

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

Better working with disabled people



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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About this booklet

Every 3 years the Government checks how **Equality 2025** is working.

Equality 2025

This is a group of people who tell the Government what they think. The group will help us try to get equality for disabled people by 2025.

The last check of **Equality 2025** took place in 2012.

The check found out that even though the Government still needs advice which takes account of the lives of disabled people, the advice did not need to be given by **Equality 2025**.

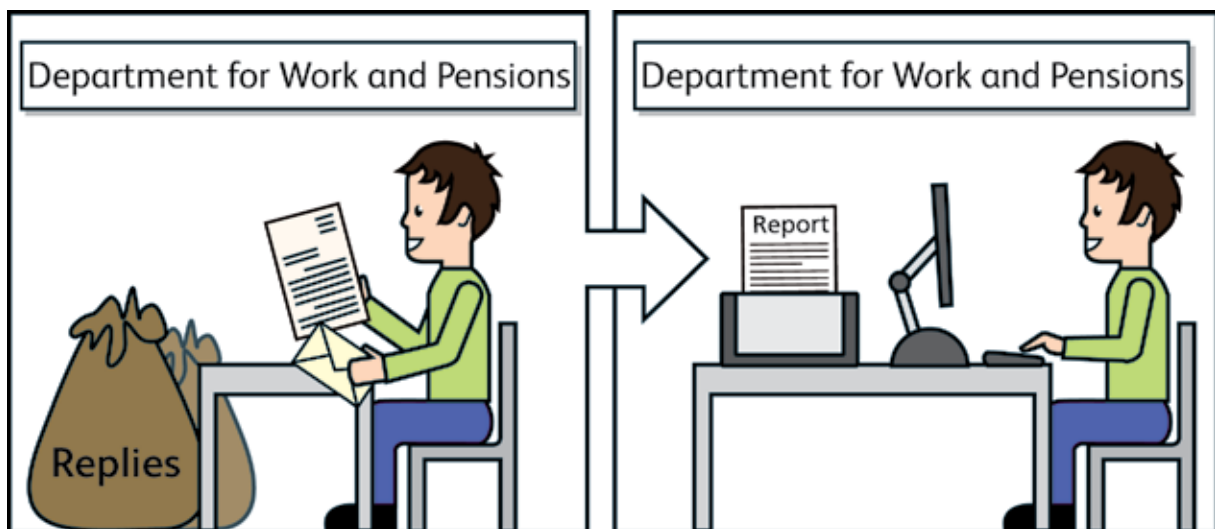
The check said that **Equality 2025** should not carry on.



We then had a **consultation**, called Better Working with Disabled People, that ran from July to October 2013.

Consultation

This is when the Government asks people what they think about its plans. They also ask people for their ideas about the best way of doing things.



Even though **Equality 2025** is closing, the Government knows these things.

- **Equality 2025** has already done a lot of good things. We will carry on that work and take it further.
- We will make sure that more disabled people have a say in what happens in Government.
- We will find out more about the lives of disabled people and the things they can do very well.



- We will work with more disabled people and disabled people's groups.

The Government will spend £80,000 a year to set up and run new ways of working.

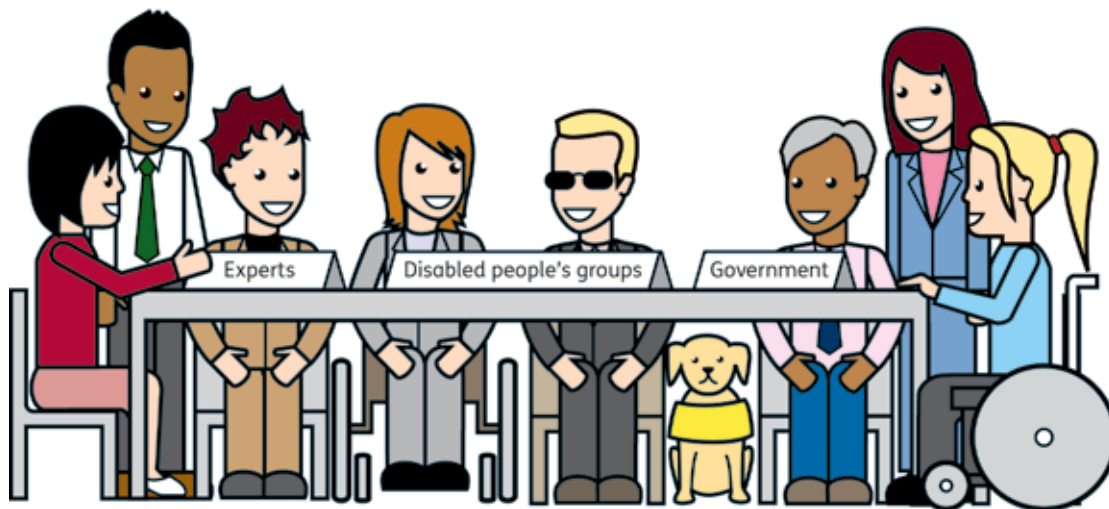
This booklet tells you about the new ways of working we are setting up.

The Fulfilling Potential Forum

We are going to set up a new group called the Fulfilling Potential Forum. This will be run by the Department for Work and Pensions, with help from the Department of Health.

The Fulfilling Potential Forum will have members from a wide range of disability groups.

The Fulfilling Potential Forum will meet 4 times a year. The Minister for Disabled People and the Minister for Care and Support will be in charge of each meeting of the Fulfilling Potential Forum.



At the meetings we will talk about what needs to be done to make things better for disabled people. The first meeting will take place in April 2014.

The Fulfilling Potential Forum will do these things.

- It will find issues that need to be looked at closely and pass them to experts on disability. The experts will talk about any new **policy** that will deal with the issue.

Policy

In this booklet, a policy is a plan, rule or course of action that the Government makes to help it reach its targets.

- It will also find things and ideas that the **Disability Action Alliance** might take forward with disabled people.

Disability Action Alliance

The **Disability Action Alliance** brings together disabled people's groups and groups from the **public sector**, the **private sector** and the **voluntary sector**. These groups will work together to do things that will make a real difference to the lives of 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 of people who want to 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.

- It will pass ideas on to other Government groups to help them with their work.

The Fulfilling Potential Forum helps the Government find out what disabled people think. It also helps disabled people find out what the Government thinks.

The ministers and Government workers who go to the forum meetings will find out what is happening in local areas. These are things they may not normally deal with.

We hope that this way of working will get disabled people who do not belong to disability groups to take part.



The Fulfilling Potential Policy Advice Service

The Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service is a group of experts on disability.

The experts will help the Government to make and set up new **policies**.

The people in Government who make **policy** and rules will be able to ask the experts for help and advice. This will also make sure that the needs of disabled people are thought about at every stage.



The Government will keep a list of the experts along with their life stories. Any Government worker who wants to ask an expert for help and advice will be able to look at each expert's life story to find the expert they need.

The help and advice that the experts give to Government will be checked to make sure it is right. This means that Government departments can be sure that the expert they choose will give them the right help and advice.

Help and advice on disability can be asked for at any time a new **policy** is being made or set up.

When a **policy** maker asks for help and advice, they will be matched to an expert who best meets their needs.

Help and advice can be given by telephone, by letter, in a face-to-face meeting or by making a working group.

The **Office for Disability Issues** will make it easy for the Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service to be used across Government.

Office for Disability Issues

This is a group of people working for the Government. They help Government workers learn more about disabled people, and they help to make things fairer for disabled people

The **Office for Disability Issues** will make sure that everyone across Government knows about the Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service.

The experts will be paid for each day they work. Also, the costs of setting up and keeping the Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service running will be met.

We think that if the Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service was moved outside the Government it would cost less money to run. This would also show people that it is independent.

We will be asking companies from the **private sector** and the **voluntary sector** to let us have their plans for running the Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service.

We think the Fulfilling Potential Forum and the Fulfilling Potential **Policy** Advice Service will give more chances to disabled people to have a say in what happens in Government. They will also get disabled people **involved** in making the **policies** that will affect them.

Involved / involving

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.



Word list

Consultation

This is when the Government asks people what they think about its plans. They also ask people for their ideas about the best way of doing things5

Disability Action Alliance

The Disability Action Alliance brings together disabled people's groups and groups from the **public sector**, the **private sector** and the **voluntary sector**. These groups will work together to do things that will make a real difference to the lives of disabled people8

Equality 2025

This is a group of people who tell the Government what they think. The group will help us try to get equality for disabled people by 20254

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 people12

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.....11

Policy

In this booklet, a policy is a plan, rule or course of action that the Government makes to help it reach its targets8

Private sector

These are businesses and groups that are run by people or groups and that make money out of their work.9

Public sector

These are groups that provide services and are run by the Government. This includes most schools, most hospitals and local councils8

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 associations9

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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

ISBN number: 978-1-78425-0430

Produced by the Office for Disability Issues

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Produced in the UK, January 2014