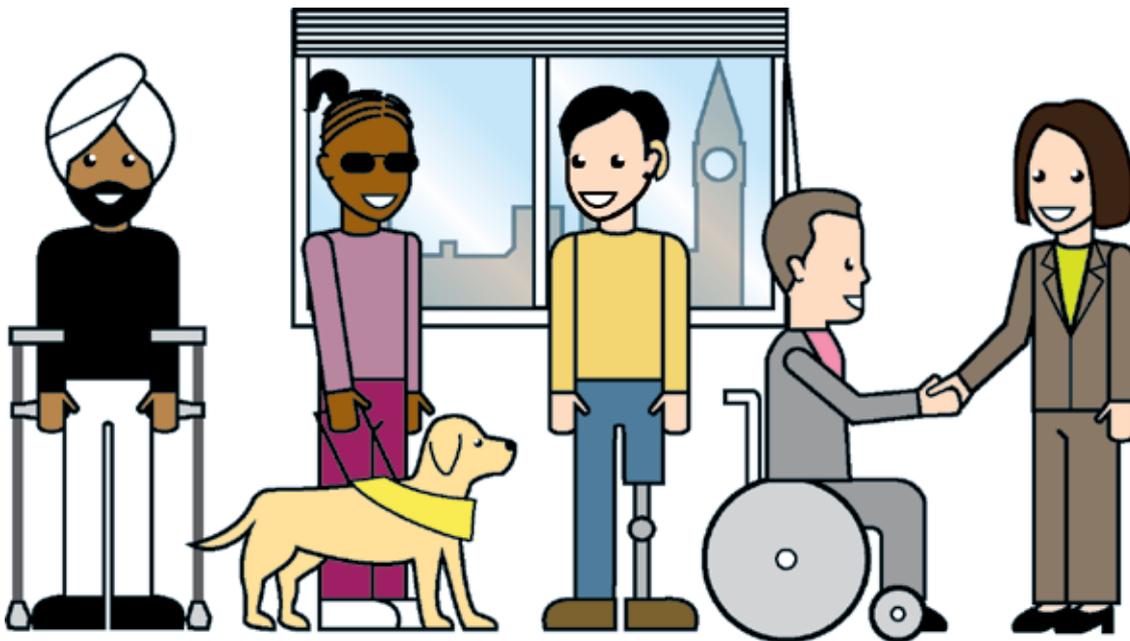




Office for Disability Issues

HM Government



Helping disabled people do the best they can
and take part in their local area

Tell us what you think



Easy Read

Important

This booklet is about helping disabled people to do the best they can and take part in the area in which they live.

Green writing

In this Easy Read booklet we explain what some words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. We then write what the words mean in a blue box.

These words and what they mean are also in a Words List at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing. If you see words in **normal green** writing, you can look up what they mean by looking for the blue box earlier in the booklet, or by looking at the Words List.

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What the Minister for Disabled People says

Hello, my name is Maria Miller and I am the Minister for Disabled People.

I know that disabled people put a lot into our country by working, doing **voluntary work**, caring and by taking part in the area in which they live.

Voluntary work

This is work that people do for which they are not paid. For example, work in a charity shop.



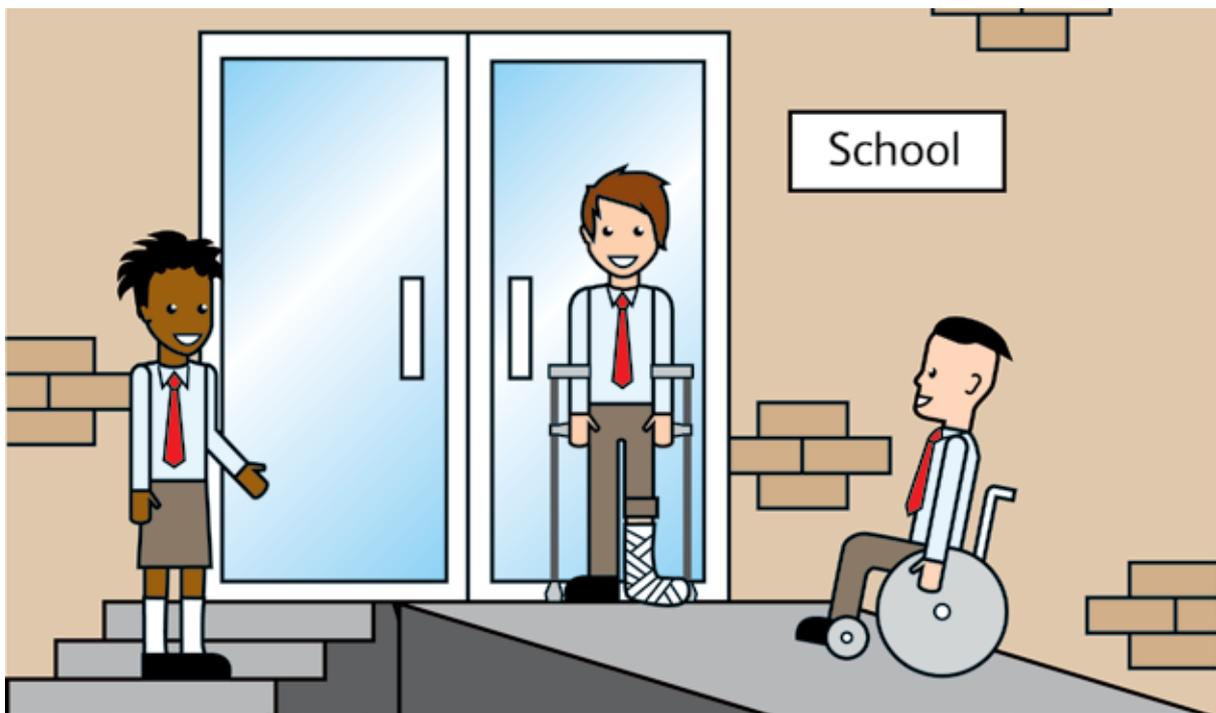
But, a lot of times there are still **barriers** that disabled people can come up against.

Barriers

These are things that stop disabled people living like other people. **Barriers** include things like being treated unfairly and not getting enough help to do the things disabled people want.

We want to work with other people to get rid of the **barriers** that all disabled people come up against. Disabled people have told us that it is important that we do these 3 things.

- Get rid of the **barriers** that stop disabled people doing the best they can.



- Give disabled people more choice and control in their day-to-day life.
- Change the way people think and act towards disabled people to stop disabled people being treated badly or unfairly.

Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area

The government and disabled people need to work together to keep making things better for disabled people.

We will use the rules in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People** to make everyone's life better.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

This is a list of rules between countries saying how disabled people should be treated.



Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area

We need your help to find ways that can make a real difference to the lives of disabled people.

We would like you to tell us your ideas and we hope to hear from disabled people, families, carers and organisations that help disabled people.

When you have told us what you think we will write a new plan next year.

See page 31 for more details about how to send us your ideas.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Miller".

Maria Miller
Minister for Disabled People

Helping disabled people do the best they can

We want to make sure that disabled people can get the right help and **support** to do the best they can.

Support

This is the help disabled people get from the government, from local councils and from other groups. It may be something like a person to help with getting up in the morning, or it may be something like a wheelchair or a computer.

We want to make sure that disabled people get support when things change in their lives at these times.

- Going to school or college.
- Becoming an adult.
- Getting a job.
- Moving into your own home.
- When people get an **impairment**.
- Changes in later life, like retirement.

Impairment

This is something about the way a person does things. It may be things like being unable to walk well, not being able to see or hear other people clearly, not being able to think hard for a long time, or not being able to remember things.

Disabled children and young people want to do as well in school, work and **independent living** as non-disabled children and young people.

Independent living or live independently

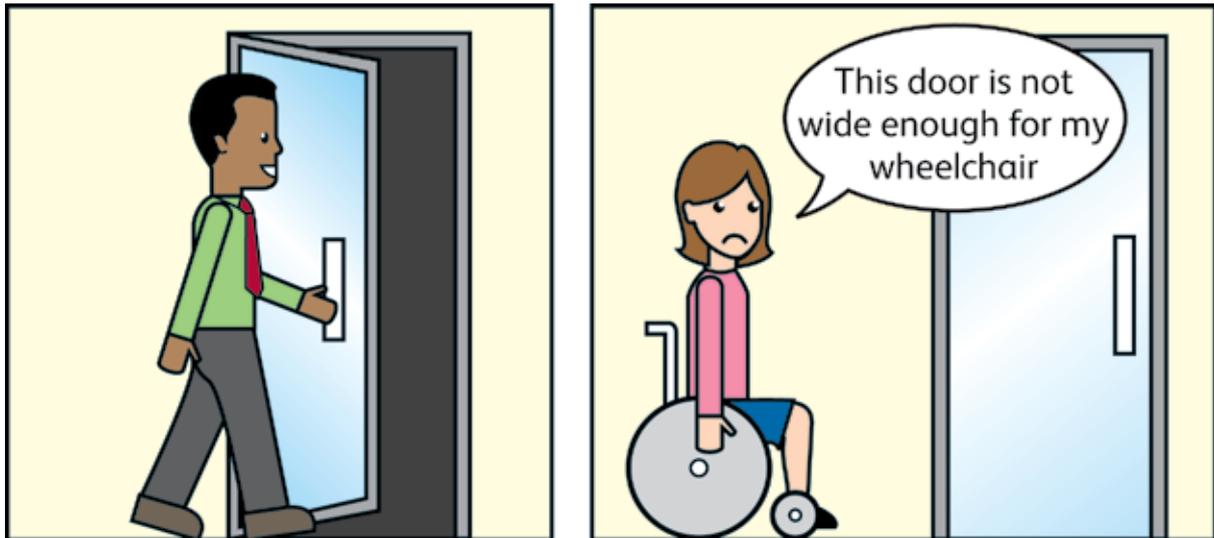
This means people having choice and control over the care and support services they need to live their lives the way they want to.



Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area

We know disabled people can do lots of things and they want to do more in their lives.

But disabled people are stopped from doing the best they can because of **barriers** and also because other people sometimes hold them back.



We want disabled people to have the right **support** to do the things they want to do in their life.

We want disabled people to be able to move into their own homes when they want to. This is part of **independent living**.

Things have got better for disabled people, but we still need to do more.

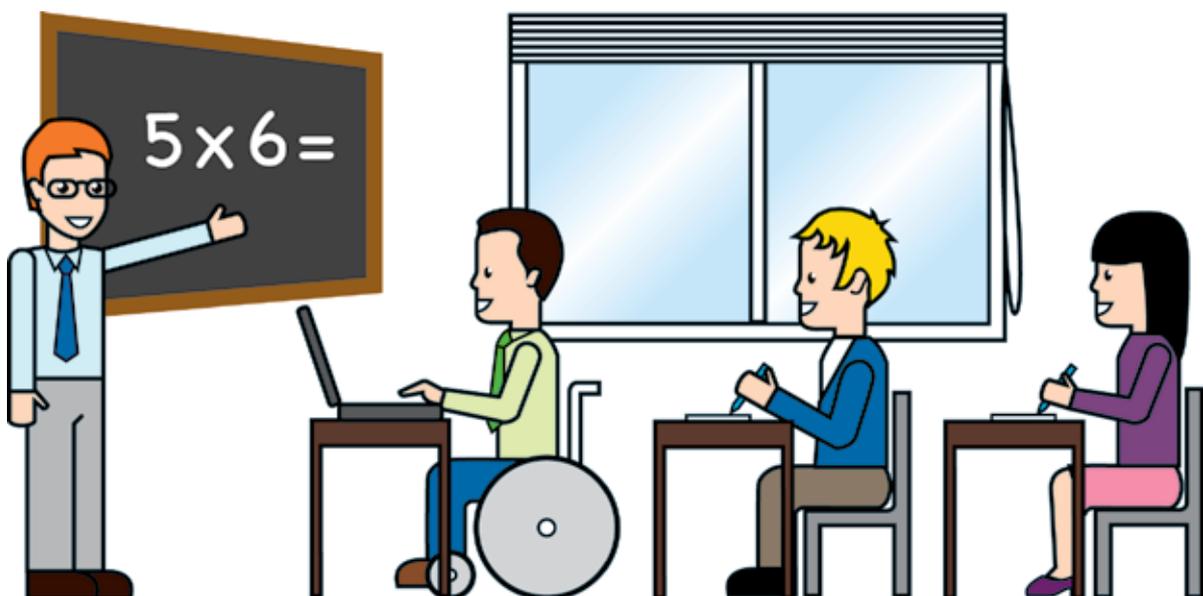
For example, less than half of all disabled people have a job. We know that around 4 out of every 10 disabled people who do not work would like a job.

Children who have **special educational needs** do not do as well in school as children who do not have **special educational needs**.

Special Educational Needs

This is when a child has a disability or learning difficulty that

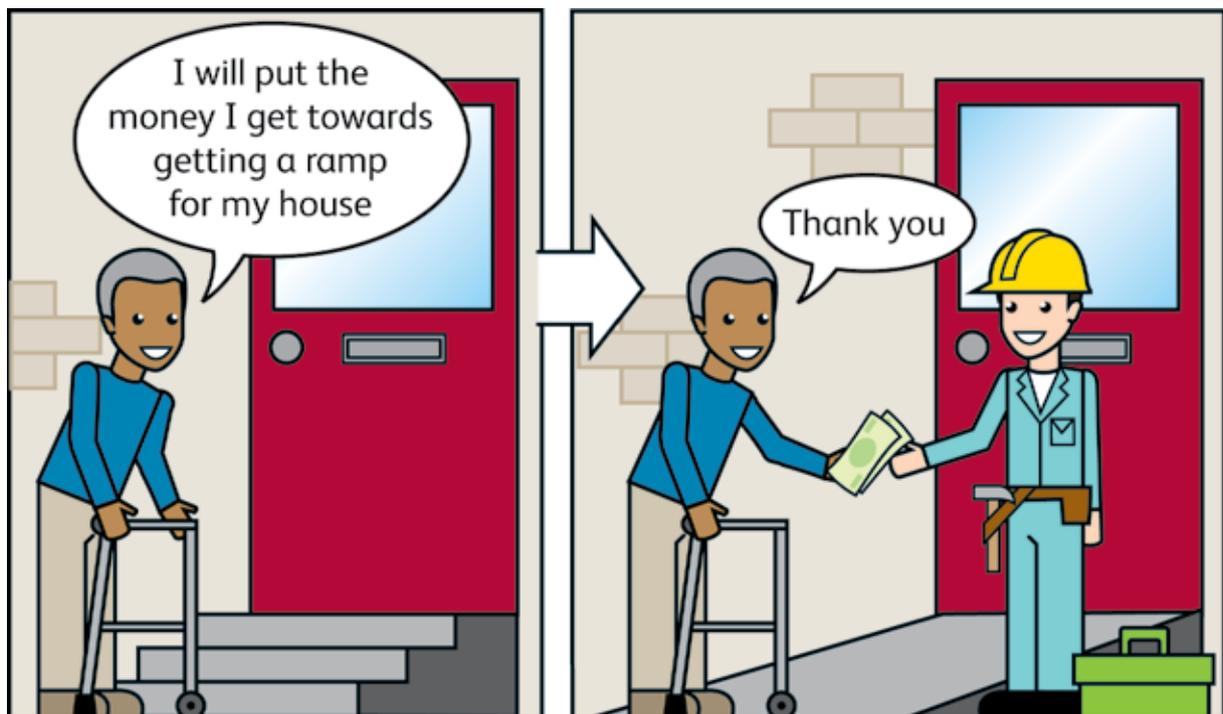
- makes it much harder for them to learn than most children of the same age, or
- makes it much harder for them to use school services than most children of the same age.



Choice and control

The government wants disabled people to be able to make their own choices and have the chance to **live independently**.

We want to make sure that disabled people have control over the services they get and the **support** they need.



We have already made some changes. Disabled people now have more choice and control over the money that local councils use for care.

Disabled people tell us that choices are still made for them instead of disabled people making their own choices.

Disabled people also tell us that they can still find it hard to use some services or take part in sports and leisure. These can be things like schools and colleges, buses and trains, health services and health and fitness clubs.



We want to find other ways to give disabled people more choice and control in their day-to-day lives. We will do this in lots of ways.

We will give disabled people more control of the money they use for services they need, like care and getting to work.

The government wants to give more control to local areas and local councils.

This will help to make sure that people have more say about what happens in their local area.

This means that people can set up their own services, like their own school. This means they would be a **service provider**.

Service provider

This is a person or group that gives **support** to disabled people and older people. Examples of service providers are local councils, some voluntary groups, and care and support businesses.

It also means that services will be delivered by people who understand disabled people's needs and get rid of the **barriers** disabled people can come up against.

We must make sure that disabled people's needs are taken into account when new services are planned and set up.



Changing the way people think and act towards disabled people

We want to change the way people think and act towards disabled people.

We know that since 2005, the way people think and act towards disabled people has got better. People are now more likely to think that disabled people are the same as everyone else.

But, nearly 8 out of every 10 people think that disabled people are treated unfairly. And many disabled people have told us that they come up against **discrimination** every day.

Discrimination

This is when someone is treated unfairly because of something. People are sometimes discriminated against because of their age, because of the colour of their skin, or because they have a disability.



If **discrimination** is not sorted out it can lead to bad things, like **hate crime** and antisocial behaviour.

Hate crime

This is when someone does something against the law to another person because they hate that they are different.



We need to make sure that **discrimination** and crimes against disabled people are dealt with properly and that we help people to understand and use their rights.

We also need to teach other people that most disabled people do not need to be looked after.

We need to do everything we can to let other people know about the good things disabled people do.

We want disabled people to take part in their local area. We think this will change the way people think and act towards disabled people.

For example, we want disabled people to do things like this.

- Do voluntary work.
- Become a **Member of Parliament**.

Member of Parliament

A Member of Parliament is a person who is chosen by people to speak up for them in the Houses of Parliament and say what the people in the local area think.

- Have a job.
- Be **involved** in decisions about your local area.

Involved

Being involved is not the same as being asked. Being involved means disabled people playing a bigger part in planning, not just being asked about work done by other people.



Our questions

You do not have to answer all the questions. You can pick the questions you want to answer.

Helping disabled people do the best they can do

Question 1

What ideas do you have that could help you do these things?

- Do well at school or college.
- Get a job.
- Be able to **live independently**.

Letting us know what you think

You must tell us what you think by **9 March 2012**.

Tell us what you think by email, by letter or by using a computer to fill in a form on the internet.

Our email address is fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our address is

Office for Disability Issues (Disability Strategy Team)
Ground Floor
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street,
London
SW1H 9NA

If you post this booklet to us, please tell us your name and how to contact you. This is in case we want to talk to you about your ideas.

You can find the form to fill in on the internet at www.odi.gov.uk/fulfillingpotential

You can also find out about running your own event on this website.

Word list

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How to contact us

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More information

You can get more information about helping disabled people do the best they can on our website at www.odi.gov.uk/fulfillingpotential

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