

Pat Russell – Head of the Office for Disability Issues

Pat started the meeting and introduced Justin Tomlinson, the Minister for Disabled People.



Justin Tomlinson – Minister for Disabled People

The Minister welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked them for everything that they had shared. He said that this really helped to guide his work and the work of the whole department.



He took the chance to thank Iain Duncan Smith for the hard work he had done while he was **Secretary of State**. He talked about him as a man who really cared about the work that he was doing.



Secretary of State: this is the person in charge of a government department like the Department for Work and Pensions or the Department for Education.

He welcomed the new Secretary of State, Stephen Crabb to the Department for Work and Pensions. He has learnt his role very quickly and was able to speak to the House of Commons on his first day.



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The Minister shared with the Forum the work that is being done on the Sport Strategy, a strategy is a plan:



- He has chaired a meeting with groups from different areas of disability sport.
- He has met with the Chief Executive of the Premier League to deal with Premier League stadiums that are not accessible. They have agreed to make a real difference in all twenty Premier League clubs over the next two years.



- He has been working with Ed Vaizey to look at access in the area of leisure, such as in museums, art galleries and theatres. This is moving forward in a good way.



- The Minister was on the television program Watchdog; he was talking about accessibility of restaurants. He was very shocked that people did not know about accessibility or have the right training.



As well as this he was shocked to find that disabled toilets were being used in the wrong way, some were being used as offices. To deal with this he and his team have been working with the **Hospitality Industry**.



Hospitality Industry: these are businesses that work in the area of food, drink and places to stay. Some examples of this are bars, restaurants and hotels.

Together with the journalist from the BBC who filmed Watchdog, he has been chairing a meeting with people from key areas of business.



They agreed that by making small changes it would mean that businesses would be able to make more money by making sure that disabled people and their families could have access. Some small changes could be making sure that staff know about accessibility or having menus in larger print.



- The Minister spoke about the Built Environment Professional Education project; this project is about making sure that the people who design buildings, study accessibility as part of their education.



This will be talked about later on in the meeting. It has moved forward a lot. Looking back, nothing can be done, but for the future, accessibility will now be a normal part of planning and designing buildings.



- Finally he spoke about the work of the health programme. This programme is working across different government departments to make sure it gets better results for disabled people. For example, the programme is working with the **Business, Innovation and Skills Department** to make **apprenticeships** more accessible.



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

Apprenticeships: this is where a person learns how to do a job, on the job. They usually have a set number of hours to work and are quite low paid.

He said again that he wants to work with disabled people to bring their voice into



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government. He wants to do this to get rid of the barriers for disabled people.

Questions from the Forum

Question: Can you give an update on how the Work and Health Programme is moving forward; making sure the voice of disabled people is a part of the bigger plan?



Answer (Minister): There will be a White Paper in the spring; this is a Government document that talks about what the Government plan to do in an area of work. The plan is to work across departments to deal with issues that are affecting disabled people.



Around half of the people getting the Employment and Support Allowance have mental health issues. If the Department of Health can make sure a person can get treatment as soon as possible, this will be good for the person. It will also mean that they can go back to work.



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There are many examples where getting treatment as soon as possible will help both departments later on.

As well as this we are working with the Business, Innovation and Skills department to make sure that people with learning difficulties can access apprenticeships.



Question: Can you do anything about the time that people have to wait for the Personal Independence Payment assessment and the long wait for appeals? This is very stressful for many disabled people. Also can you make sure that more information is in accessible formats?



Answer (Minister): The Department for Work and Pensions is the department that is pushing forward the most in making formats accessible in government. I have a working group looking at this and we are also working with key **stakeholders**.



Stakeholder: here, this is a person or organisation with an interest in the work being done by the Department for Work and Pensions around accessible formats.

Once we have looked into this in the Department for Work and Pensions, we will share it with the rest of government.



With appeals, I want to make sure that people get the right decision the first time around. This means having all of the right information at the time that the decision is made. It also means giving more time to get medical information.

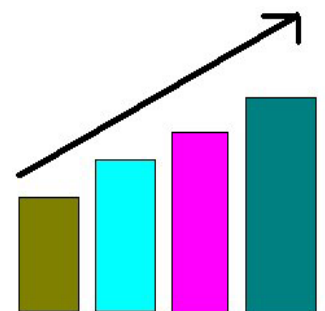


Pat thanked the Minister for coming to the Forum and welcomed the next speakers:



Andrew Honeyman – Head of the Physical Activity Team – Department of Culture, Media and Sport

- Andrew talked about the new Sports Strategy. In December the aim of the Strategy was changed. It changed from the number of people taking part in different sports to getting more people out and about.



This was done after a big consultation and was also decided because of the



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Active People Survey, which showed bad results.

- The new Sport Strategy is based on a number of things such as:

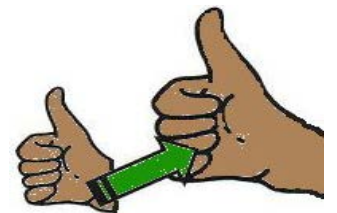
- Making sure that there is more success in sports in the UK and in other countries. Also making sure sports events have a big effect on as many people as possible.



- More people from every background taking part in sport and getting out and about, volunteering and being able to watch live sport.



- The area of sport working in better way



- What does this mean for Disabled People?

- More time being spent on looking at the groups of people that are less active and least take part in sports. One of these groups is disabled people. Also more time being spent on looking at getting people moving.

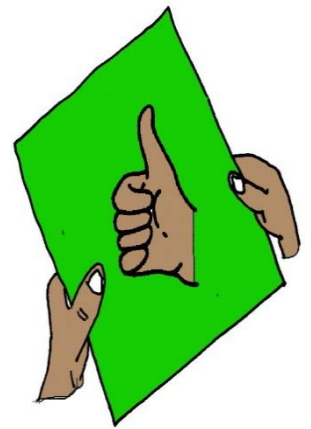


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- More ways of getting funding for sport, not just through national sport organisations.
- Many things will be done to make sure that disabled people can be:
 - Sports volunteers
 - Coaches
 - Leaders in sport
 - Part of the people working in sport in general



- Push for different stadiums to become more accessible. The Sports Ground Safety Authority will have a bigger role in making sure sports grounds meet accessibility standards. They will work with football organisations to make sure that they are keeping to the rules and are not breaking the law.



- Andrew said that other departments are linked to the Strategy. For example the Department of Health and their Childhood **Obesity** Strategy. Also the Department of Transport, for their Cycling and Walking Strategy.



Obesity: this is when a person is very overweight.

Barry Horne - English Federation of Disability Sport

- Barry told the Forum why he thought the new Sport Strategy was good at linking in with more disabled people and pushing for more physical activity. Barry talked about their '**Charter for Change**' and what this means for disabled people.



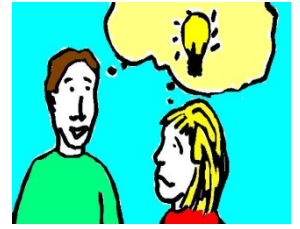
Charter: here this is a document that talks about the aims of the Sport Strategy and the rights and responsibilities that people have under the Strategy.

- The Charter sets out what disabled people say they need. There are three key things that the Charters aims to do:
 - Everyone that is a part of sport and physical activity will support disabled people to take part.
 - Disabled people will have the same chances as non-disabled people to be active during their lives.



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- Whenever sport or physical activity is talked or written about, it should push for people to think in a positive way about disabled people taking part.

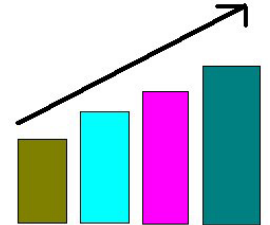


Nikki Griffiths and Bryan Tyler – Inspire Peterborough

- Inspire Peterborough is a Disabled People's User Led Organisation in Peterborough. Nikki and Bryan shared with the Forum the work that Inspire Peterborough is doing. They have a project called 'Enhancing Lives'.



It aims to make sure that locally, the number of disabled people taking part in sport and physical activity goes up.

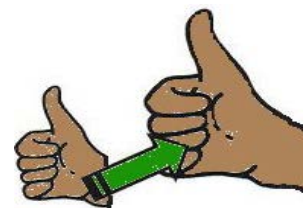


- Some of their project aims are below:
 - Being the lead for joint working in the local area around sport and getting out and about.
 - Having more choice, more things to do and more access.



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- Supporting all disabled people to have a better life through taking part in sport, activities and volunteering.



- The project got £277,000 of funding from Sport England. It meant that more disabled people had the chance to try out and play sport. They also had a chance to experience all of the good things that this brings.

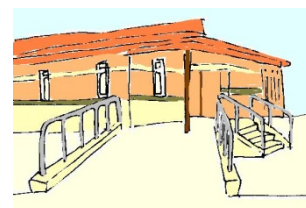


- What they plan to do over the next 4 years:

- Get people out of the house - Have transport from Travel Choice, that is accessible and that people have the money to pay for.



- Get people into places that are accessible and that they have the money to pay for



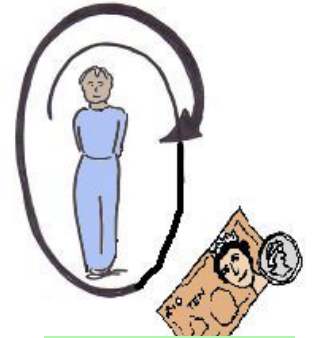
- Have staff and trainers that are caring and understanding



- Use this as a way to get into training, education and employment.

Questions from the Forum

Question: Can people use their personal budget to get out and get active? Some local authorities are saying you can't. Having a guide on this would be helpful.



Answer: It was decided that this would be taken away as an action point.



Question: Is there any work being done about the accessibility of gym equipment? For example a lot of the equipment has written information which is inaccessible for people

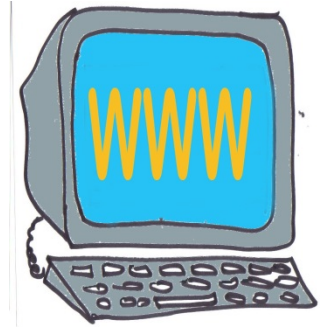


Visual impairment: this affects the way that a person can see.

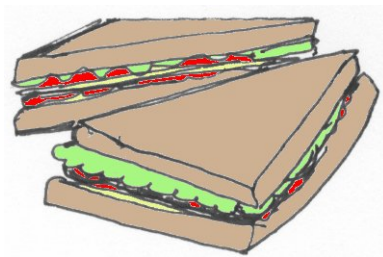
Answer: It was agreed that more needs to be done to make gym equipment, staff and coaching support more accessible. There are Inclusive Fitness Initiative gyms around the country; these are accessible gyms that have more support for disabled people.



More information about this can be found on the English Federation of Disability Sport website. Go the fitness initiative on the website and there is a map that shows where these gyms can be found. As well as this, more work is happening in America on new accessible gym equipment.



Break for Lunch



- Pat Russell welcomed:

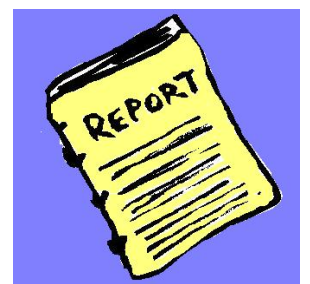
Lord Chris Holmes of Richmond - Chair of the Disability Committee and ex-Paralympian who spoke about how the Paralympic Legacy Advisory Group (PLAG) has moved forward



- Lord Holmes talked about Digital Inclusion, here digital means information and communication technology.



He also talked about the Digital Skills Report written by the Select Committee. This Select Committee is a group of experts from the House of Lords that are looking into information and communication technology.



He talked about the need for everyone to be able to use information and communication technology. This is because it is now being used much more and will lead to many new jobs in this area. It means that young disabled people need to make sure that they have the skills that they need.



- He talked about the use of ‘Shared Space’, this is a way of planning public spaces which means that there are less barriers between people walking on the street and cars.



This way of planning takes away things like road kerbs and traffic signs. He talked about how many local authorities think that it is a good thing and that it leads to fewer accidents, even though there is no research to support this.



Lord Holmes did research on ‘Shared Space’ and wrote a report called ‘Accidents by Design’. His report found that 63% of people have had a bad experience of ‘Shared



Space’. 35% of people said that they tried not to use ‘Shared Space’.

Lord Holmes is now getting guidelines from a professional organisation and will ask local authorities to meet the Equality Act and the **Public Sector Equality Duty**.

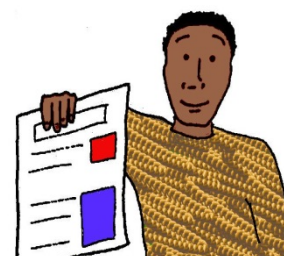


Public sector equality duty: this is a duty that public bodies have under the Equality Act, to make sure that people are treated equally and have the same opportunities as everyone else.

- The Disability Committee has spoken to the Premier League football clubs about the inaccessibility of stadiums and not meeting the Equality Act. This is happening even though the football clubs have the money to make the changes.



As clubs did not make their stadiums accessible, a **private members bill** was written to be talked about in the House of Lords.



Private members bill: This is a way for an MP or Lord who is not a government minister to try to change the law.

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As there were a number of questions asked in the House of Lords, on 16th September 2015, the Premier League decided that all Premier League grounds would make their stadiums accessible by the summer of 2017.



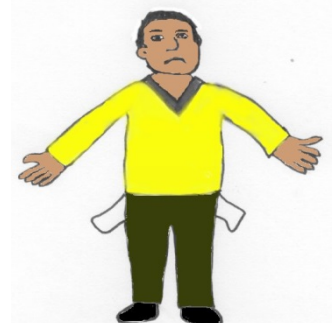
Questions from the Forum

Question: What can be done to stop local authorities from using Shared Space? What can be done to stop them getting rid of **tactile paving**? Can anything be done to stop cyclists using pavements?



Tactile paving: this is pavement that can be felt by people who have visual impairments. For example, so that they know when there are stairs or where there is a crossing.

Answer: It is very sad that good things that have been done in the past like tactile paving



are being lost. Local authorities really need to look at their planning, as they could lose money and people could take legal cases against them.

Question: The cost of going to an accessible stadium is very high. It is ok making them accessible, but they cost too much for disabled people to access.

Answer: From the planning of the Olympic Games we put together the idea of the inclusive experience. This means that we are not only looking at putting ramps in place, but we are looking at access from the start of the journey, to arriving at the event. As well as this we will look at guides on making websites accessible.



- Pat thanked Lord Holmes for his interesting presentation and welcomed the next speaker.

Julie Fleck – Leading on the Built Environment Professional Education (BEPE) project



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- Julie told the Forum about the work that she had done on the Built Environment Professional Education project. She was moved from the Greater London Authority, to work on the project for some time. The project aims to make sure that the people who design buildings, study accessibility as part of their education.

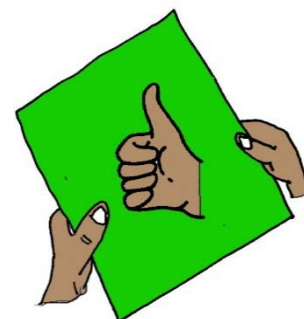


It is about making sure that inclusion is seen as very important when designing buildings. This was part of the **legacy** of the Paralympic Games.



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

- We aim to design all new buildings, parks and public spaces so that they are comfortable and accessible. They should be easy to use for everyone without being treated differently or making extra effort.



As well as this disabled people should not have to be separated from non-disabled people when using these spaces.

- When building the Olympic park we had disabled people working with us as access consultants. They worked together with professional and community experts.



They looked at not only wheelchair access, but also hearing loops, changing places, the areas needed for guide dogs, and lots of accessible seating.



- The project is about pushing for change and this is now happening in higher education for 18 to 20 year olds. This will change the way people think and behave.



Questions from the Forum

Question: We are working with students with learning disabilities who are access champions. They are working with cafes, shops and polling stations around Peterborough. They won't be able to get a degree for this work, but what they do is really good as a **social enterprise**. Is



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there any way we can get them to the Olympic park to talk to some of the people there?

Answer: I am sure the Inclusive Design Manager would be happy to take people around. If you contact Audrey after the meeting, I will let her have the contact information of the London Legacy Development Corporation.



Question: Can we see this way of working in other areas for inclusion, such as design of websites?



Answer: It was agreed that the Built Environment Professional Education project's way of working could be used in other areas. For example it could be used in training of web designers and other access areas.



Pat Russell told everyone about the next area. It follows on from presentations that had already been done around the legacy of the Paralympic Games. She asked the Forum members to talk about the following things on their tables:



Did attitudes about disabled people change after the Games, and how can we measure this? She said;

Attitudes: this means the way that people think about something, someone or a group of people.

- Attitudes were one of the ways of measuring how well the government strategy 'Fulfilling Potential' was doing. From talks she has already had, it was agreed that there is no one way of measuring changes in attitude and that it must be done using a number of different ways.



- There is a government **programme** to bring people into the **civil service** from groups of people that in the past have been left out.



Programme: this is a piece of work or a project.

Civil service: these are people employed by the government to carry out the day to day running of the country.



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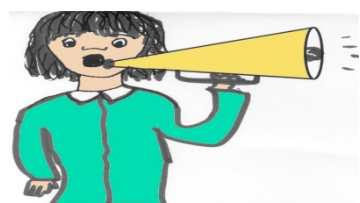
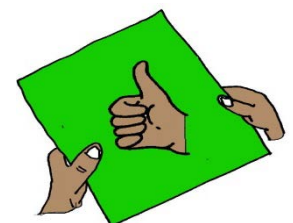
At the moment the Office for Disability Issues is looking for a disabled student to carry out research on this area for six to eight weeks. This is to give us an idea of the attitudes towards disabled people.

- Pat asked the Forum to talk about their experience and what has made a difference in changing attitudes in their local areas?



Key points from the tables were:

- The need for more training so that people know more about disability and equality. This is needed for organisations, designers and schools.
- Invite the Department of Education to a future Forum meeting to talk about how much people know about disability in education.
- Education would also help get rid of some disability hate crime.
- The way that disabled people are shown and written about in the media needs dealing with. This needs to be done by showing disabled people in a good way.



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- Giving disabled people a voice to talk about barriers is a way forward.
- Learning disability training in the voluntary sector has helped change the way that people think about disability.



- The 'End the Awkward' campaign by Scope and the 'Time to Change' campaign by MIND have helped to change the way people think. They have also helped people to find out more about disability.



- Royal National Institute of Blind People has done some good work on **civic leadership** for local communities.



Civic leadership: a person in the community that guides or supports other people.

- Local sport events support young disabled people and change the way that people think.



Nick Goss welcomed the next speaker

**Nick Butler – Work and Health Programme,
New Contracted Provision**



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- Nick told everyone that he was looking to work with the Forum. He wanted to get their views on the type of employment support that is needed for people with disabilities and health conditions. He also wanted to give an update on what has happened since the last time he spoke to the Forum. The new programme will:



- Add to the Universal Credit scheme, giving support to people with health conditions or disabilities, as well as people who have been unemployed for a very long time (2 years or more).



- The Department for Work and Pensions will spend at least £130 million per year of funding on this programme of support. We are also looking to get funding from different places so that the programme can be even bigger.



- We think that the key areas of the programme will be:

- a) Things being done locally, such as the Government working with local authorities to plan and buy services. This will be done in areas that have been given new local powers by the Government, this can be called



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devolution.

This has happened in areas such as Cardiff, the East of England, Liverpool, Greater London, Greater Manchester, North East, Sheffield, Tees Valley, West Midlands, West of England.



b) Working together in a better way with local services and health services, as well as more small organisations with skills in different areas, taking part.



c) People with a health condition or disability being supported by Work Coaches. This will be very important for those who are most likely to need one and for those people who will get results using the extra help.



- Nick invited Forum members who are interested in working with them to come to a meeting in April. At the meeting members will be able to give information on the way forward.



Questions from the Forum



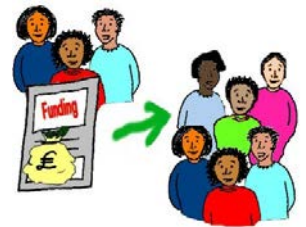
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Question: How does this affect the work programme in Scotland?

Answer: The funding for the work programme in Scotland has been given to Scotland. How this is put into place is for the Scottish government to decide.



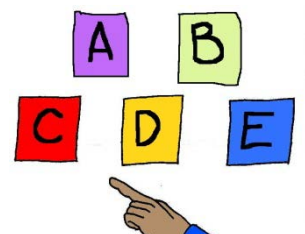
Question: I understand the budget for this is smaller than the employment support that was in place before. Will it be able to support the number of people that need to use this support?



Answer: The overall budget is smaller, but this is about making sure the right people get support. We need to think about if they really need the support. If they do not then it is not a good way to use taxpayer's money. We also need to make sure we have the right work coaches to support the support group.



Question: How are you supporting people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)? Some organisations do not know how to support this group of people.



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Answer: It is about making sure we choose the right organisations. Good support to help different groups of people is a part of this programme.

Question: I am worried about **sanctions**.

They need to be looking at each person rather than looking at meeting targets.



Sanctions: here, this means that when you break the rules of a benefit or support, it can be taken away.

Answer: We know that people want to take part in the programme and we want them to link in to get the support that they need. This is why we do not want the worry of sanctions to get in the way of this programme.



Round Up

- Pat Russell shared feedback from the last Forum. The **Home Office** have taken away the views from the Forum members. They



Home Office: this government office is in charge of

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are still looking into Hate Crime reporting and Hate Crime issues that were talked about at the Forum and in the follow-up.

- We are still working with the Department of Transport on accessibility training and disability awareness training.



- We are still working with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the question you asked about the budget for physical activity.



- Pat thanked the members for coming and giving really helpful information at the Forum.

