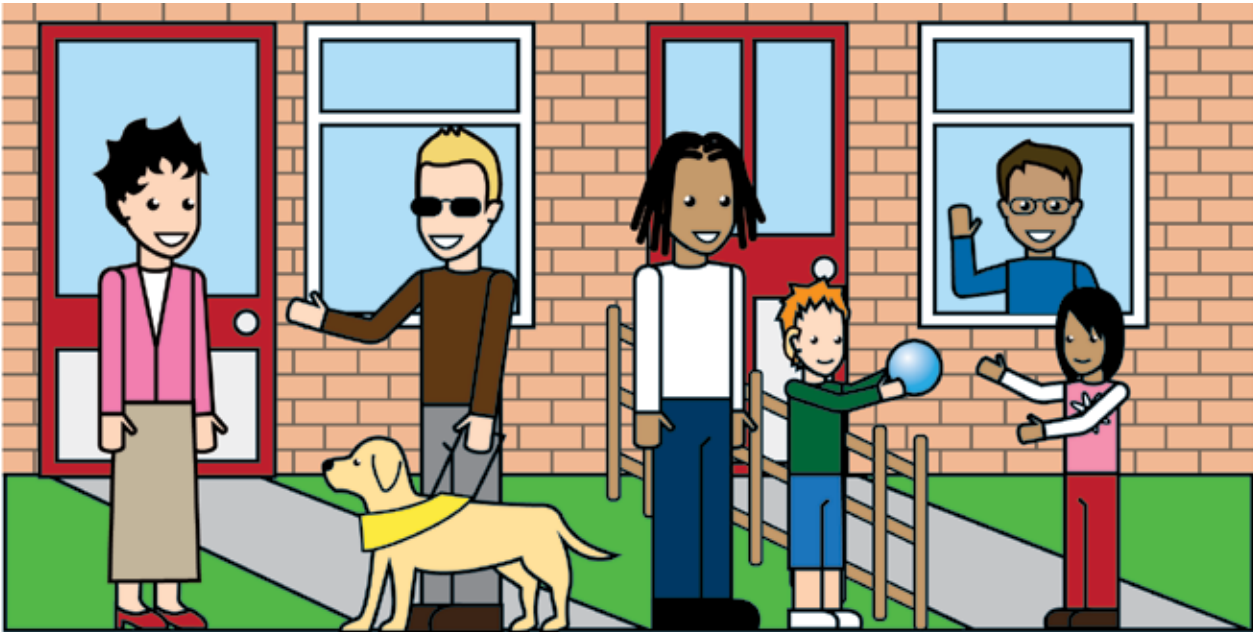




Department for Work & Pensions



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

Making it happen – Strategy update



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 Mark Harper and I am the Minister for Disabled People.

The Government has a target. It wants disabled people to join in and feel part of **communities**, workplaces 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.

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**.

The Government has done well with this over the last few years, but we have not finished yet.

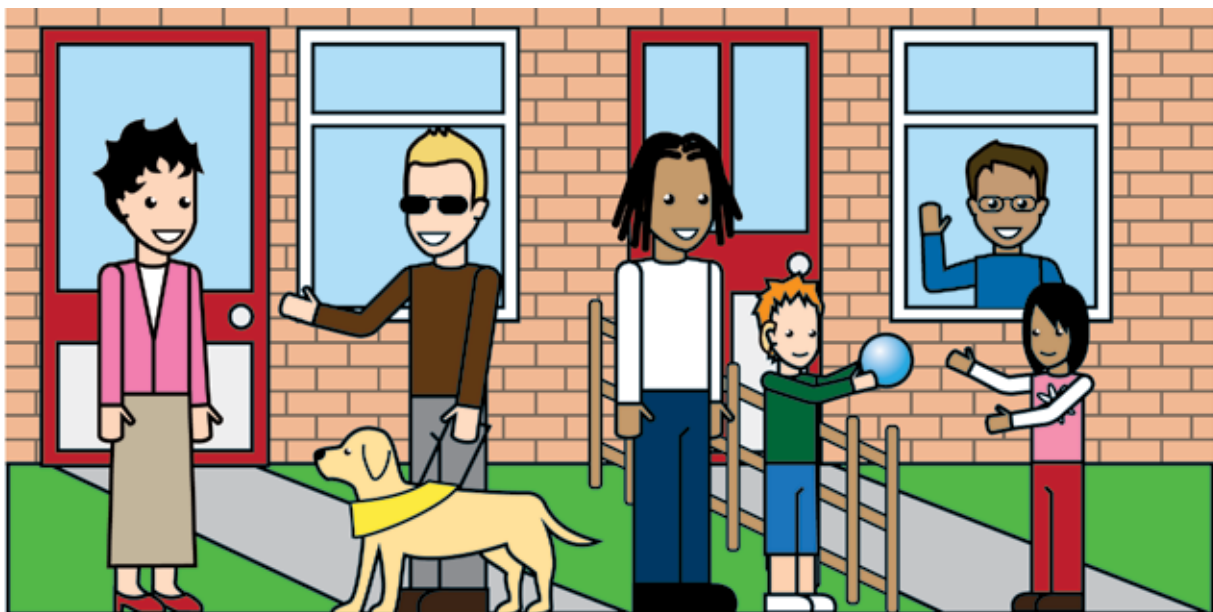
I am pleased to tell you that the **Accessible Britain Challenge** has started.

Accessible Britain Challenge

The **Accessible Britain Challenge** wants **communities** to do more to get disabled people to join in and take part. It will get rid of **barriers** that stop disabled people taking a full and active part in their **community**.

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 will only reach our target if everyone in the **public sector**, **private sector** and **voluntary sector** works together to make our **communities** more **accessible** for all disabled people.

Public sector

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

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.

Accessible

This means making sure everyone can use something. For example

- a building may need a ramp up to its doors and a lift for people who use a wheelchair.
- making a CD of someone reading this book for blind people.

There are almost 12 million disabled people in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This is called the United Kingdom.

Getting rid of **barriers** is not just good for disabled people. It is good for everyone. It will build a fair **society** and a strong **economy**.

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 can reach our target if we all work together. I believe that working together is the way we will reach our target and make it last.

The **Accessible Britain Challenge** builds on that way of working together. I hope you will be a part of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark" with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Harper MP
Minister for Disabled People

About this booklet

In July 2013 we wrote 2 booklets.

- Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – Making it happen.
- Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – Making it happen – Action Plan.



These booklets tell you about government and disabled people's groups working together to make changes.

We want to build on the success of the **Paralympic Games** that were held in London in 2012. The **Paralympic Games** helped people to think about disabled people in a good way.

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.



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.

On 3 December each year we celebrate the International Day of Disabled People. We also want to celebrate how disabled people have helped **society**.



The Minister for Disabled People has started the **Accessible Britain Challenge**. We hope everyone will work together to make our **communities** more **accessible** for all disabled people.

Devolution

Devolution

The United Kingdom is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Devolution is when some of the powers from the Government in London is handed to other governments. The other governments are the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff, the Northern Ireland Assembly in Belfast, and the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

This report and the report we wrote in July 2013 called Helping disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area – Making it happen, talk about a lot of different rules.

Some of these rules are for the whole of the country. But some rules are for England only. The governments in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland have their own rules.

Making the way we share information with disabled people better

We want to make sure that disabled people can play a full part in **society**.

To do this we must work together to make the way we share information with disabled people better.



This will mean that disabled people can get and use services in the same way as everyone else. It will also mean that people understand more about disability.

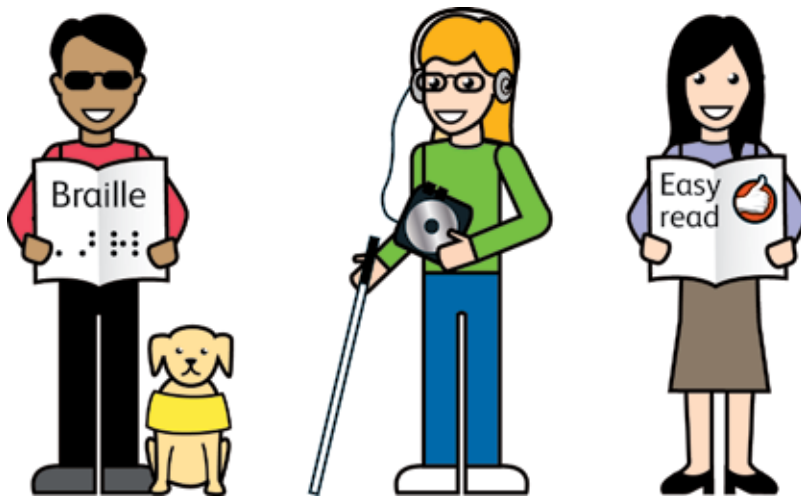
The **Department for Work and Pensions** is looking at the way it shares information and the different **formats** it uses.

Department for Work and Pensions

This is the part of government that is in charge of welfare and pensions. It does a lot of work to make sure people have enough money to live on.

Format

This means a different way of showing the information. For example, in Braille or on CD.



The **National Health Service** in England, which is also known as the **NHS**, is making a new set of rules about sharing information with disabled people.

National Health Service / NHS

This is this country's health service. It gives free healthcare to everyone. Some services, like dentists, have to be paid for, unless you get benefits when they are free.

The Government is also looking at things like **video relay services** for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

It has asked companies to look at the way they share information with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Video relay service

A **video relay service** lets people who are deaf or hard of hearing use a sign language interpreter to share information over video telephones with hearing people.

These are steps in the right direction. But we know there is still a lot to do to make sure that everyone can get, use and understand the **formats** that are used to share information.

The way people think about disabled people

The **Paralympic Games** were held in London in 2012. The **Paralympic Games** helped people to think about disabled people in a good way.

The Minister for Disabled People has been working with television companies to get them to show more television programmes with disabled people in them.

The Minister for Disabled People also wants to show more disabled people's sport on television.

The Government takes all **hate crime** very seriously. This country has strong laws that protect people from **hate crimes**.

Hate crime

This is when someone does something against the law to another person because of hate or because they are different.



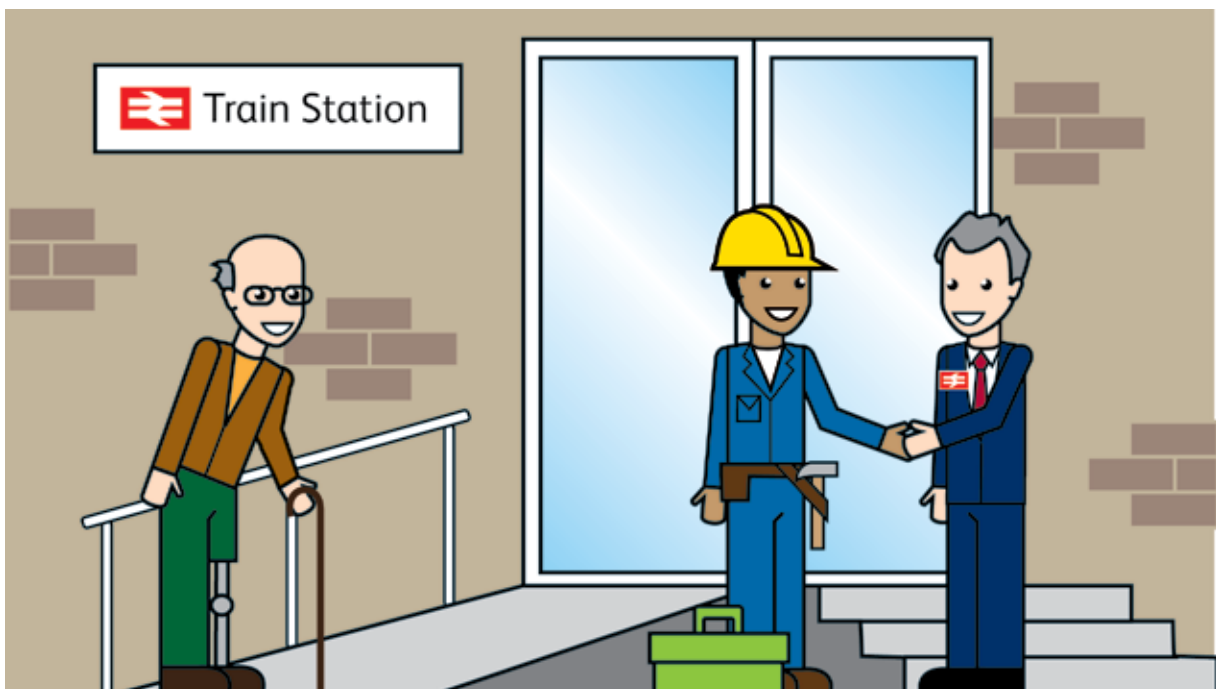
Making accessibility better

We want disabled people to fully take part in **society**, **communities**, workplaces and services. To do this, all these things need to be **accessible** to disabled people.

Railway stations

The Government has said that 42 rail stations across the country will get new step-free routes into the station and between platforms.

This will make those stations more **accessible** to disabled people and will mean that disabled people have a better time at the stations.



Buildings

All buildings, whether for work, shops or living in, need to be **accessible**.



The main groups of people who deal with building design are working together to make sure that all training courses teach people about making **accessible** buildings.

New rules for housing will make it easier to build high quality **accessible** homes that meet the needs of a wide range of people.

Most disabled people want to keep living in their own home. **Disabled Facilities Grants** let some of these people make changes to their home. The **Disabled Facilities Grant** is **means-tested**.

Disabled Facilities Grant

This is money from the local council to pay for changes to a disabled person's house. This means the disabled person can keep living at home.

Means test

This is a test to see if someone can afford to pay for the services they need.

Health services

Some disabled people may find it harder to get and use health services. This may mean that disabled people become less healthy than non-disabled people.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 is a law that says that the **National Health Service** must make health services the same for disabled people and non-disabled people.

The **National Health Service** will have to explain why they have done or not done something.

Higher education

Higher education is when you have finished at secondary school and then go to a college or university.

We have set up a group called the Accessible Universities Roundtable Group. This group will try to make getting higher education the same for everyone.

Art and culture

Culture

Culture is all the ways of life, like

- The arts. For example, paintings, plays, dance and music.
- Beliefs. These are people's religions or beliefs.
- The rules and laws of our country.

It also includes things like the ways people dress, their language, games, and the way people behave.

We are making many art and **culture** attractions and exhibitions more **accessible** for disabled people. For example, there is a theatre group that uses **British Sign Language**.

British Sign Language

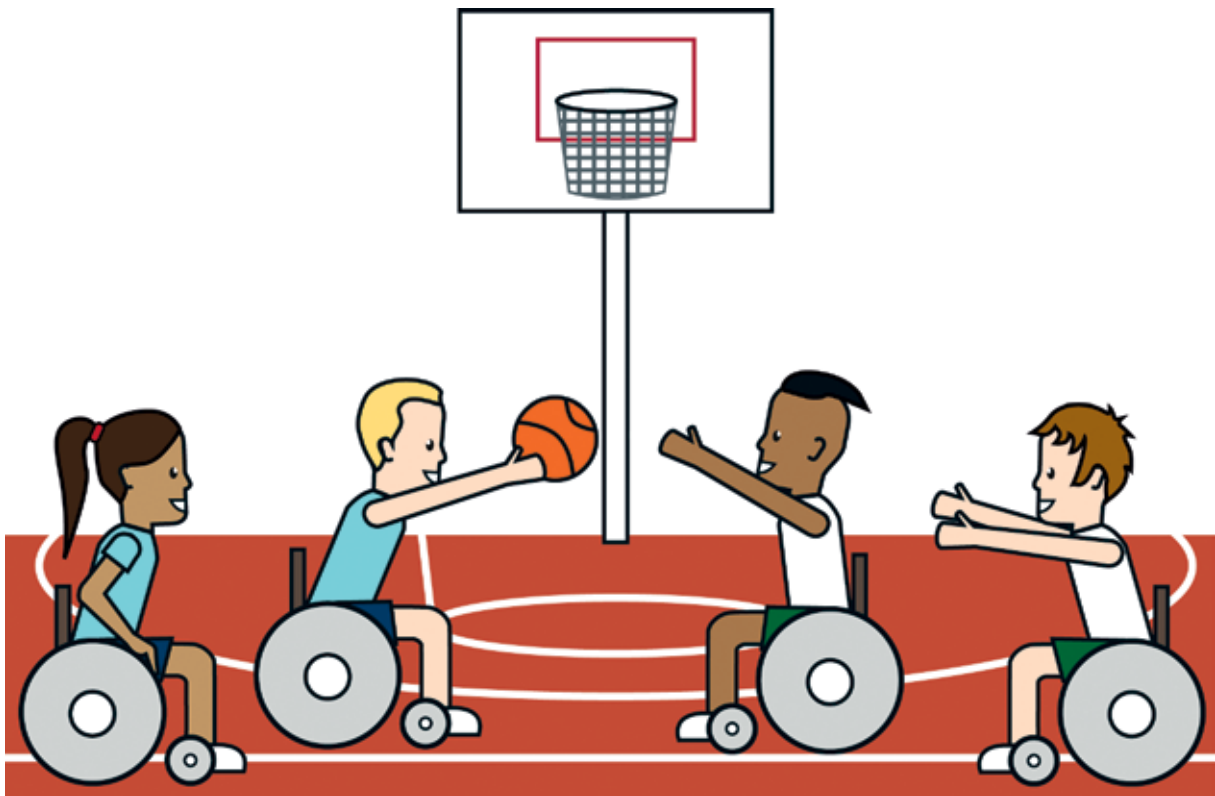
This is a language for deaf people. Instead of speaking, people use their hands to make signs that deaf people see as words. People who use it are sometimes called signers.

Sport

We know that many disabled people find it hard to get into football grounds and other places where sport is played.

In April 2014, the Minister for Disabled People wrote to all the professional football clubs. He wants them to make sure that disabled people can go to football matches at their ground.

More disabled people are playing sport than ever before. There are now 1.6 million disabled people playing sport each week. But there are still twice as many non-disabled people playing sport as disabled people.



Sport England is working with sports groups and disabled people's sports groups to get more disabled people playing sport.

Sport England

Sport England is an organisation that helps the Government by helping to develop sport in England. It also gives lottery money to sporting projects all over the country.

Giving everyone more chances to do the best they can and live full and active lives

We want a **society** in which everyone has the chance to do the best they can and live full and active lives.

Education

To do the best they can means that disabled people need an education that gets them ready for a full and active life.

A law called the Children and Families Act says that children and young people will have an **Education, Health and Care Plan**. This will stay with them all through their school life and into further education at college or university.

Education, Health and Care Plan

This is a plan for a child's education, health services, social care services and employment. It will mean everyone knows how they should help the child.

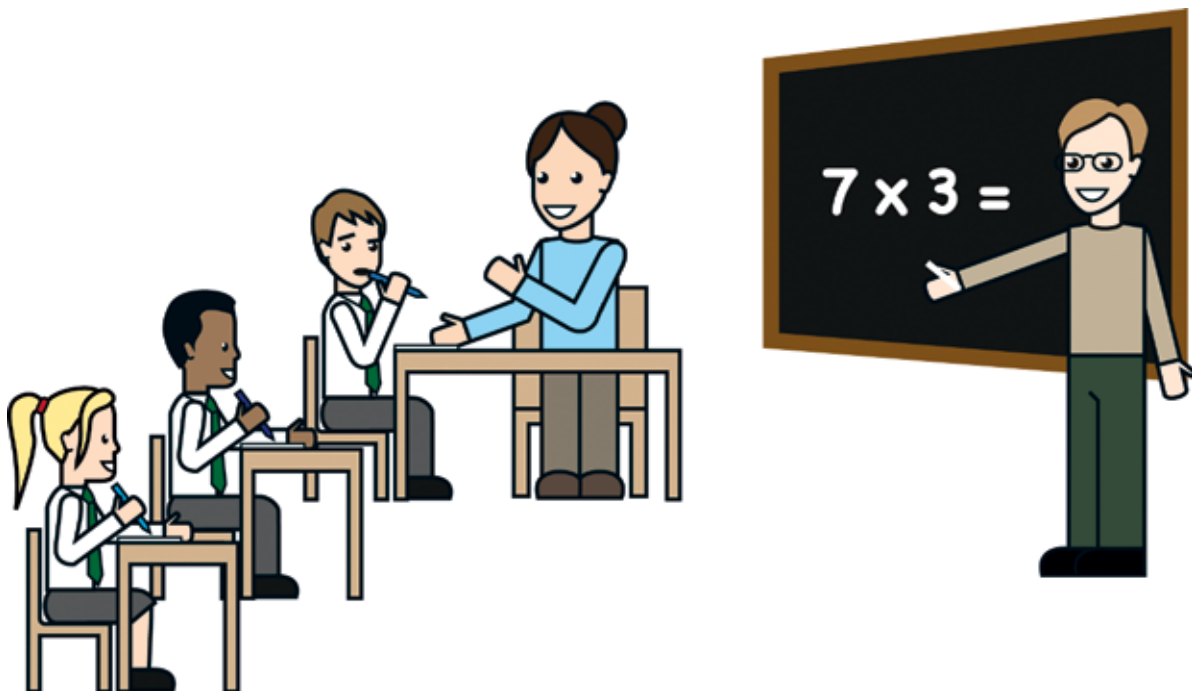
Children with **special educational needs** will also get a **local offer** from local councils.

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 be at school or college.



Local offer

The **local offer** gives information on what services children, young people and their families can expect from a range of local agencies, including education, health and social care.

We know things are getting better for disabled people at school.

A number of young people with **special educational needs** pass their exams and go on to university from school.

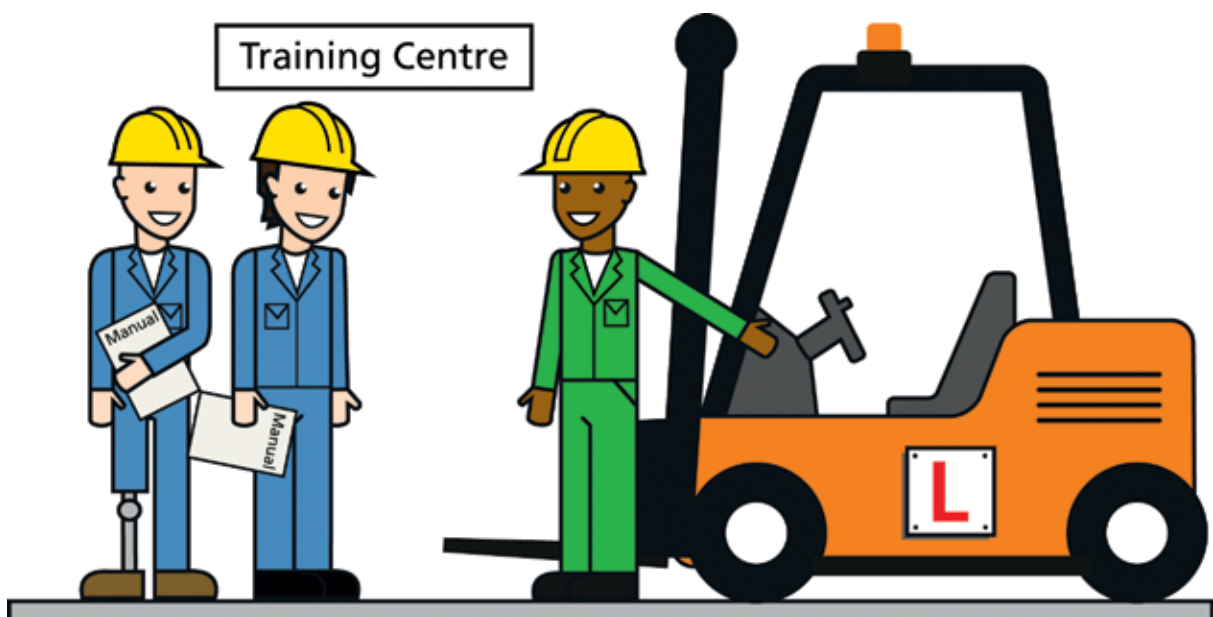
Apprenticeships

Instead of staying at school, or going to college or university, young people can start an **apprenticeship**.

Apprenticeship

An **apprenticeship** is a paid job. It involves learning new skills while you work.

Between 2004 and 2013, two times as many people with **special educational needs** finished an **apprenticeship**.



Disabled people and work

The Disability and Health Employment Strategy sets out what we want to do to help disabled people and people with health conditions find, stay in and do well in a job.

We wrote a report about this in December 2013.



The **Access to Work** scheme can help disabled people who have a job.

Access to Work

Access to Work can help pay for a support worker, or the extra costs a disabled person might have in travelling to and from work. It can also help pay for things like special computers a disabled person might need to help them do their job.

We are going to look at the **Access to Work** scheme to see if it can help and support more people without having to spend more money.

We know that a big **barrier** for disabled people who are looking for a job is the way that **employers** think and act towards disabled people.

Employer / employers

This is a person or company that pays other people to do work for them.

We want to change the way people think and act towards disabled people. We also want to show how well disabled people who have a job are doing.

Finding and sharing the best ways of working

We want to help disabled people do the best they can and take part in their local area.

This means that government, the **private sector**, disabled people's groups, the **public sector** and the **voluntary sector** need to work together and share their best ways of working.

The Government needs to lead the way and show other groups and sectors what has to be done.

The Fulfilling Potential Forum

The Fulfilling Potential Forum brings together people from 40 disability groups and disabled people's groups from all over the country.

The Minister for Disabled People and the Minister for Care and Support are in charge of this group.

The Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Disability

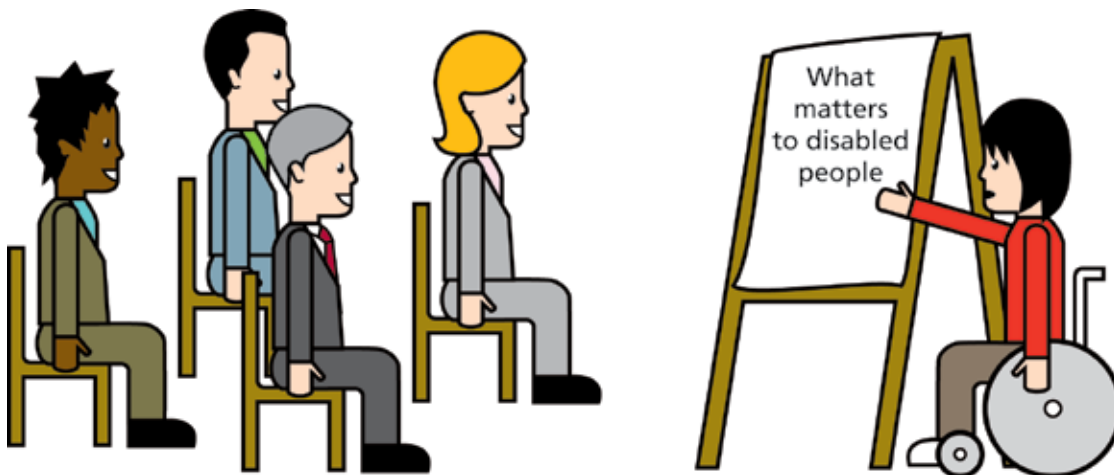
The Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Disability is a group of 14 government departments. It meets every 3 months.

This group is working to arrange support for disabled people. They also look at what other things they can do.

Disability Action Alliance

The Disability Action Alliance brings together disabled people's groups with other groups from the **public sector**, the **private sector** and the **voluntary sector**.

They work together to make changes that will make a difference to the lives of disabled people.



Making disabled people's groups stronger

There is a new programme called Strengthening Disabled People's User-Led Organisations.

This group is telling people about disabled people's groups and helping them grow.

We have 11 **ambassadors** and 6 young **ambassadors** who will help disabled people's groups across the country.

Ambassadors

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

Word list

Accessible

This means making sure everyone can use something.
For example

- a building may need a ramp up to its doors and a lift for people who use a wheelchair.
- making a CD of someone reading this book for blind people7

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The **Accessible Britain Challenge** wants **communities** to do more to get disabled people to join in and take part. It will get rid of **barriers** that stop disabled people taking a full and active part in their **community**.....6

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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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