

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Shadow Disability Minister looks to the future for blind workers

Shadow Disability Minister Jeremy Hunt MP, saw the future for blind and partially sighted job seekers when he visited Action for Blind People's London office in Southwark today, Tuesday 2 May.

Jeremy Hunt MP learnt about Action's employment service which offers training and advice to visually impaired job seekers. In the month of March alone, Action's employment team in London assisted 11 blind and partially sighted people to secure jobs. The Shadow Minister also met with visually impaired entrepreneurs who have set up five mini businesses under the guidance of the charity. He then toured Action's on site factory which employs visually impaired workers.

Jeremy Hunt MP commented:

"With three out of four visually impaired people of working age currently unemployed, I whole-heartedly support Action for Blind People's work with blind and partially sighted job seekers, employees and entrepreneurs. I hope that with Action's support, more blind and partially sighted people will be able to reach their potential in the workplace."

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Richard Holmes, Action for Blind People's Public Affairs Officer, added:

“We've run a supported employment factory here in London for over 30 years. As we continue to develop opportunities for our clients in mainstream employment and nurture small business set up by visually impaired people, we're delighted to have the support of Jeremy Hunt MP.”

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For a photograph or further information, please contact Zoë Patel, PR Officer, or Debbie Flatley, Press Officer, on Tel: 020 7635 4898, Email: zoe.patel@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- Action for Blind People supports over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people in the UK every year. Action for Blind People's National Freephone Helpline is 0800 915 4666.
- Action works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life.
- Action provides visually impaired people with opportunities through employment, housing, leisure and information and support.