

The Accessible Britain Challenge awards shortlist

The following are the shortlisted nominations for the Accessible Britain Challenge Awards, split by category.

- Improved Mobility Category 1
- Innovative Use of Buildings, Spaces and Places Category 2
- Safer Neighbourhoods Category 3
- Inclusive Social Activities Category 4
- The judging panel 5

Improved Mobility Category

The Corporate Disability Access Forum

The Corporate Disability Access Forum (CDAF) was established in 2013 by Cheshire West and Chester Council, in response to requests from local disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) and access groups to have a greater involvement in the design of major new retail, culture and leisure facilities.

CDAF ensures that accessibility issues at new buildings and spaces are addressed from an informed viewpoint based on lived experiences.

Find out more:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/health_and_social_care/adultsocialcare/living_with_a_disability/corporate_disability_access_fo.aspx

Options for Independent Living (OIL) Rail Sub Group/Essex County Council – Try a Train Initiative

The OIL Transport Group has worked with transport providers in Essex and Essex County Council over the past 17 years to reduce the barriers that disabled and less able people face when travelling on public transport.

The Rail Group operators identify barriers to travelling on the rail network. The ‘Try a Train’ initiative allows disabled people to visit the rail facilities, ticket office, toilets etc.

and also to travel on a dedicated train. There are rail personnel on hand to respond to any questions and encourage people to think about using rail travel.

Opening Doors – Better Bus Accessibility Project – Norwich

Opening Doors is a Norwich based, disabled people's user led organisation for people with learning difficulties. Their mission is for all adults with learning disabilities in Norfolk to be confident individuals, controlling their own lives and making their own decisions, with support from people they trust.

The organisation had complained to Norfolk County Council about changes to bus stop numbers, bus colours and routes, which had caused problems for their members when travelling on buses. The council responded by offering to work with Opening Doors on a co-produced project, to attempt to try and improve bus travel for people with learning difficulties in the area. The project was funded by money which Norfolk County Council had secured from the Department of Transport.

Find out more: <http://www.openingdoors.org.uk/uploads/images/172.pdf>

Innovative Use of Buildings, Spaces and Places Category

YMCA Community Gym – Peterborough

The YMCA gym is fully inclusive and provides specialist exercise equipment for people with disabilities or long term health conditions. Local disabled people recounted how they felt uncomfortable using existing commercial gym facilities and wanted somewhere to exercise that did not judge them on fitness levels or looks.

The YMCA in conjunction with local disability charities set up the community that has gone from strength to strength. In addition to working with disabled people, staff also work in close conjunction with HMP Peterborough, and provide placements for prisoners on release to work in the gym with the aim of gaining a Recognised Vocational Qualification in the fitness industry.

Find out more: <http://ymcafitness.org.uk/our-gyms/peterborough/>

DOTS Disability Community Interest Company-Strategic Disability Consultation Service – Bournemouth, Dorset

DOTS Disability is an innovative social enterprise formed and led by local disabled people, older people and carers. The service provides Council officers with a formal report with recommendations following each consultation meeting. DOTS Disability feeds back to its members on those recommendations that are adopted by officers and those which are not, with an explanation as to why.

Income generated from providing the consultation service helps DOTS Disability to provide peer led information, advice and advocacy services that supports local people to make their own choices and exercise control over their lives.

Find out more: <http://www.dotsdisability.co.uk/content/consultation-service>

Nene Park Trust – Nene Park for All – Peterborough

Nene Park Trust manages the 1,700 acres of Nene Park lying west of Peterborough. The Trust's charitable objective is "To provide for the recreation of the public by the provision of a park for the benefit of the inhabitants of Peterborough and visitors with the object of improving the conditions of life for such persons."

To deliver on this commitment the Trust commissioned an Access Audit which informed its work for new or large scale projects and day to day access matters. This enabled improvements to be undertaken and achieved by on-going partnership working with organisations, specialist advisors and the disabled community. From this the Nene Park Access Forum began and with on-going dialogue with the Trust.

Find out more: <http://www.neneparktrust.org.uk/ferry-meadows/things-to-do>

Safer Neighbourhoods Category

Safe Places in Poole and Bournemouth Scheme

Organised by Poole Forum, Bournemouth People First and the YMCA Chatterbox Youth Group, the 'Safe Places' scheme is an initiative organised and run by people with learning disabilities in Bournemouth and Poole.

The Safe Places team volunteer their time to promote the scheme which encourages shops, public buildings and other organisations with premises in the area to offer a safe haven for people with learning disabilities should they feel in danger, be lost or feel unwell. Staff at participating venues receive training, delivered by the Safe Places team so that they are confident and able to provide support if required. Just short of one hundred venues are signed up to the scheme.

Find out more: <http://www.poole.gov.uk/business/licences-and-street-trading/poole-safe-scheme/>

Safe in Town West Cheshire

Operated by DIAL West Cheshire, The Safe in Town initiative is aimed at providing reassurance and confidence to enable vulnerable people to feel safe in their community – by carrying a card with contact details of their family/carer and by developing a network of local shops and businesses who act as 'community champions/safe places'.

The Safe in Town West Cheshire initiative has provided reassurance and confidence to enable 55 vulnerable people to feel safe in their community. The scheme has improved community cohesion by working with 70 local shops and businesses across Cheshire West and Chester who act as 'community champions' to support vulnerable

people and, where appropriate, contact their family or carer. The scheme has enabled vulnerable people to have confidence to go out and feel safe and gives carers peace of mind to enable family members to be more independent.

Find out more: <http://safeintownwestcheshire.org.uk/>

Safe Places, Grapevine Coventry

Grapevine set up a Safe Places scheme for Coventry city centre, as they wanted people with learning disabilities to be part of their community and to feel safe using the city centre and to provide somewhere for them to go if they didn't feel safe. The project is run by a team of people with learning disabilities and supported by a Grapevine worker. They designed training, information and promotional materials and made sure families and businesses knew about this scheme.

The scheme started in November 2013 and so far has delivered training to 60 people with learning disabilities and 40 carers/families on how to use Safe Places. The scheme also delivered training to 70 frontline staff in city centre businesses.

Find out more: <http://www.grapevinecovandwarks.org/what-we-do/safe-places.aspx>

Inclusive Social Activities Category

Attitude is Everything – London

Attitude is Everything aims to improve the lives of deaf and disabled people's access to live music by working in partnership with audiences, artists and the music industry to implement a Charter of Best Practice by:

- Employing and involving disabled people
- Setting high but realistic standards for good practice set out in their Charter
- Organising “mystery shoppers” to check on venues
- Celebrating good access by awarding Gold Silver and Bronze charter status to venues which achieve high standards
- Training venue managers and staff

Working with the Independent Street Arts Network to publish the Access Toolkit to make outdoor arts events more accessible.

Find out more:

<http://www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk/?gclid=CPSU7oaN2sMCFQGc2wod12wArg>

The Redbridge Autism Awareness Roadshow

Run by The Sycamore Trust, Autism Ambassadors is a project designed and delivered by young people with autism. The project delivers innovative autism awareness training sessions followed by a question and answer session to look at removing the barriers which prevent people with autism accessing local services.

The Redbridge Autism Awareness Roadshow (RAAR) project is managed by a person with autism who has created an accessibility audit survey to look at how local services can become more accessible not only to people with autism but those with

other disabilities and non-disabled people. The survey focuses on looking at how the barriers to utilising local opportunities can be removed and how more disabled people can access services in their community, through companies and providers making reasonable adjustments. The projects have also enabled over fifty young people with autism from East London to enhance their social and communication skills by becoming Ambassadors.

Find out more:

<http://find.redbridge.gov.uk/kb5/redbridge/fsd/event.page?record=bogxVMhPRIk>

Inverclyde Council on Disability, Access for Beginners to Computing

Run by the Inverclyde Council on Disability, the Access for Beginners to Computing project offers tailor made 1-2-1 and group accessible learning opportunities to local disabled people within community locations and for those unable to access local learning facilities home based learning. The project offers a range of informal and formal courses ranging from basic computing, Email & Internet Safety, SQA, Digital Photography and iPad and Laptop clinics. The project also has range of accessible hardware and software ensuring that learning is accessible for all.

The project provides learners with a loan of a laptop, iPad, Internet connection and specialist software for the duration of the learners engagement with the project ensuring that there is no cost to learners Learning is tailored to the Individual needs and delivered at a pace that suits the learner making learning accessible, relaxed and enjoyable for those with little or no experience or confidence in using computers. The project also provides individual learning to service users wishing to learn specialised tasks or programs, such as Text Read and Write Gold for dyslexic learners, or learn spreadsheets to fulfil a treasurer's role with a local group. The project is users led and learners plan a key role in the planning and development of services and attend monthly service meetings and learners forums to explore new ideas and learning opportunities.

Find out more: <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/libraries/learning/accessibility/abc-project-access-beginners-computing/>

The judging panel

Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA

Dave has worked as a senior manager in the NHS for 20 years. He has trust-wide responsibility for equality and diversity, patient and public involvement and social inclusion.

Dave was the founder of the Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) and a founder member of the Cheshire Disabilities Federation. Today, WDP employs over 50 paid staff and around 150 volunteers who together deliver a wider range of independent living services including two Independent Living Centres, Direct Payments Scheme,

Shopmobility, Inclusive Sports, and a number of Employment and Educational contracts.

Dave is also the founder and a director of the charities social enterprise 'Disability Trading Company' which operates several commercial services and he is the event co-ordinator of the Disability Awareness Day (DAD). Now in its 24th year DAD is recognised as one of, if not, the largest voluntary pan-disability independent living event in the world.

In 2001 he received an MBE in recognition for his contributions to improving services for disabled people. In 2006 he was commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant for Cheshire.

Dave has been a full-time wheelchair user since 1989, which was as a result of a spinal cord injury, and a survivor of cancer since 1999.

Tracey Proudlock

Tracey Proudlock is a graduate from Leeds University, a member of the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development (MCIPD), a former trustee of Shine. She has previously worked as an appointed member of Equality 2025.

She is the Chair of the Brent Cross Cricklewood Access Forum, contracted by the developer Hammerson plc.

Through her own company, [Proudlock Associates](#), Tracey has a track record in working with large and diverse organisations supporting them with their disability/diversity planning.

She regularly contributes to national and local media debates about diversity and the inclusion agenda.

Brian Keating – Office for Disability Issues

Brian is the Accessible Britain Challenge lead official co-ordinating activity on a day to day basis.

His role as a policy manager in the Office for Disability Issues also includes leading on the Inclusive Technology Prize which is aiming to stimulate the co-creation of innovative (new) or imaginative adaptations of accessible technologies and products which enable disabled people, their family and carers to live more independent lives.

Brian Tyler – Inspire Peterborough

Bryan has been manager of the Disability Forum since 2010. He has spent much of that time working to make Peterborough a much more accessible place to live for disabled people. He has been involved in the redevelopment of the city centre and train station. Helped redesign the Blue Badge form and overseen a 50% increase in accessible parking for disabled drivers in the city and much more besides.

Following on the success of London 2012 Paralympic Games, Bryan established Inspire Peterborough. Inspire Peterborough promotes sport and leisure activities, as well as promoting health and well-being initiatives and support for disabled people,

family members and carers. In September 2014 Inspire secured over £277,000 from Sport England to increase disability sporting capacity and participation in the city.

In March 2015, Bryan and City College Peterborough launch a new course called "Access Champions". Students of all abilities and disabilities will learn the requisite skills to be able to go out into their neighbourhood and work with shops, cafes, sports centres and community centres to improve access and accessibility.

In 2014 Bryan was presented with the Citizen of the Year award by the Mayor, Councillor George Simons.