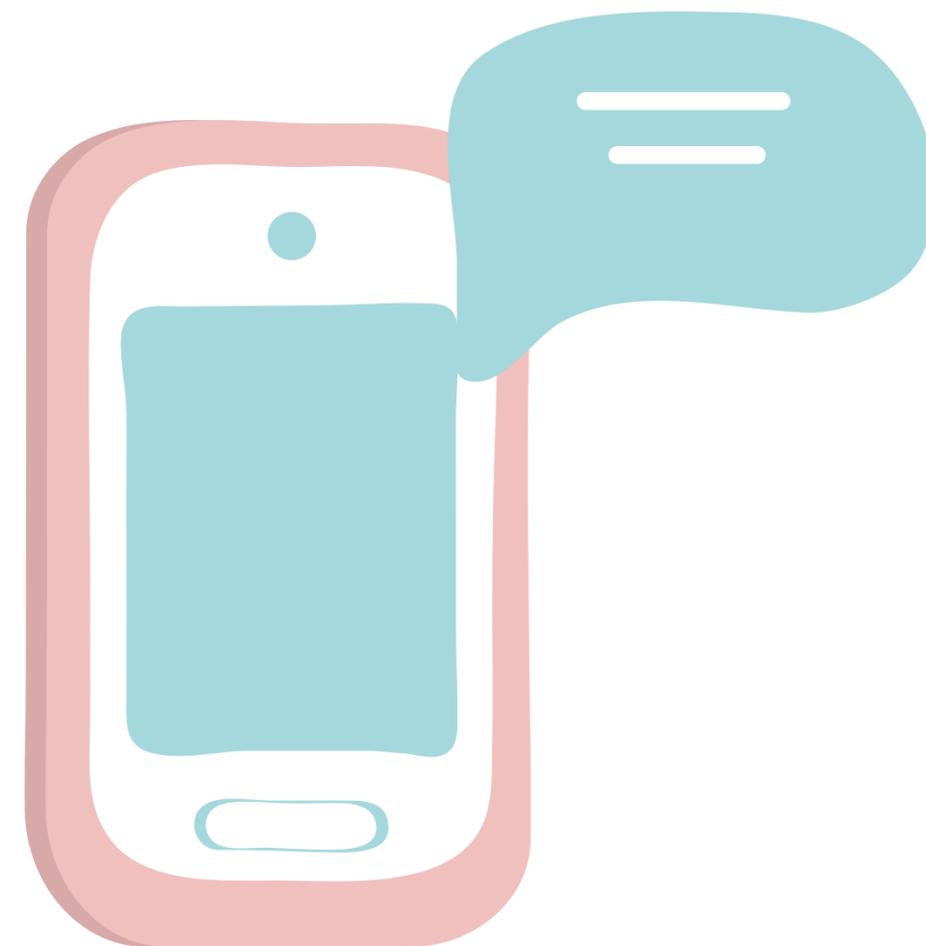
Over 1.5 million pupils in England have special educational needs (SEN)

An increase of 87,000 from 2022. Both the number of pupils with an education, health and care (EHC plan) and the number of pupils with SEN support have increased:

- The percentage of pupils with an EHC plan has increased to 4.3%, from 4.0% in 2022.
- The percentage of pupils with SEN but no EHC plan (SEN support) has increased to 13.0%, from 12.6% in 2022.
- Both continue a trend of increases since 2016.

The most common type of need for those with an EHC plan is autistic spectrum condition and for those with SEN support is speech, language and communication needs

**“I DON’T  
KNOW IF  
YOU  
REMEMBER  
ME BUT I  
WANTED TO  
TELL YOU  
THAT YOU  
CHANGED  
MY LIFE.”**

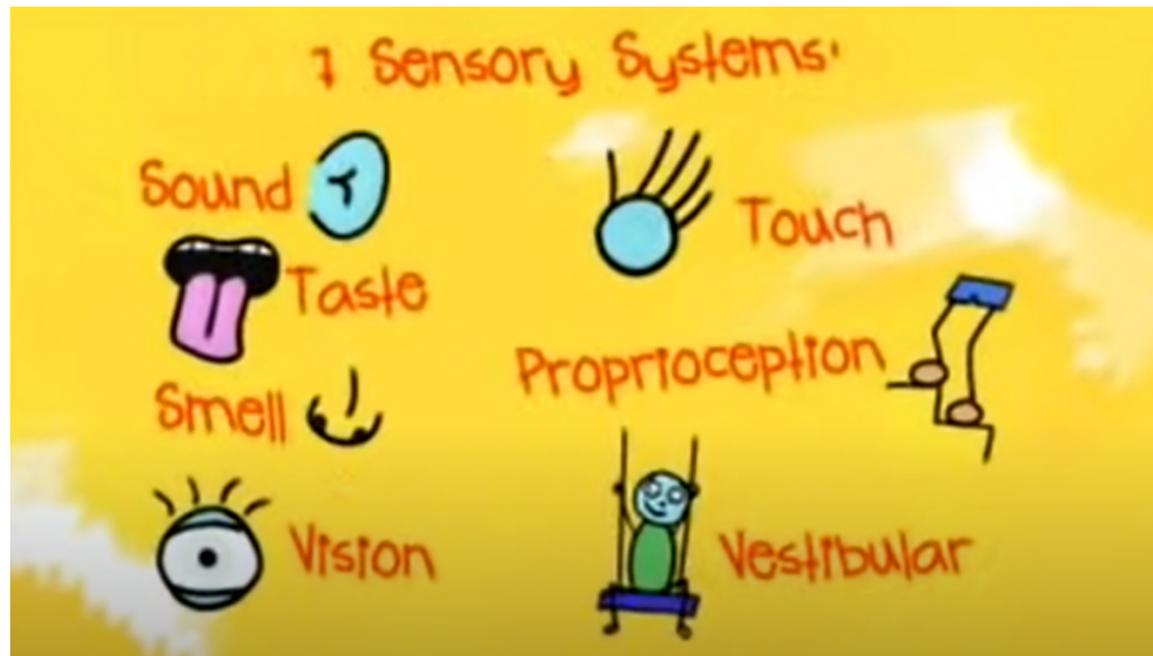


"I just wanted you to know ... you started a snowball!"



This is why we are [#SoMuchMoreThanTalkingAboutJobs](#)

# PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING



- ## Decision Making Processes
- Memory
  - Exposure
  - Reactions
  - Logic vs emotions
  - Interactions
  - Weighting/prioritising

# Am I being perfectly clear?

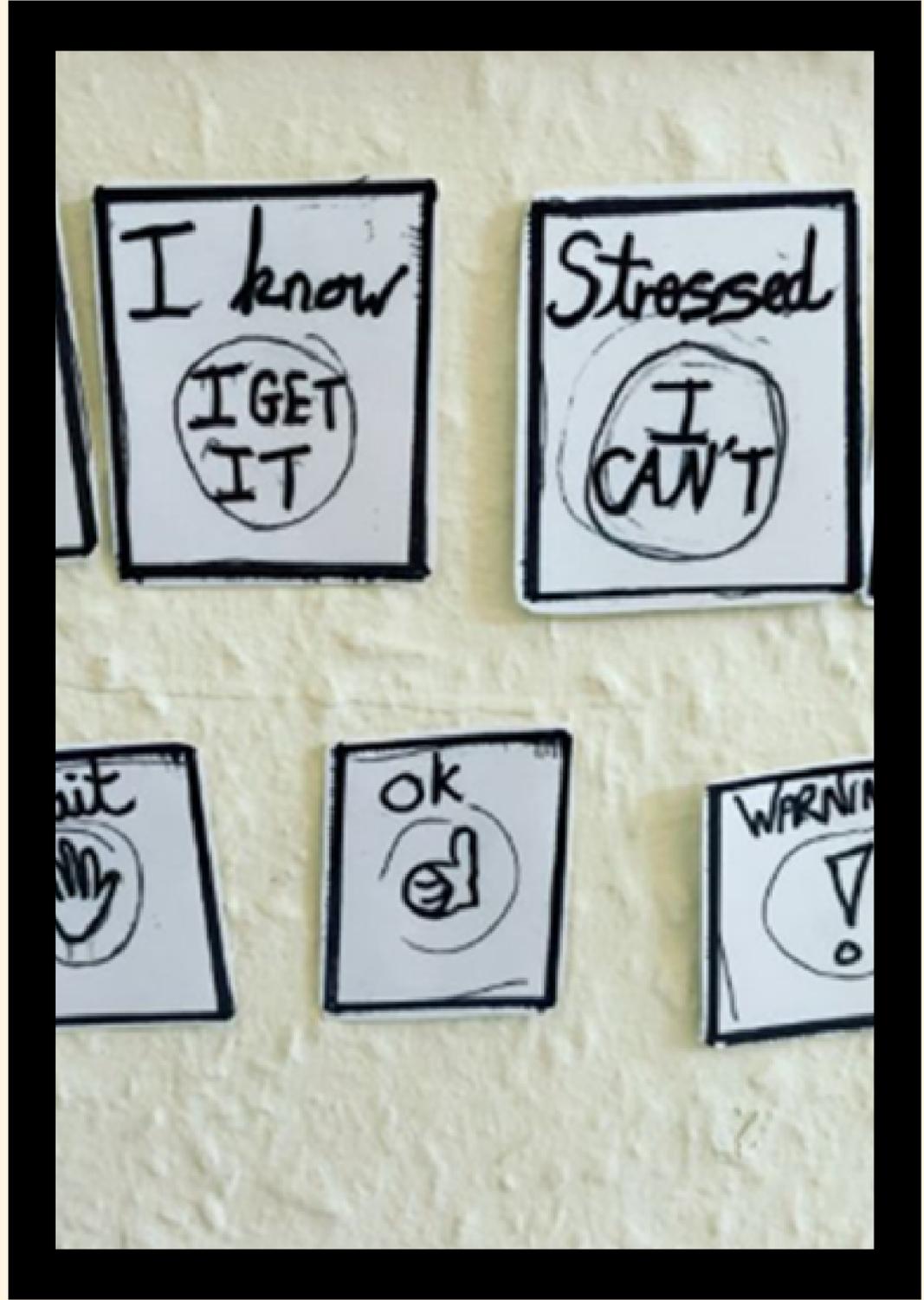
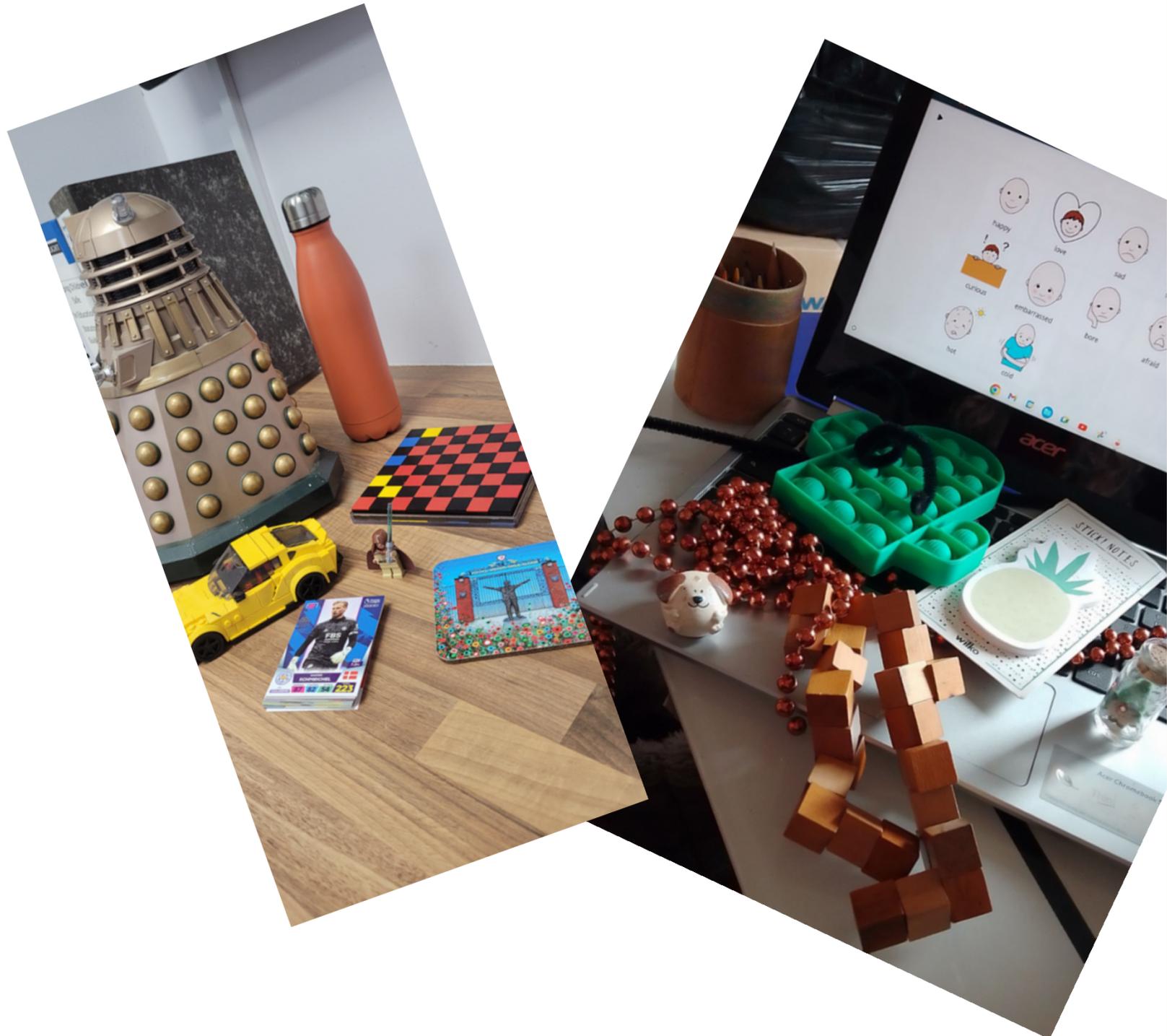
*The single biggest problem  
in communication is the  
illusion that it has taken  
place.*

~George Bernard Shaw





# TRY OUT DIFFERENT APPROACHES





**Chris Targett RCDP**

CDI UK Careers Adviser of  
the Year 2021 at CXK  
Limited

Followers

1,794

[Message](#)

Why am I sharing?

1. To support other practitioners to be brave and try different things if possible... it could be what changes someone else's world.
2. I hope it helps other practitioners add to their toolkits. Sharing can help others develop their creativity/ideas within their practices; thereby helping clients.

What different approaches have you tried when working with clients?

Have fun peeps 😊



**SHARE!**



[talktojules@outlook.com](mailto:talktojules@outlook.com)