



## **Feedback**

### **Valuing People Workshop - Roadworks Safety & Accessibility**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2019

*Through active experience and working closely with people with a range of disabilities, I was able to observe the barriers some people experience on a daily basis caused by roadworks and construction in and around the Southwark and wider London area.*

*A presentation during the workshop also showed just some of the issues some people can face which are caused by a lack of consideration when planning for construction works. Traffic management was highlighted as a key issue, and in particular, those who have visibility and mobility impairments need to be better considered. Think about how these people can access kerbs, how they can navigate footpaths if there are obstructions, or how they can find their way around diversions if a footpath is closed.*

*These 'real difficulties' that people face on a daily basis was proven with a site visit to Old Street and a walk around the perimeter of a typical busy London construction site.*

*At McGee Group we pride ourselves on being a Considerate Constructor, positively engaging with the local communities in which we work however, my eyes were opened by the Workshop to the sheer range of challenges that people with mobility or visual impairments face on a daily basis. The day concluded that the book doesn't have all the answers and it is so important to engage with people who are likely to be impacted by the work we do.*

*Taking this message back to our business I presented the pertinent points from the Workshop to the McGee Top Level Management team and as a result we have updated our policies and procedures to ensure that in the Tender and Planning stage of our project valuing people and their access and egress around our sites are of paramount importance and not consigned to an afterthought. We engage early with TfL colleagues and indeed those who attended the Valuing People Workshop with disabilities to listen to their experiences and incorporate positive changes wherever we can. This forward-thinking approach marks a renewed commitment from us to get it right every time and minimise the negative impact of the building on the most vulnerable of our neighbours. We are rolling this learning out to all our sites and Traffic Marshalls as these are very much our 'Front of House' **concierges**.*

*Not only do we have a renewed commitment in our policy, new procedures but again with TfL's support we have an inspection process to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the local community and ensure we continue to raise the bar in considerate construction.*

**McGee Head of Social Responsibility**