

Fulfilling Potential Forum on Disability

Thursday 3rd July 2014
10.30 – 16.00

Summary of the second Forum

This document gives a summary of what was talked about at the second Fulfilling Potential Forum.



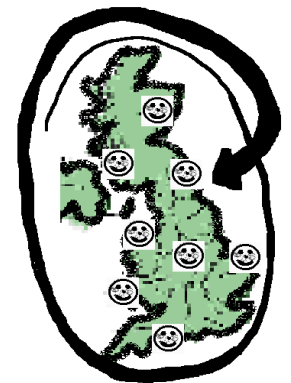
Welcome and introductions

There is a full list of all of the people that came to the meeting at the end of this document.



Introductions and what has happened so far

1. Pat Russell introduced herself as the new head of the Office for Disability Issues. She thanked members who had come from far away to be at the Forum.



She gave apologies from Mike Penning and Norman Lamb who were not able to come to the Forum because of their work at parliament.



2. Pat talked about her first meeting with Mike Penning and what he thinks about the different **strategies** that the Office for Disability Issues is working on.

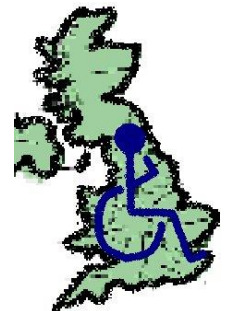


Strategies: these are plans of what someone wants to do and how they are going to do it.

She also talked about how he is really aiming to meet the UN Convention and Fulfilling Potential.



3. Pat introduced John Coxon from the Office for Disability Issues. He gave a presentation about what is being worked on for the Accessible Britain Challenge.



Accessible Britain Challenge

4. John Coxon gave everyone an update about what was talked about at the Forum in April. The Accessible Britain Challenge will start on 4th September. The main aims of the Challenge are:



- To try and get public and private organisations to do more than what the law tells them to do.
- To make sure disabled people have more choice. Make sure disabled people can take part, to get rid of barriers and find the answers to problems together.



- To make sure that disabled people can be a part of communities.



5. The Office for Disability Issues will be writing to decision makers and people that have a big say in communities. This could be Council leaders and bosses of organisations.



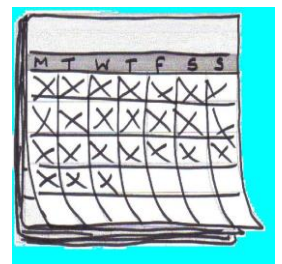
There will also be many other areas of society taking part. This could be private organisations, service providers, voluntary organisations, charities and Disabled People's User Led Organisations.



The aim is to include everyone in thinking about how to get over barriers that disabled people have to live with.



6. John said that there would be a time for warming people up. This could be people, national organisations, and local communities. Getting in touch with people will be very important.



7. Forum members were asked to think about the following two questions:

- Who do you see as the main people or organisations that should be a part of the Challenge?



- What are the main things to think about when trying to get people and organisations to support and take part in the Challenge?



8. Forum members said the following things:

- Planning rules on accessible buildings need to be made stronger. At the moment the rules do not deal with the real needs of disabled people.



9. Following talks in groups at the Forum, the following points were shared;

We need to work with:

- **Clinical Commissioners** and **Local Commissioners**, **Local enterprise partnerships** and **chambers of commerce**



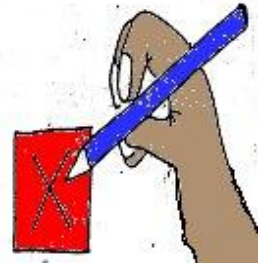
Clinical Commissioner: a person that looks at what the health needs are in their area and buy services to meet those needs.

Local Commissioner: a person in charge of a government department in a local area. They decide what services are needed in the local area.

Enterprise Partnerships: this is where businesses and councils work as partners.

Chambers of Commerce: these are voluntary organisations that get together networks of businesses. This is to help to promote the businesses and improve the community that they work in.

- All political parties (for example the Labour party, the Conservative party and the Green Party). This is really important now that the elections are coming up.



- Transport companies because this is what makes sure that you can do everything.



- Voluntary organisations such as the Women's Institute, this is an organisation that was set up to give more skills to women and to campaign on things that are important to women.



- Make sure that people see disabled people in a good way
- We have Health Watch; do we want a Disability Watch?



10. John Coxon told people again that he wants to make sure that the Forum is a part of the Challenge.

He asked if there were other ideas of how people outside the Forum can take part. He asked people to email any ideas to the Office for Disability Issues.



Action: Forum members to e-mail any ideas



Paralympic Legacy – Andrew Honeyman

Legacy: this means the good things that the Paralympics left behind after they had finished.

11. Andrew told the Forum about a planned national '**Summit**' in the autumn. This is part of the legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is to push forward physical activity for disabled people.



Summit: this is a big meeting

The idea is to:

- Show good ways of working
- Have an idea about what type of activity people want and share this information
- Look at how activity and sport can be more accessible to disabled people



The way that the national Summit is set up could be used for local events and events in different parts of the country.

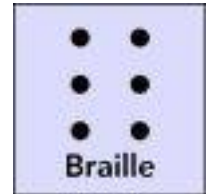


He would like to see the Summit linking in with Accessible Britain and the Disability Action Alliance.



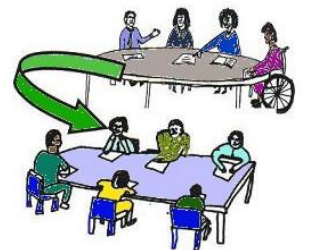
12. Forum members said that:

- Information should be accessible in Braille.
- Gyms should be more accessible. Most of the time, gym machines have screens for planning a workout which are not accessible for people who have a **visual impairment**.



Visual impairment: this affects the way that a person can see.

Action: ODI to take the issue of accessible gyms to the **Business, Innovation and Skills Department**.



Business, Innovation and Skills Department: this department is there to make sure that business is going well in the country. It spends money on making sure people have enough skills.

- The question of funding was talked about because the **Deaflympics** had not been supported but £7 million was being given to the British Americas Cup team. Andrew said that this was worked on by a different part of the Department for Culture Media and Sport.



Deaflympics: these are world games for Deaf people.

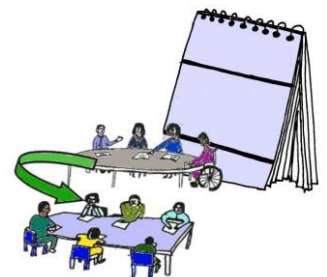
Action: Andrew to get back to the Forum about the way that decisions are made around funding for sporting events.



- Andrew said again what the Prime Minister has said about how important it is that every department should be doing something to help make sure that people are getting exercise. This could be getting people cycling, more children walking to school and using gyms.



13. Pat thanked Andrew and said that he could have more time at another meeting to talk about the Paralympic Legacy if that is what members would like.

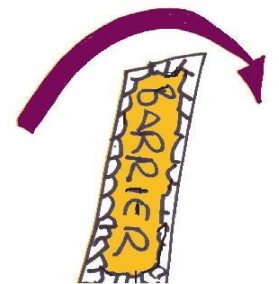


Barriers in Law and rules that disabled people have to live with

14. Stephen Thrower introduced this part of the meeting about barriers for disabled people. The **Interdepartmental Ministerial Group** has said that departments will look at barriers in law that disabled people live with.



They will look at whether they can get rid of these barriers. For example the ban on Deaf people being able to sit on a **jury**.



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.

Jury: this is when a person must go to court and work with a group of other people to make a decision about whether they think that someone is guilty or not.

Members were asked to share information that they have about any laws or rules that put up barriers for disabled people.



They were asked if they could think about the following three questions:



- What examples can you think of where disabled people are affected by a law or rule that does not affect non-disabled people?
- Do you think that the law or rule should be gotten rid of or changed?
- If you think the law or rule should be changed, what is your idea for that?



15. Forum members said:

- The **General Medical Council** needs to be worked with so that it doesn't discriminate against disabled people.



General Medical Council: this is an organisation that keeps information about all medical professionals in the UK.

- If a person wants to move house or area, their social care should go with them.
- Transport law – more accessible transport is needed. Taxi drivers need to accept electric wheelchairs.



- General barriers – Using **data protection** or health and safety in the wrong way.

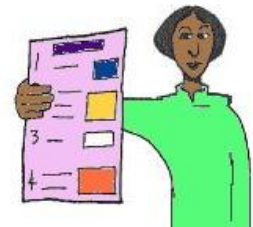


Data protection: by law organisations must look after the personal or private information that they have about other people.

- Disabled people are not able to share a cabin on a cruise ship.



- Information should be accessible – some people are not able to access websites or online applications.



- There is a need for departments to share information. Once you tell one department about a change in your life, this should be shared.



- People with mental health issues are discriminated against a lot.



”First Point of Contact”

First Point of Contact: when using a service this means the first person that you talk to or get in touch with.

16. The Interdepartmental Ministerial Group has said that there should be a set of questions used by organisations that meet or support disabled people. For example this could be used by Job Centre Plus or NHS staff.



This would be used so that a person’s needs can be seen and met quickly. The worry is that because these organisations don’t ask the right questions, this means that disabled people aren’t getting the help that they need.



17. Forum Members were asked the following questions:

18. From your experience, do you think that disabled people get the support and information they need? Do they get it in the way that they need it when they first meet people like the police or health care professionals?



19. Do you think that professionals know what to ask so that they can give the right information or support to a disabled person?



20. If you think there are problems, what are your ideas for making things better? Do you think that thinking about ideas for set questions might help? If not, what would help?



21. Members could see what the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group were trying to do. However they did not think that having a set of questions was the best way of making things better. They said that:



- There are already good examples out there of first point of contact. For example children have early support information. This is basically information that is kept up to date about the support that they need. This could be copied for other disabled people.
- Everyone needs to have training about understanding disability.



- Disabled People come in all shapes and sizes, having one set of questions wouldn't be right for everyone.
- It would look like a 'tick box' way of working.

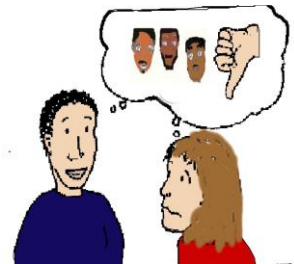


UN Convention

22. Stephen Thrower gave some information on the UN Convention for the members who did not know about it. He asked the Forum members to think about the following questions:



- Do you think there are areas where the government is not doing what the Convention says, or not doing it well enough? Why do you think that?



- Do you think there are areas where the government is doing what the Convention says and doing it well? Why do you think that?

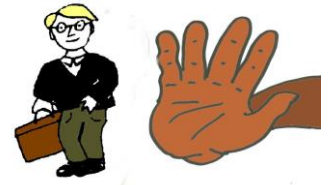


- If the government is not doing what you think it should under the Convention, how do you think it can change?



23. Forum members said:

- The **Mental Health Act** is breaking the UN Convention.



Mental Health Act: this is the law that gives professionals the power to keep a person in hospital and give them support to get better. They can do this if they think that a person might hurt themselves or others.

- The Independent Living Fund closing means that local authorities will be deciding how to spend the money. This leads to questions about whether local authorities will have the money, staff and time to meet the needs of disabled people.



- Someone said that articles 17, 21 and 24 of the UN convention are being campaigned about by disabled people's organisations because they are not being met.



UN Convention:

Article 17: this is about a person having the right to decide what they think and do with their body.

Article 21: this is about being able to say what you want, this can be called freedom of expression.

Article 24: the is about the right to education

- We need more **co-production** like at this Forum.



Co-production: this means people being part of the services that they use, working together with service providers from the very beginning.

- The right to independent living is part of the UN Convention but is not really written about in the Care Bill.



- There is not enough choice and control for young people with learning disabilities. There is not enough support so that they can live independently and not with their parents.



- Need to make sure local authorities are more aware of the UN Convention and use it.



- ALLFIE has a report to show where the government has gone wrong in supporting the UN Convention. When asked, ALLFIE said that they would not share this with the Government.



Accessible Formats in Department for Work and Pensions - John O'Donnell

24. John O'Donnell gave an update on things that are being worked on at the Department for Work and Pensions to make information accessible.



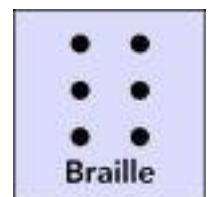
His team have been doing a lot of work with the Royal National Institute for the Blind and other **stakeholders**. This is to make sure information is given in an accessible way to people who are blind and **visually impaired**.



Stakeholders: these are other people with an interest in the work being done by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Visually impaired: this affects that way that a person can see.

There will be information in Braille by e-mail. It will be made clear to the public and the Department for Work and Pensions staff what formats there are.



This might be e-mail if this is the **reasonable adjustment**. This will cover all benefits from 2015.

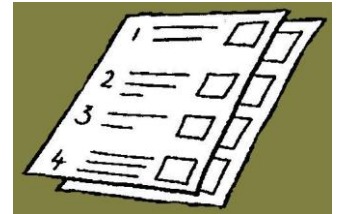


Reasonable adjustment: this is a change that a person or organisation can make to make sure that something is accessible to a disabled person.

25. Once we have finished looking at this we will be looking at doing the same with Easy Read.



26. Forum members asked if they could have a summary from John about this change so that they can share this with their contacts.



Action: John to give information about the following:

- Can **Video Relay Services** for deaf people be looked at as well?
- Can the Department for Work and Pensions use a password between them and the customer so that the customer can prove who they are? This was agreed
- Once this has been looked at, can it be shared across government?



Video Relay Services: this is a way for deaf people to be able to talk to other people on the phone or using a computer.

27. John said that if members have any more information about this then they can email the Office for Disability Issues.

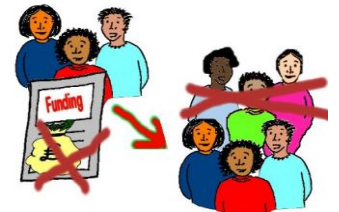


Disabled People's User Led Organisations Showcase – Mick Dillon, Eastern Region

28. Mick gave a summary about Disabled People's User Led Organisations. Some are charities and some are Community Interest Companies, these are companies but they work towards a social aim. They support many disabled people and their families through their networks.



Money is very tight and they are finding it difficult to win contracts. This is because there are lots of companies going for the same contracts at very low prices.



Disabled People's User Led Organisations are in a place that is one of a kind; they are close to disabled people and what is really happening in society. Mick feels that they are able to support the Fulfilling Potential Forum by being in this place.



29. Pat thanked everyone for coming to the Forum. She told everyone that what had been talked about would be shared with both of the Ministers.



Forum Members

- Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE): Joe Whittaker for Tara Flood
- British Deaf Association (BDA): David Buxton
- British Institute for Learning Disability (BILD): Keith Smith for Ann 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: Alan Milner for Cathy Hinman
- Mind: Tom Pollard for Paul Farmer
- National Federation of the Blind: Jill Allen-King
- People First Self Advocacy: Apologies
- RNIB: Hugh Huddy for Steve Winyard
- Scope: Carena Rogers for Anna Bird
- Spinal Injuries Association: Apologies
- UK Disabled Peoples Council (UKDPC): Julie Newman
- Age UK: Apologies
- British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA): Brian Chenier for Heather Nicholson
- Royal British Legion: Harriet Deane for Nick Donavan
- Carers UK: Katherine Wilson
- English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS): Rashmi Becker for Barry Horne



- Marie Curie Cancer Care: Caroline Weston for Dr Jane Collins
- Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities Network (PMLDN): Apologies
- Regard: Apologies
- Rethink: Apologies
- Sense: Richard Kramer
- Voluntary Organisations Disabilities Group (VODG): Non attendance
- Whizz-Kidz: Jonathan Everett for Rhiannon Hughes
- National Autistic Society: Simon Shaw
- DPULO London: Rep. from Inclusion London Tracey Lazard
- DPULO NE: Rep. from Darlington Disability Apologies
- DPULO NW: Rep from Breakthrough UK Lorraine Gradwell
- DPULO SW: Rep from Access Dorset Kieran Bright
- DPULO: SE Rep Theresa Hodge
- DPULO East: from Disability Resource Centre Mick Dillon
- DPULO Yorks and Humber, from Leeds CIL: Andrew McDermott
- DPULO WM: Pete Millington
- DPULO EM from Disability Direct: Amo Raju

Job Shadow

Eamon Andrews (Shaping our Lives DULO)

Judith Margolis (Cambridgeshire Alliance)

Jaspal Dhani