# Flexible Working Attracting and engaging a diverse workforce

Emma Stewart, MBE Joint CEO of Timewise



@EmmaStewart www.timewisefoundation.co.uk

## **Employer clients**











































# The changing UK workforce



# Today's workforce

- Of the 31m UK workforce:
  - Mothers: 5.3 million working mothers [ONS 2013]
  - Carers: >3 million working carers [Carers UK]
  - Retirees: 1 million over-65s [Age UK]
  - Disabled people: nearly 7m people of working age.
     Only half are in work

# Who else wants flexibility?

- Fathers: Nearly half of UK millennial dads (up to age 35) would take a pay cut to spend more time with their children (Modern Families Index 2016)
- Millennials: more than half expect to work flexibly (surveys by EY and Michael Page, 2017)
- Current full timers: 8.7 million UK workers are currently full-time and not working flexibly but would like to work flexibly (Timewise 2014)

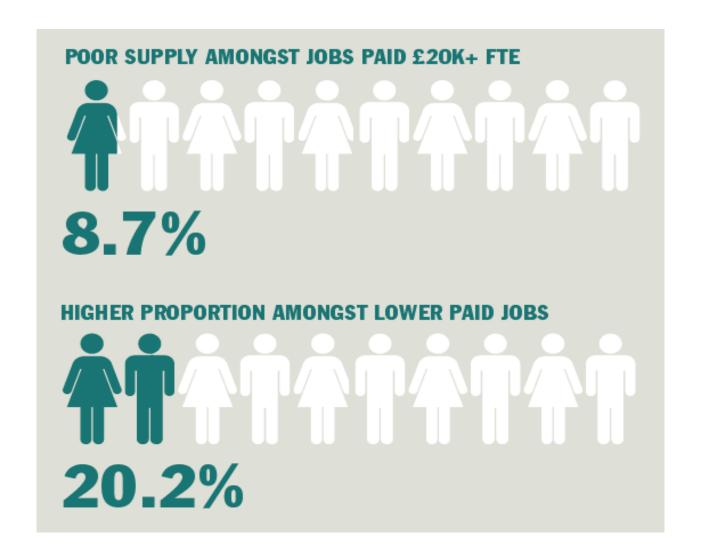


#### So what is the problem?

- Majority of public sector has a flexible working policy BUT
  - Not advertising this to candidates
  - Offering flexibility which doesn't work for the organisation
  - Not being proactive with job design identifying the flexibility which can be offered
  - Some managers would rather take an 'easy' candidate. Lack of confidence and skills to consider different arrangements.



#### Flexible hiring



#### What does this mean?





# Getting it right: the key principle



## Types of flexible working

- WHERE. Remote working: occasional/informal; home; mobile; other offices)
- WHEN. Full-time flexible: occasional/informal; flexible start/finish times; annualized; compressed; project-based
- HOW MUCH. Part-time; job-sharing; job-splitting; project-based; unpaid leave

## **Flexibility and Disability**

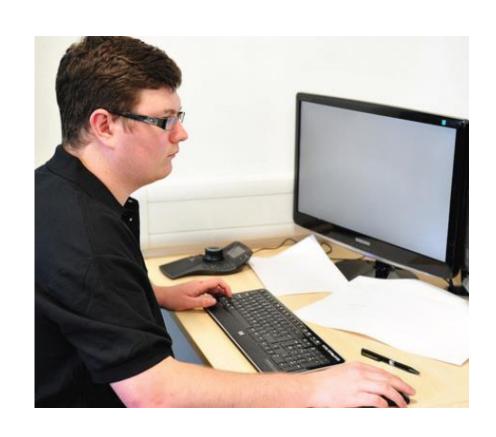
 One of the most commonly stated enablers for employment among adults with impairments is flexible working hours/days

(The Papworth Trust report 'Disability in the United Kingdom 2013, Fact and Figures')

#### Examples of using flex to make adjustments include:

- Take a flexible approach to start/finish times and/or shift patterns
- Phased return to work, e.g. offering temporary part-time hours
- Equal amount of break time, but in shorter, more frequent chunks
- Allow someone to arrange their annual leave so that is spaced regularly throughout the year
- Allow the possibility of occasional or regular working from home

# So can you design jobs for disabled people?









#### So what can you do?

1) Engage Leadership – make the case, make it a priority

- 2) Use flexible job design to challenge and coach managers to consider flexibility when they are recruiting or restructuring
- 3) Communicate your offer internally and externally let your people and your potential candidates know what you can offer

### What's the prize?

- **✓** Talent attraction
- **✓** Skills utilisation & productivity
- **✓** Diversity and inclusion
- ✓ Greater job mobility
- ✓ Less welfare dependency
- ✓ Tackling worklessness & low pay
- **✓** Enhancing career progression



