

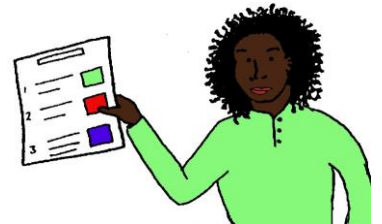
Fulfilling Potential Forum on Disability

Thursday 3rd April 2014

10.30 – 16.00

Summary of the first Forum

This information gives a summary of what was talked about at the first Fulfilling Potential Forum on Disability.



1. Welcome and introductions

Hugh Pullinger, Deputy Director, Office for Disability Issues opened the Forum and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The people at the meeting were from lots of different disability organisations all over England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

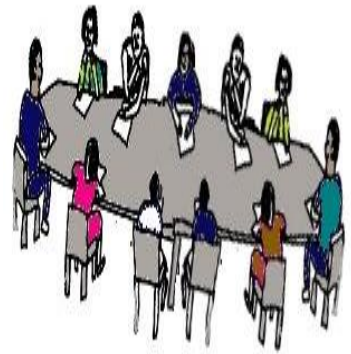


There is a full list of the people that came to the meeting at the end of this document (in Annex A).

The Forum aims to give us a place where disability organisations and the government can come together. This is to talk about some of the real problems. It is also to plan how we can make sure that disabled people around the country can have the best possible opportunities. This is so that they can fulfil their potential and live independent lives.



As there are so many different members of the Forum, it was not set up to talk about government plans one by one, but these issues can be written down to be talked about at another time. The Forum builds on the Equality 2025 group, a group of disabled people set up to give advice to the government about disability.



Terms of Reference for the Forum have now been agreed. You can see this in the attached document.



Terms of Reference: This is a document that sets out what the forum was set up to do and how it will work.

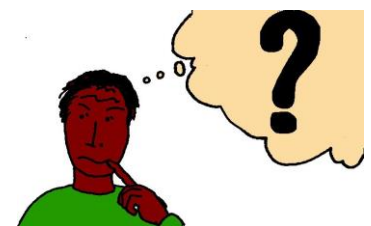
In the talks that helped to write the Fulfilling Potential **Strategy**, it was said how important it is to build inclusive and accessible communities. The aim of the first Forum was to talk more about what might be done to make this happen. Also who might need to be part of this and what actions might need to be taken.



Strategy: This is a plan of action to meet goals.

2. Setting the scene

A question and answer session was held with Mike Penning, Minister of State for Disability. The main issues that were talked about were:



- The need for training and skills for young disabled people. It was said that **Business Innovation and Skills** should work together with the Department for Education on this issue.



Business, Innovation and Skills: this is a government department that helps the country to grow through education and building skills.

- Being aware that there are nearly 1 million Black Minority Ethnic disabled people in the country which needs to be thought about.

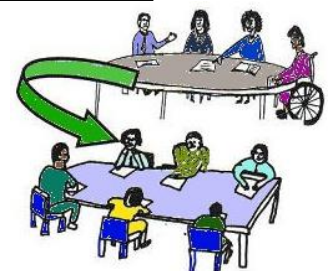


- The Minister said that, if he has enough space in his diary, he wants to meet with a number of **disability stakeholders**.



Disability Stakeholders: These are people with an interest in disability; these might be disabled people, disabled people's organisations, carers, or service providers.

- People wanted the link between this Forum and the **Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Disability** to be clear. The Minister knows how important it is that the two forums link together.



Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Disability: This is a group made up of people from different government departments. It aims to make sure that disabled people are included in society and can reach their goals.

For example, ideas from the Forum can be put to the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group. He said any new ideas that need action can be put to the Group for them to think about. Other Ministers from across government will be invited to come to Forum meetings that are linked to their work.



- One important issue that was pointed out was hate crime. The Minister said that we need to make sure that we keep up the positive attitudes that came out of the Paralympics. The **Home Office** also needs to make sure the Police treat hate crime seriously.



Home Office: This is the government department that is responsible for people coming into the country, security and law and order.

- The need for accessible information for disabled people was also talked about, especially for people with learning disabilities. The Minister agreed that it is important in our work to know about **impairments** that cannot be seen.

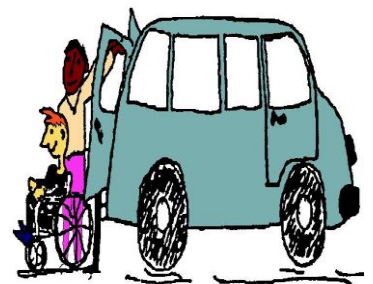


Physical impairments: this affects the way that you can move and get around.
Sensory impairments: these affect your senses, like touch, smell, being able to see and hear.
Cognitive impairments: this affects the way that the brain works. It might affect the way that people remember things, how they speak and how they make decisions.

It was said that the Welsh Government has brought in a plan for action on the Independent Living Fund. The Forum includes members from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and people from across England. It is important for Forum members to share ideas and best ways of working.



- The campaign to 'Give us back our pavements' was talked about. The Minister knows about the difficulties that parking on pavements can cause for people with different disabilities. As well as parking spaces that can be used by anyone, these can be called mixed-use spaces.



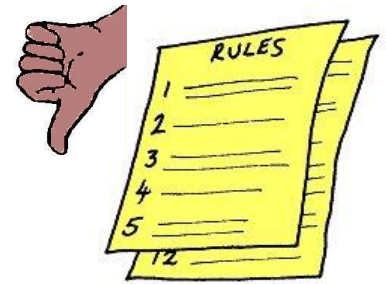
These are things that local council planners must think about and the Department for Transport has a part to play too. The Minister also agreed that there were possible issues with safety, because his role also includes Health and Safety.



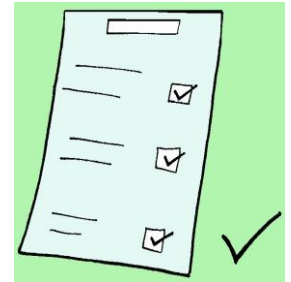
- Transport issues were pointed out such as making sure that public transport shows the right information on screens. The question asked was whether government wanted to use rules and law as a way of making things better.



The Minister talked about the Government's plans not to use so many rules at this point. The Minister wants ideas from the Forum members that do not need new rules.



- The Minister was asked about what the most important things to do were. He said that he wants to have a clear plan of new ideas about how we can move forward together. He wants to do this using things that are already in place and that do not need new law.

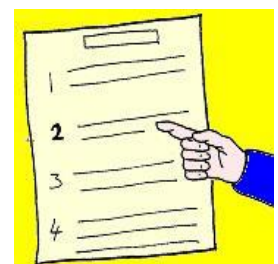


3. 'Fulfilling Potential': Building inclusive and accessible communities

Hugh told everyone about 'building inclusive and accessible communities', which came out of Fulfilling Potential. The Interdepartmental Ministerial Group support working under this area.



The aim of this session was to look into what an inclusive and accessible community might look like. Also to point out what would be needed and the steps that could be taken to make this happen.



As well as this the idea was to look at how communities can show how things have got better.'



People talked in small groups and fed back to the Forum.



What is an inclusive and accessible community? Opinions and ideas were:

- A community that works together and does not leave anyone out. A community that meets the needs of everyone.



That means people from different impairment groups, Black Minority Ethnic groups and people from Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender communities.



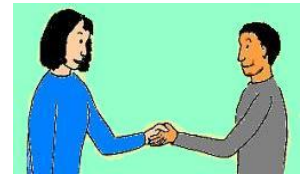
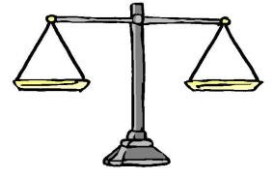
- A community where all disabled people have the power to make decisions and have their say.
- There is no need to start with a blank sheet of paper when answering this question as disabled people have been thinking about these ideas for many years. There is great work like Improving Life Choices for people, and the Independent Living Strategy.



This work still plans out these ideas and gives information about how to put this into place. We should build on this work.



- Key values are equality of access, equality of opportunity and equality of respect.
- A community where local organisations, businesses and people all work together and share what they have, rather than just working for one group of people.
- Knowing about the diversity in any local area and accepting every part of it.
- A community where disabled people take part in how things are planned and carried out, this means real **co-production**.



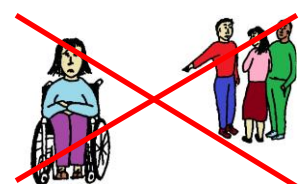
Co-production: This means working together with different groups and people to meet goals.

- A community that can see differences and that celebrates differences and meets different people's needs.
- Areas planned as places for everyone to share may not work for different types of disability. The people building these places need to work with disabled people.



The important things to think about or steps to take

- A community that does not leave anyone out and works together, at the same time seeing people's differences.



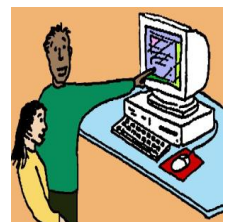
- Knowing that disabled people are not all the same and that there are different groups of people within communities.



- A community that includes everyone needs the right amount of money and the right tools and the right planning of services.



- Any accessible community that includes everyone has to start by looking at the support it gives to disabled people. This means seeing both money support and other support as positive and not a waste of money.



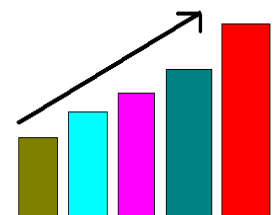
- Getting rid of barriers. It is important to get rid of barriers. This means physical barriers that mean that people can't get around. It also means barriers that come about because of the way that people think about disability.



- Use a real Social Model way of working when looking at all of the challenges and barriers disabled people face.



- More good things about disability being talked about in public. This would help get rid of anger towards disabled people and hate crime. Information about disability hate crime should be kept.



- Support for each person that meets their needs in social care. Make sure that disabled people can access their communities through activities and days out. Don't just look at meeting personal care needs.



- Carrying out services in a way which is led by the disabled person as a person that uses the service. Link up the funding that is already in place. Carry out research to see how happy people are with services. Check how accessible buildings are.



- Make support around employment personal for each disabled person. Also give organisations good reasons to employ disabled people.



- We need to make the way that people look at disability in a better way. Employers, service providers and families need to be disability aware and feel good about disability.



- An inclusive and accessible community thinks about different needs. This means transport, workplaces, home and house building, education, health and social care.



- Law, rules, standards and good ways of working can help to make sure that we can check how much things are changing.



- National and local plans might not be the same. Also, every **commissioner** will be different. Disabled people should feel that they have the power to make sure that organisations work in line with government plans.



Commissioner: In this section this is a person responsible for plans and services for disabled people in a local area.

- It is important that there is a lot of local energy and action, from the bottom up. There was a talk about the role of disabled people taking action to demand inclusion from some service providers.



- It is important to share good ways of working and lessons learnt from across the country.

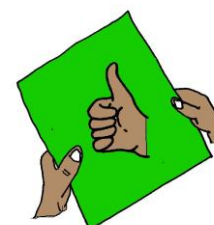
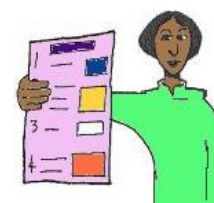


- Inclusive education is important, linking special schools and mainstream schools with an inclusive education. This should be decided on by disabled people, and mainstream students. Train and teach people that run schools about what we mean by an inclusive education system.



How a community can show and tell people about the steps it takes to be inclusive and accessible.

- It is probably for local communities to set their own way of checking how well they are doing.
- The Disability Equality Duty must be the goal. There is the chance for it to be made stronger and be used by disabled people.
- Local communities can show how they are putting into place every part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- There is a need to really look at the good things that disabled people bring to the country. This could be running their own businesses and employing other people, arts and leisure and other areas.



This would help to fight discrimination and the way that people think about disabled people. These would be ways of making change happen.



- A community can show how it is moving forward using real co-production. This means involving disabled people in planning, putting into place and checking the changes that are happening.



4. Norman Lamb Minister of State for Care and Support

Norman Lamb Minister of State for Care and Support did a question and answer session. The most important issues talked about were:



- The Minister told everyone about some of the most important things that he was is working on such as updating the Autism Strategy and his department's new guidelines on the **use of restraint**.



Use of restraint: This means holding someone down or stopping someone from going somewhere or doing something.

- A question was asked about when the Bill will come in to place and what effect the Care Bill will have. The Minister said that the limit on care costs starts in 2016. But the main areas of the Care Bill come into play next year.

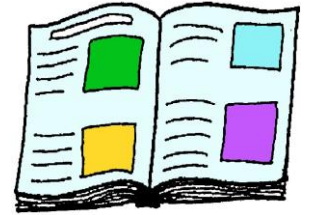


The Minister said that he knows about the talks that there have been about the cost of care for people with medium care needs and high care needs. The Bill also brings also says that local authorities must have **prevention services**.



Prevention Services: These are services that help stop a person's care and support needs going up.

- The draft **Strategy** on hearing loss was brought up as an important document but which was being put into place very slowly. The Minister agreed to make sure the Strategy was finished soon.



Strategy: a plan of how to put something into place to meet goals.

- A question was brought up about independent living and people being made to stay in hospitals or residential care. They are kept in these places for treatment and they are not allowed to leave.



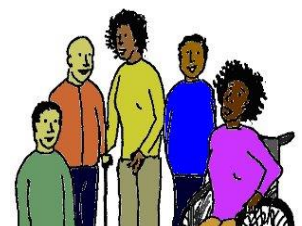
The Minister talked about the transformation programme, this means a plan of change. This plan is about how to get people out of this kind of care when they should not be there and they can live independently.



- The week before this meeting, the Sick Of It report was brought out by Sound Health. Talks in the House of Lords the week before went off the point.



They were talking about **cochlea implants** instead of the issues that deaf people have in accessing health care. The Minister thanked the person speaking for pointing out this report to him.



Cochlea Implants: This is something that can be put into a person that cannot hear and it can help the person hear better.

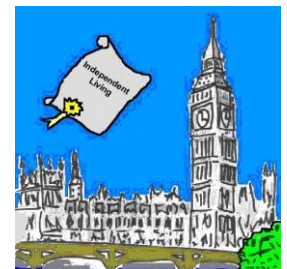
- There were talks about the Social Model of Disability and how it might be used in health.
- The Autism Strategy was welcomed and the Minister was asked if a race and disability strategy is needed. This would look at cases when people are discriminated against for more than one reason. It would also look at the many different needs of people.



The Minister told the meeting about the black mental health conference he had recently been to in Wolverhampton. The Minister said it told him a lot about people's experiences and opinions. He asked whether a new strategy was the best way of dealing with these issues.



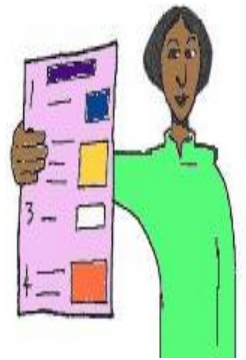
- Worries were brought up about there not being any mention of independent living in the Care Bill. It was said that the definition of well-being is not strong enough.



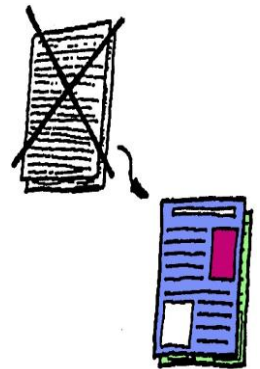
The Minister was invited to a meeting with independent living users and other social care users to learn more. He said that he would try and set up a meeting.



- Accessible information was brought up as being important, especially for people with learning difficulties. There is a need to make sure that health information, whether that comes from the GPs or any national health organisation, is in an accessible format. Easy Read information can be cheaper.



The Minister was aware of the need to fight against jargon and make things clearer. He plans to make an easy read version of the NHS constitution, this is the document that tells you what the organisation is there to do and what your rights are. Under the Care Bill local authorities must give accessible information.

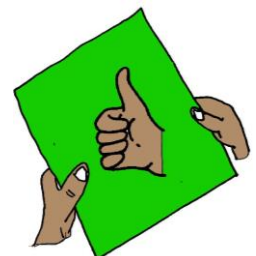


5. 'Making it happen': Ideas for inclusive and accessible communities

Hugh introduced plans for a day of activity in September around building inclusive and accessible communities.



This would give an opportunity for government to find out about and point out success stories from around the country. It would also help to point out the tools that there are already to help local communities.



As part of the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group, the Minister of State for Disability has challenged other government departments to decide what more can be done to help disabled people fulfil their potential.



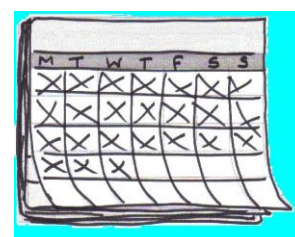
Forum members were asked to come up with ideas for quick ways to help get over barriers and challenges to make communities more accessible and inclusive. The things that members came up with were:



- A good way of working guide. Also sharing contact information of people who have examples of good ways of working.



- A place where everyone can find out what is going on in their area. Local Authorities and Disabled People's User Led Organisations could try to do this, but there is an issue of how to make sure that it is up-to-date.

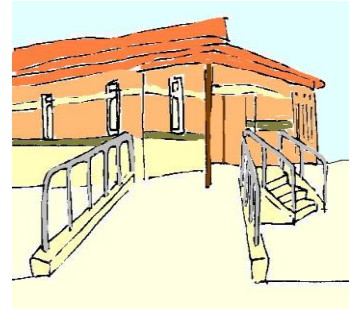


- Regarding the **Spare Room Subsidy**, there needs to be better communication about this so that people are not confused about the rules for this. The real issues for disabled people need to be looked at.



Spare Room Subsidy: This was money that the government did not charge to people living in local authority houses with extra bedrooms. This has now been taken away and people must now pay for their extra rooms.

- Guidelines and support on plans for places used by the public should be looked at. The Minister for Disabled People could ask the Department for Transport to show examples where these places are being used and work for disabled people.



- Disabled people could not pay Stamp Duty when buying their own homes. This money could be spent on changes that need to be made to the house instead.



Stamp Duty: This is a tax that you have to pay when you buy a house.

- Disabled people could be given an advocate in GP surgeries to deal with any problems in their lives that might affect their health.
- The Forum to pull out their most important issues and take these issues to the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group.
- Co-produce a definition of the social model. For example Scotland has a co-produced an idea of what independent living means. This could be sent to the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group.



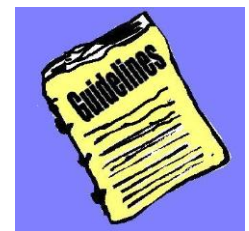
- Spend money on disability equality training for employers



- Disabled people being included from the beginning in any plans about local public health.



- The Red Cross supported the people who write newspapers with language used when writing about refugees. Could similar guidelines be given on how they report on or write about disabled people?



- It is difficult getting access to funding given by Europe through local authorities. This could be made easier.



- **Tenders** coming up in the next 6 – 12 months should show how they have thought about inclusion (local organisations, disabled people, employment etc.)



Tender: This is when you make a written offer about how you will carry out a service or piece of work. When you win a tender you must then carry out the service as you have agreed in the written offer.

- **Clinical commissioning groups** could protect money for disabled peoples group.



Clinical Commissioning Groups: This is a group of professionals that plan and buy health and care services in a local authority.

- Local authorities could start their own disability forums to better work with disabled people.



- Everyone (especially drivers) should be made to have eye tests every 10 years.



The areas that are important and that should be thought about at the moment were welfare reform, health, independent living, co-production and advocacy.



The key people who can make change happen are disabled people and their organisations and Ministers.



6. Summary, next steps and the end of the meeting

Hugh thanked Forum members for their ideas and questions during the day. Hugh said that he doesn't think this is just about making ministers make policy changes. That is one possible thing.



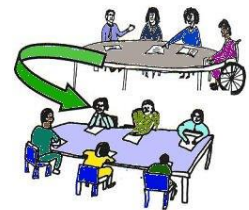
The other thing is about the action in local areas and can we bring about inclusive and accessible communities around the country, or countries.



So that is where we will want to develop some more ideas and test those with you.



Forum will be fed back to Mike and Norman and ideas for action will be put to the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group which next meets on 12 June.

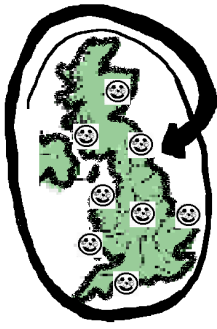


The next Forum meeting will take place on Thursday 3 July 2014, the place of the meeting will be agreed.



It was agreed to include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People on the agenda. Forum members are invited to put forward other agenda items and the Ministers who work in the area will be invited.





Annex A

Forum Members

- Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE): Tara Flood
- British Deaf Association (BDA): David Buxton
- British Institute for Learning Disability (BILD): Anne Chivers
- Disability Action Northern Ireland: Kevin Doherty
- Disability Rights UK (DRUK): Liz Sayce
- Disability Wales: Rhian Davies
- Equalities National Council (ENC): Julie Jaye Charles
- Action on Hearing Loss: Paul Breckell
- Inclusion Scotland: Sally Witcher
- Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD): Jane Harris
- Mencap: Cathy Hinman
- Mind: Paul Farmer
- National Federation of the Blind: Jill Allen-King
- People First Self Advocacy: Andrew Lee
- RNIB: Steve Winyard
- Scope: Richard Hawkes
- Spinal Injuries Association: Dan Burden
- UK Disabled Peoples Council (UKDPC): Julie Newman
- Age UK: Jill Mortimer
- British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA): Heather Nicholson
- British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD): Ann Chivers

- Royal British Legion: Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson
- Carers UK: Katherine Wilson
- English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS): Barry Horne
- Marie Curie Cancer Care: Dr Jane Collins
- Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities Network (PMLDN): Jan Tregelles
- Regard: Sandie Foxall-Smith
- Rethink: Jane Hughes
- Sense: Richard Kramer
- Voluntary Organisations Disabilities Group (VODG): Claire Pelham
- Whizz-Kidz: Rhiannon Hughes
- National Autistic Society: Mark Lever
- DPULO London Rep. from Inclusion London: Tracey Lazard
- DPULO NE Rep. from Darlington Disability: Lauren Robinson
- DPULO NW Rep from Breakthrough UK: Lorraine Gradwell
- DPULO SW Rep from Access Dorset: Tess McManus (temp)
- DPULO SE Rep: Charlie Willis
- DPULO East from Disability Resource Centre: Mick Dillon
- DPULO Yorks and Humber, from Leeds CIL: Andrew McDermott
- DPULO WM: Clenton Farquharson
- DPULO EM from Disability Direct: Amarjit Raju