**Phoebe Webb Manifesto – Students with Disabilities Officer**

I am very excited to be running for Students with Disabilities officer as a first-year mature student. I am extremely passionate about intersectionality and hope to work hard with the other liberation officers to make your university experience as seamless and empowering as possible. In my experience at the University of Suffolk, there is a considerable amount of support available for disabled students, but sadly many students aren’t aware of it. I’m very thankful for the support I’ve accessed in my first year at university and this is a great opportunity to further develop this and get the word out.

As well as studying I am a peer support worker in adolescent eating disorders, with a background in acute psychiatry and social housing. It’s of huge importance to me to speak openly about my experiences with mental illness and neurodivergence as a queer person because culturally we desperately need more representation. We shouldn’t have to prove how capable we are, nor should our worth depend on our capacity for labour, but while those with disabilities - visible and invisible - need advocates, I commit to do this in all areas of my life.

My aspirations as a liberation officer focus on improving the awareness and accessibility of in-house support, from reasonable adjustments to study support to Personal Evacuation Plans. I want to promote awareness resources and training for university staff to better understand disabilities in the context of education, such as how different conditions affect the learning process as well as our personal lives. I also have a dream of low-stim study spaces, without harsh lighting and with soundproofing, for those of us who struggle to work in even the quiet study areas. I hope that we can get the Students with Disabilities society active and vocal, so we can create change but also to build a community.