



Helping disabled people do the best they can
and take part in their local area

Making it happen



Easy Read

Important

Green writing

In this Easy Read booklet we explain what some words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. We then write what the words mean in a blue box.

These words and what they mean are also in a word list at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing. If you see words in **normal green** writing, you can look up what they mean by looking for the blue box earlier in the booklet, or by looking at the word list.

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What the Minister for Disabled People says

Hello, my name is Esther McVey and I am the Minister for Disabled People.

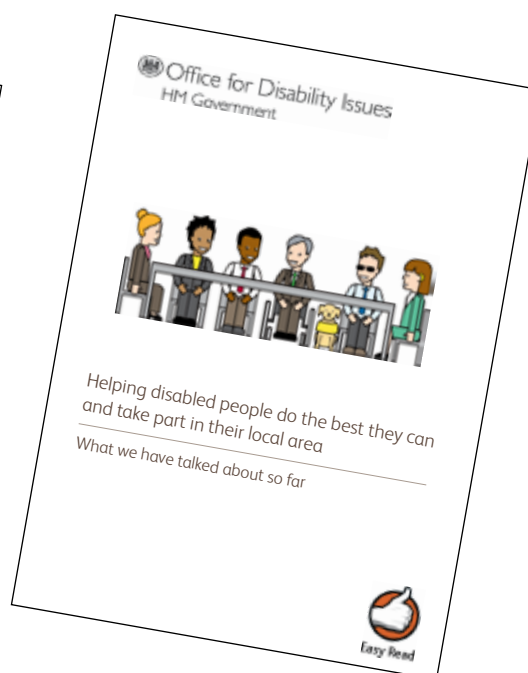
In September 2012 we wrote 2 booklets.

- Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – What we have talked about so far.
- Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – Next steps.

These booklets are part of a **discussion** about helping disabled people do the best they can.

Discussion

This is when people talk to each other and say what they think.



Since these booklets were written, I have been working closely with disabled people. I want to understand how we can work together to give disabled people the chance to do the best they can.

The Government is following the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People**.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

This is a list of rights that disabled people have. All the countries that use the Convention agree that disabled people should have these rights.

Our country is seen as a world leader for disability rights and **independent living** by other countries. But there is still a long way to go and there are a lot of things I want to do.

Independent living or live independently

This means people having choice and control over the **care and support** services they need to live their lives the way they want to.

Care and support

Care and support are the services and other things that help people live full, independent, active and healthy lives.

- I want all disabled people to have the chance to do the best they can. To do this we need to make the services that help all disabled people, their **carers** and their families better.

Carers

These are people who help disabled people to live their lives.

- I want to build on the success of the **Paralympic Games** that were held in London last year. The **Paralympic Games** helped people to think about disabled people in a good way. I want this to carry on.

Paralympic Games

The **Paralympic Games** is a sports competition that disabled sports people from all over the world take part in. The **Paralympic Games** are held after the Olympic Games.



- I want disabled children, and young people and their families to see that they can do well in all areas of their life. This includes finding a job.
- The Government has looked at what it spends money on. We have put money into things that will help disabled people. Things like having **care and support**, and health services that work well together.
- The country is going through hard times at the moment and the Government has had to make difficult decisions. We want to do things differently. We want to **involve** everyone in working out how things will be done in the future.

Involve or involved

Being **involved** is not the same as being asked. Being **involved** means disabled people playing a bigger part in planning, not just being asked about work done by other people.

- It is not just up to the Government to change things. Disability will affect most people, so we all need to be **involved** in making the changes that are needed.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Esther McVey".

Esther McVey MP
Minister for Disabled People

What the Government wants to do

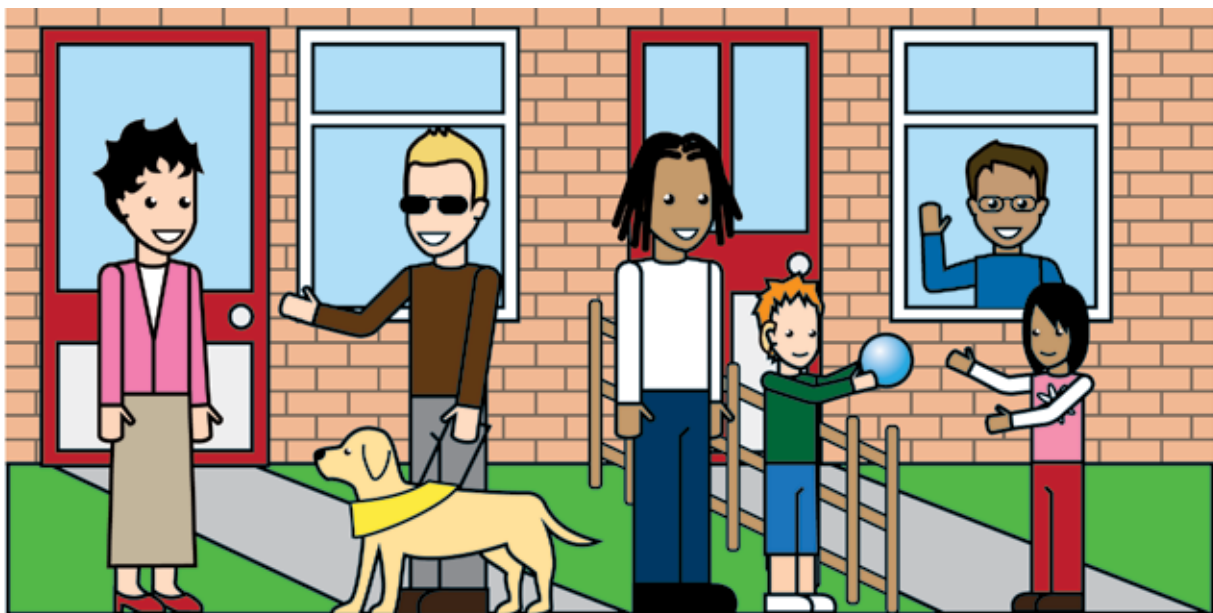
This Government thinks that **equality** is very important for building a fair **society** and a strong **economy**.

Equality

This means everyone having the same chances to do what they can. Some people may need extra help to get the same chances.

Society

Society means all the people and all parts of life in this country. Being part of **society** can mean being accepted and having your views listened to. It can mean being able to live where you want, vote for a government, or join a group. When people are accepted by others this makes a good **society**.



Economy

The economy is how much money the country has. It is made up of the goods and services in the country compared to how many people want to buy those goods and services.

We have started to make big changes to the **benefits system** and to the **public sector**.

Benefits system

The **benefits system** gives money to people when they do not have enough money for housing or food. People with children and some people in low paid work can also get extra money, which is called **Tax Credits**.

Public sector

These are groups that provide services and are run by the government. This includes most schools, most hospitals and local councils.

The changes we are making will help disabled people to **live independently**. They will also give disabled people a say in what **care and support** they get.



We have a good **benefits system**, but we know it is hard to understand. We need to make changes to the **benefits system** to make it easier to understand. And make sure it can still meet the needs of disabled people.

We will **involve** disabled people and disabled people's groups when we are thinking about making changes.

We want to make changes that last a long time and make a real difference to disabled people, their families, their **communities** and **society**.

Community or communities

This means the people, schools, shops and companies in the local area. Good **communities** are places where people join in and do things together to make their area a good place to live.

The Government's plan

This is the 5th booklet we have written about our plans for helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area.

In all 5 booklets we have worked closely with disabled people, lots of different groups, and other people who work in different Government departments.

We have made sure that everyone knew what we were doing. We also made sure to listen to what people told us.

We know disabled people can still face **barriers** when they are trying to do the best they can and take part in **society**.

Barriers

These are things that stop disabled people living like other people. **Barriers** include things like being treated unfairly and not getting enough help to do the things disabled people want.

We can also learn from the **Life Opportunities Survey**. It can tell us more about **barriers** and how to get rid of them.

Life Opportunities Survey

This is when we ask disabled people what they think about many different things. It helps us find out a lot about the lives of disabled people and what needs to be done so that disabled people get full **equality**.

Now it is time to change things. We want disabled people and disabled people's groups to be **involved** in making the changes.



Working together for change

You said that working together is really important. And that disabled people and disabled people's groups need to be more **involved** in making changes.

The Disability Action Alliance

The **Office for Disability Issues** has helped to set up the Disability Action Alliance. This group was put together by **Disability Rights UK**.

Office for Disability Issues

This is a group of people who work for the government. They help government workers understand about disabled people, and what they need to do to help make things fairer for disabled people.



Disability Rights UK

Disability Rights UK is a group that works with disabled people. It aims to do these things.

- Be run by disabled people.
- Get **independent living** for disabled people.
- Get more choice and control for disabled people.
- Break the link between disability and **poverty**.
- Get disability **equality**.

Poverty

This is when a person or family does not have enough money to pay for the things they need, or to take part in everyday life as much as other people.

The Disability Action Alliance brings together disabled people's groups with other groups from the **public sector**, the **private sector** and the **voluntary sector**. So they can work together to make changes.

Private sector

These are businesses and groups that are run by people or groups and that make money out of their work.

Voluntary sector

These are groups outside government that do not make money out of their work. Examples are **community** groups, voluntary groups, charities, co-operatives and housing associations.

The Disability Action Alliance will work out what needs to be changed to make a difference to disabled people's lives. It will also find good ways of working to help disabled people and tell other people about them.



The Disability Action Alliance is already working on things that could

- Make transport better for disabled people to use.
- Make **communities** where everyone can take part.
- Give disabled people better information and advice about money.
- Get better help for disabled people who are in prison or who have been in prison.
- Make sure that when new local services are made, they think about what disabled people need.

The Disability Action Alliance is open to all groups. We want as many groups as possible to join. We want big and small groups to join.

The **Office for Disability Issues** helps the Disability Action Alliance.

Disabled people's groups

Disabled people's groups are very important. They make sure that the people who make services think about the needs of disabled people.

We have given money to help disabled people's groups become stronger and help them grow. We have given around £2 million to more than 130 disabled people's groups across the country.

We have made some disabled people **ambassadors**. **Ambassadors** will help disabled people's groups across the country.

Ambassadors

In this booklet, ambassadors help disabled people's groups to be strong.

We are working with other groups to find ways to change the things that disabled people have told us were important.

Disabled people doing the best they can

Disabled people told us that they want to take part in every area of life. This includes home and family life, **community** life, learning, training, work and **volunteering**.

Volunteering

This is when people do work for which they are not paid. For example, work in a charity shop.



Disabled people want the chance to play a full part in **society** and to be well thought of.

We want a **society** that lets disabled people do the best they can and have **equal opportunities** to do what they want to do.

Equal opportunities

This means having the same chances as everyone else to join in and live a full and happy life.

We need a way to tell if things are getting better for disabled people. We need to change the way we all think about disability.

We have been working with disabled people, disabled people's groups and other experts. We have agreed 6 things that disabled people said need to be better.

- Learning in schools, colleges and universities.
- Work.
- Money that people have coming in.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Choice and control.
- Taking part in local **communities**.

Every year we will write a report to show how much better we have made these 6 things and what we still need to do.

We are happy for people to tell us what they think about this. You can find more information on our website.

We will make sure that disabled people are **involved** in our plans and can tell us what they think of the work we are doing.

A new way for disabled people to say what they think

It is important that a lot of different disabled people tell us how we are doing.

Disabled people's groups need information that helps them know how we are doing.

We are working with disabled people's groups and other groups to make a **toolkit**.

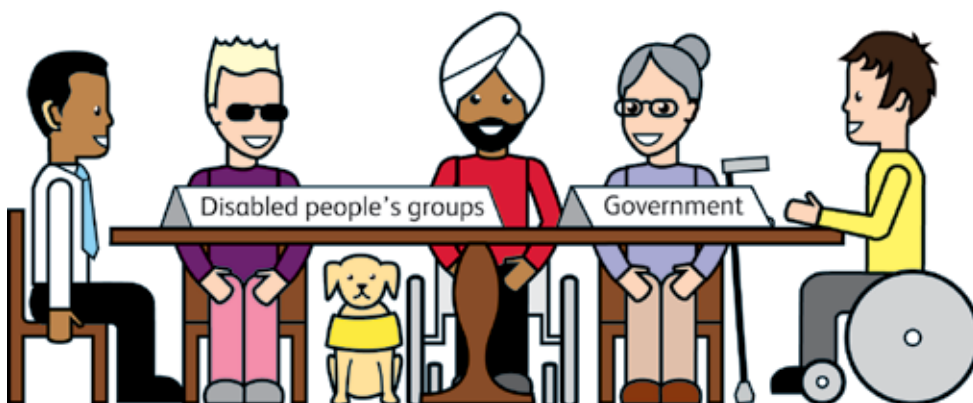
Toolkit

The toolkit is information and advice that we have collected and put it in one place. It helps people find the information they need to make decisions.

This will help local groups to play a bigger part in their **communities**.

It means that everyone will be able to know what is happening and be **involved** in decisions being made.

We will keep working with disabled people and disabled people's groups.



Making it happen now

What we have done and what we still need to do

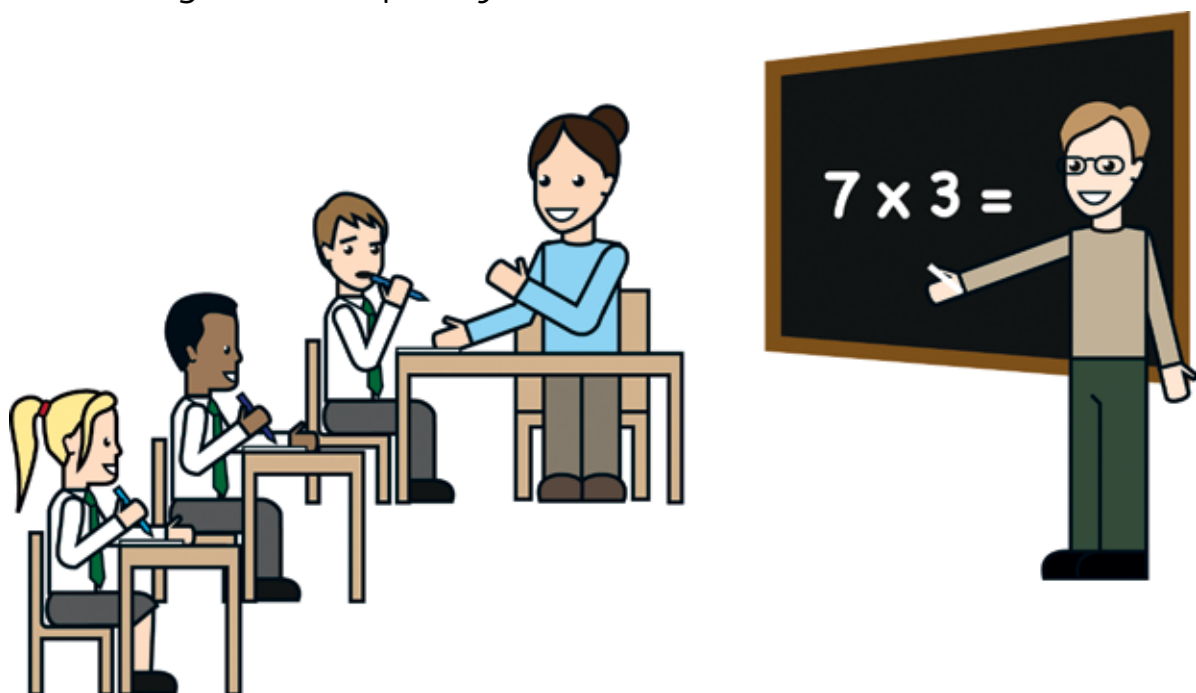
In September 2012 we wrote the booklet called Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – Next steps.

In that booklet we said that we needed to do some things.

We have now written this booklet called Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – Making it happen. We have also written an Action Plan that shows what we have been doing.

We have done good work on these things.

- How children and young people with **special educational needs** get the help they need.



Special Educational Needs

A person with **special educational needs** may

- find it harder to learn than other people their age.
- face **barriers** that stop them going to school or college.

They may need extra or different help to learn or to be at school or college.

- How people get **care and support**.
- How disabled people are helped into work.
- Making transport better for disabled people.
- How to **involve** disabled people in local **communities**.

We have also started new things.

- We have set up the Disability Action Alliance.
- We are doing more to help disabled people find a job.
- We are keeping up the good things that came from the **Paralympic Games**, like the good things people think about disabled people.

The Action Plan has a lot more information about these things. We will make sure we check we are doing the Action Plan. We will do reports so everyone knows how we are doing.

Disabled people and work

Disabled people told us that having a job is very important. Many disabled people are doing well in their jobs.



Only 9 out of every 100 disabled people have never had a job.

But disabled people are still less likely to have a job, especially young disabled people.

Disabled people getting a job can depend on their **impairment**, where they live and how old they are.

Impairment

This is something about the way a person does things. It may be things like being unable to walk well, not being able to see or hear other people clearly, not being able to think hard for a long time, or not being able to remember things.

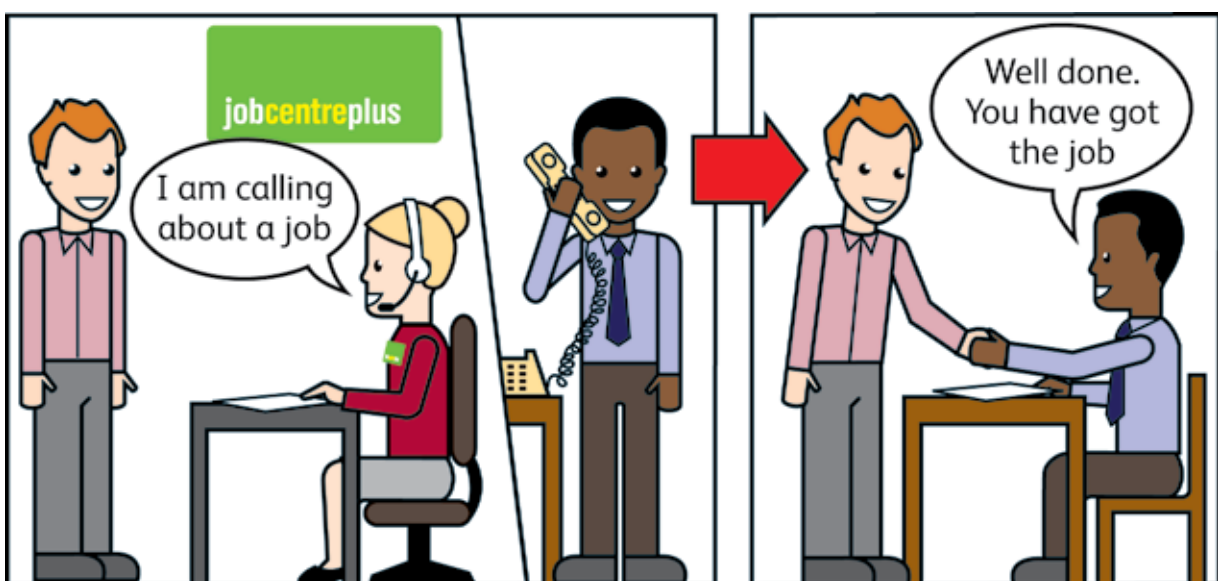
Disabled people are more likely to work part time. They usually earn less than non-disabled people.

Disabled people told us that we need to do something to get more disabled people in work. They gave us lots of ideas about the things we could do.

We are making a plan to set out ways to help disabled people to get and keep a job, and to do well in it.

The plan will include these things.

- Making it easier for young disabled people to move from school, college or university into work.
- New ways for employers to work with colleges and universities.
- Helping disabled people to get and keep a job.
- Getting more disabled people working for themselves. This includes setting up their own business.
- Looking at how having a **mental health condition** affects a disabled person's chances of getting a job.



Mental health condition

These are feelings that make people feel unhappy or behave in a way that has a bad effect on the way they want to live their lives. These difficulties are caused by many different things.

- Looking at how getting an **impairment** can affect staying in a job.
- Looking at how people work together to give local services to disabled people.
- Getting disabled people who are not working and not looking for a job to aim for something better.
- Looking at how well disabled people do in their jobs.

This plan is very important. It will help disabled people do the best they can in work and earn enough money to **live independently**.

This plan builds on what disabled people told us. We are also working with disabled people, disability charities, disabled people's groups and their **ambassadors**, and other experts.

Finally...

When we talked to disabled people about helping them do the best they can and take part in their local area, they told us these things.

- Disabled people want the Government to be good leaders and have a long-term plan for disabled people.
- Disabled people want the Government to
 - have clear actions to do.
 - be responsible for doing the actions.
 - be able to show how we are doing.
- Disabled people want to be **involved** in making changes that affect them.

This booklet deals with these issues. The booklet shows how we have come up with a new way of working that **involves** disabled people.

We are now working with, and talking to, more disability groups than we have ever done before.

We would like to know what you think. You can get in touch with us on 020 7340 4000.

Word list

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More information

You can get more information about helping disabled people do the best they can on our website at www.odi.gov.uk/fulfilling-potential

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