

International Day of People with Disabilities

Easy
Read

The Future is Accessible .

A celebration on Weds 4th December 2019

10am to 3pm

Marketplace Event

Leeds City Museum, Brodrick Hall

Easy Read Event Report



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Forum
Central

Background



On the 4th December 2019 an event was held to celebrate International Day of Disabilities Awareness Day.

The theme of the day was The Future is Accessible!

The event was organised by Forum Central, its member organisations and Leeds City Council.

The aim was to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities living in Leeds.



The event included films, performances, artwork and stalls.

Around 200 people came to the event.



There was a comfy corner and feedback space so people could write their thoughts on what it is like to have a disability in Leeds.



The event was planned in 3 months by a team of people from disability organisations in Leeds.



On the day the event was run by the planning group, Forum Central and Healthwatch volunteers.



The event was opened by Geoff Turnbull and Councillor Kevin Ritchie.



The Market Place had 35 stalls and ran from 10 - 3pm.



Disabled artists showed films, art and performed.

Accessibility



The event was planned by disabled people for disabled people.



The planning team tried to make the event as accessible as possible.



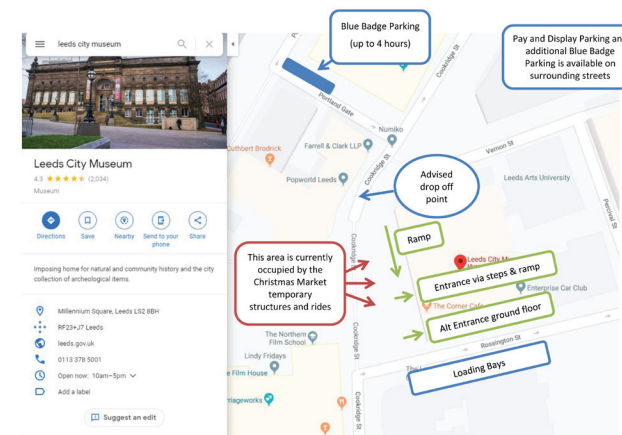
The aim was to show good practice when holding an inclusive public event.



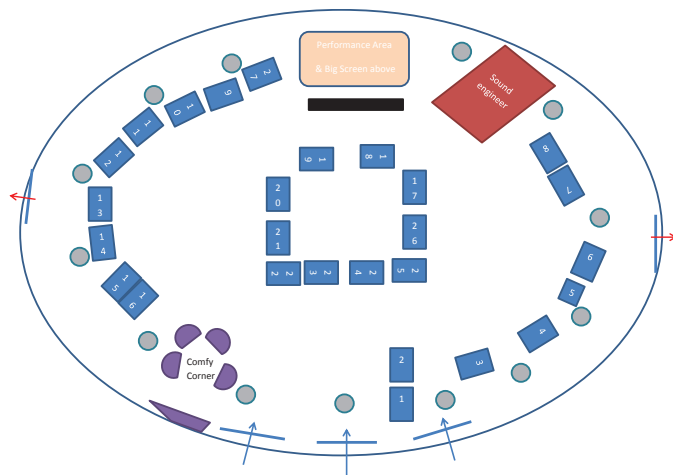
Some of the steps taken included, visual guide training - training for the event team on guiding a person with sight loss.



Visual guides were available on the day if needed.



Maps showing accessibility to the event and accessible maps of the event.



Accessibility was thought about when making the floor plan of the event.



Please put your event feedback forms in here

Accessible Signs were put up around the event.



BSL interpreters translated the performances and films.



All the films had subtitles and some had audio description.



An autism friendly hour between 2 and 3pm.



A break out room and quiet space.

Feedback Tree

“Accessible future = diverse future. People are heard, respected, treated as people. Stronger communities too!”

“Disabled people face many avoidable and discriminating barriers to participation”

“I wish more shops, groups and places were more wheelchair accessible”

“All services for disabled people should be led by disabled people”

“It needs to be remembered that not all disabilities are visible”

“There is too much reliance on families to be carers. What is a lone-person to do?”

“More dropped kerbs for wheelchairs and supporting people with disabilities”

“Easy access to medical centres. Long waits are hard for our members. Information isn't always clear”

“In Leeds now there are more ways for people with a learning or physical disability to go to groups and socialise”

“There is a lack of role models. Artists with a learning disability with a high profile. To inspire people to get involved”



There was a space to leave thoughts about what it is like to live with a disability in Leeds.

Three questions were asked:

1. What does an accessible future in Leeds look like?
2. What are the barriers and challenges?
3. What could be done?

Event Feedback



People were asked their thoughts on the event using forms and a post box.



They were asked how good they thought the event was and how accessible they thought it was.



People were also asked how they found out about the event.



Most people found out about the event by email or by word of mouth.

Social Media and Advertising

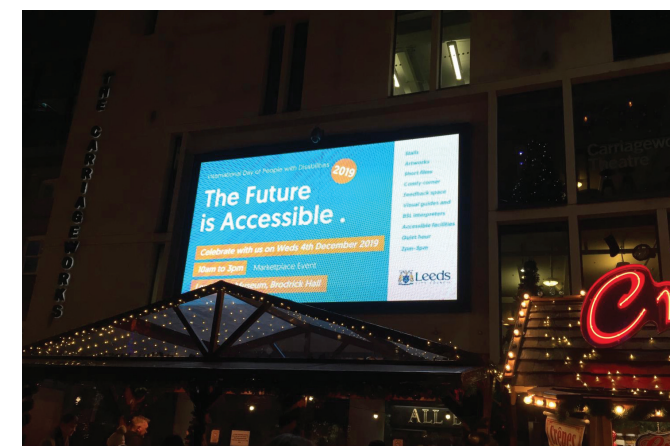


The event was promoted widely using, email, websites, posters, bulletin and social media.

An event was created on Facebook which a lot of people saw.



Postcards were made and put in public places and posters put up around the city.



The event was advertised on the Big Screen in Millenium Square.

Learning



What was learnt from the holding the event is included below:

The Celebratory feel was very popular and welcomed. The Performances were very popular.



People really enjoyed the opportunity to be social.

1

Stall holders need to stay until the end. Packing up created noise during the quiet hour.

2

Some organisations found it hard to bring together celebratory material.

3

There were some issues with accessibility to the building because it is listed.

4

More rooms are needed to show films to provide the right space for the audio.

5

Autism should be better represented in the planning group.

6

Work closely with deaf groups and organisations in the city to promote the event to the community.

7

Earlier planning will allow wider promotion of the event to attract more people.

8

Disabled parking nearby is an issue which stopped some people from attending.

What next?

1

A celebratory event for 2020 will be planned.

2

The planning group will be bigger to include people who are profoundly deaf and people with autism.

3

There is opportunity to influence the layout of public events to make them more accessible.

4

An opportunity to develop an accessible events guide.

5

Potential for the city to host specifically for: The Deaf Community, Autism Friendly focus, A disability arts and creativity event or festival.

Report by Karen Fenton,
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February 2020



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