

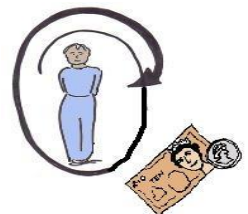
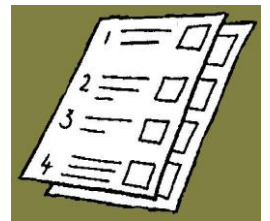
Notes from the Third Fulfilling Potential Forum

23rd October 2014

Mark Harper MP - Minister of State for Disabled People

The Minister started the meeting and talked about the most important things for him as Minister of State for Disabled People:

- Making the way that assessments are done for Personal Independence Payments better. ATOS leaving and no longer running the work capability assessments and finding a new organisations to do the assessments
- Working with Lord Freud on putting Universal Credit into place
- The responsibility of Access to Work moving from the Minister for Employment to the Minister for Disabled People



Baroness Kramer – Minister of State for Transport

Baroness Kramer looked at:

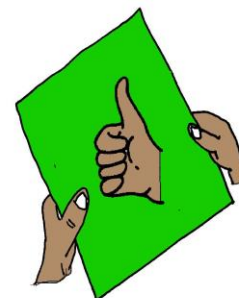
- Technology and how important it is in giving accessible travel information. Such as phone applications with information about places that are step free.



- A new technology prize for 14 to 18 year old students. They must come up with an idea for giving passengers information when using transport.



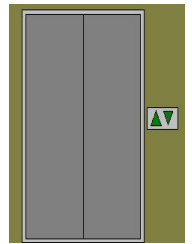
The idea must not cost too much to put into place. This started on 24th October and the students with the best ideas will give a presentation about their idea in March 2015.



- She talked about her work on accessible buses and accessible taxis. However feedback from disability groups has shown that the services are not any better. Baroness Kramer has asked for more feedback.



- Department of Transport's 'Access to All' piece of work plans to spend £470 million by 2019 on making routes step free to nearly 200 stations.



There will be extra smaller amounts of funding to more than 1100 stations.



Questions from the Forum looked at the following areas:

- 'Shared Space'
- Toilets on the rail company, Crossrail
- Disabled Rail Cards being known about by transport staff
- Changes being made in the use of **audio-visual information** have been slow for people with **sensory loss**



Audio-visual information: this is when information is given in a way that you can see and hear it.

Sensory loss: this when you lose some or all of your senses, like being able to see or hear.

- Disability Hate crime on public transport



- **Suicide risk** for people with mental health issues on the railway

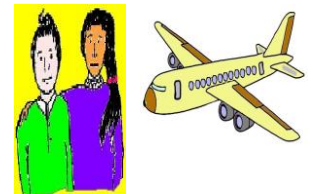


Suicide risk: in this section this means that there is a danger that someone might try to kill themselves on the railway.

- People who use power wheelchairs are not able to access public transport, especially buses



- The rules of some airlines stop wheelchair users from flying without another person going with them



Mark Harper - Minister of State for Disabled People

Mark Harper looked at:

- The Accessible Britain Challenge which started in September. The Minister was very happy with the number of examples of good ways of working which he had been sent.



He told everyone that the Accessible Britain Challenge awards would be open from 3rd November. This means that people can put forward organisations or people that they think should get the award from 3rd November.



These will then be looked at in January and award winners will be decided in March 2015.



- The work he was part of in getting police services to work with mental health services. This is to stop people with mental health issues ending up in police cells when they are going through a very difficult time, this can be called a crisis.



- He has been interviewed by 'Inside Out' programme which is looking at the problems of Guide Dogs for the Blind in accessing taxis. They are getting together information from disabled people which will look to make this better.



- Work looking at making sure accessibility is thought about in new buildings from the start. Making sure that professional organisations and the people planning buildings know about the access needs of disabled people.



Questions from the Forum looked at the following areas:

- The comments made by Lord Freud on paying minimum wage to disabled people



- Long waiting times for Personal Independence Payments and Employment and Support Allowance assessments



- Access to Work and less support being given, especially to people with hearing impairments and people with learning difficulties



Norman Lamb – Minister of State for Care and Support

Norman Lamb looked at:

- The Care Act which was the biggest change in care law in over 60 years. He also looked at the right to appeal, which means that people who do not agree with a decision made by their local authority about their care can challenge the decision.



Questions from the Forum looked at the following areas:

- Issues on mental health and suicide linked to the Work Capability Assessment
- Do local authorities have the funding to support the Care Bill



- Can there be more access to advocacy for people with learning difficulties, and people with mental health issues who are both **offenders** and **ex-offenders**



Offenders: this is someone that has broken the law and is still in prison.

Ex-offenders: this is someone who has broken the law in the past and has spent the time that they have to in prison and are now back in the community.

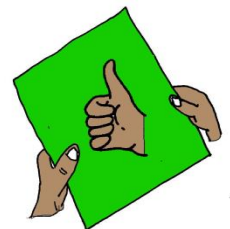
- Will the Care Bill give more support to carers
- Looking at how good assessments of care homes are



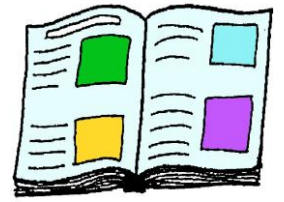
Olivia Butterworth - Head of Public Voice - NHS England

Spoke about:

- Putting together an Information Standard for accessible information. These are a set of rules that organisations must follow when making information accessible.

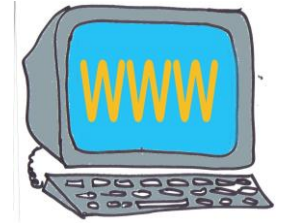


- A consultation of the standard is now open and closes on 9th November 2014, so there is still a chance to be a part of this



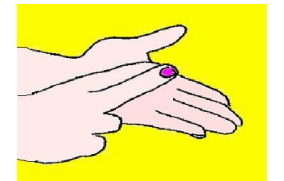
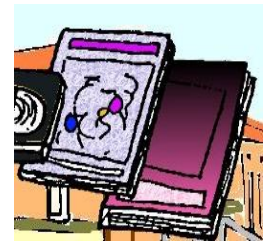
Information about the standard can be found on the website link below:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/patients /accessibleinfo-2/>



Questions from the Forum looked at the following areas:

- Where the information can be seen and in what format
- Whether British Sign Language could be used
- As the consultation is open until 9th November, there is still a chance to take part. Can the findings be shared across government?



June Best – Ambassador for Northern Ireland

Spoke about:

- Her work trying to set up and get going Disabled People's User Led Organisations in Northern Ireland.



- The number of Disabled People's User-Led Organisations has gone up from 2 to 6. This is with lots of hard work and funding from the Office for Disability Issues.



- Through hard work, working with larger disability organisations and the support from the **Office of the First Minister** and the **Office of the Second Minister** we are really moving forward.



Office of the First and Second Minister: the main aims of this department in Northern Ireland are; making sure that Northern Ireland grows, making sure people have equal opportunities and making sure that government works properly.

Tara Flood and Team – Shadow Reporting on the United Nations Convention

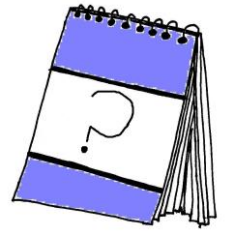
- The report has been written after consultation with hundreds of disabled people across the 4 home countries (England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland).



This report has been written for the United Nations Committee because they are looking at how well the UK government is meeting the United Nations Convention.



- Information about when the United Nations Committee will start looking at how well the UK government is meeting the convention is still not known.



Matt Parry – Consultation on the new £1 coin

Spoke about:

- The new and safe £1 coin being put together ready to be used in 2017.
- The plans are that it will have 12 sides, be made up of 2 metals and will have technology that means it cannot be copied.
- They are halfway through consultation with the public.
- If you would like to take part the closing date is 27th November.
- For more information see the website link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/specification-of-the-new-one-pound-coin>



People who came to the Forum on 23rd October 2014

Tara Flood – ALLFIE

David Buxton – BDA

Keith Smith – BILD

Liz Sayce – DR UK

Julie Jaye Charles - Equalities National Council

Paul Breckell – Action on Hearing Loss

Pauline Nolan – Inclusion Scotland

Guy Parkhar – Leonard Cheshire

Facilet Hadi - RNIB

Jill Allen-King – National Federation for the Blind

Andrew Lee – People First (Self Advocacy)

Dan Burden – Spinal Injuries Association

Joanne Sawyer – Age UK

Lee Dolby – EFDS

Caroline Weston – Marie Curie Cancer Care

Jane Hughes – Rethink Mental Illness

Svetlana Kotova – Sense

Emily Cameron – Whizz-Kidz

Sarah Lambert – National Autistic Society

Tracey Lazard – DPULO London Rep.

Ruth Gould – DPULO NW Rep.

Keiran Bright – DPULO SW Rep.

Theresa Hodge – DPULO SE Rep.

Mick Dillon – DPULO East Rep.

Pete Millington – DPULO WM Rep.

June Best – DPULO Ambassador NI