

International Day of People with Disabilities

2019

The Future is Accessible .

A celebration on Weds 4th December 2019

10am to 3pm

Marketplace Event

Leeds City Museum, Brodrick Hall

Event Report



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Forum
Central



Background

International Day of People with Disabilities is an annual awareness day. In 2019 this was on the 3rd December and our event the following day. The years International Theme was ***The Future is Accessible***. Forum Central, in partnership with LCC and our member organisations, held an event to bring people together with the aim of celebrating the achievements of people with Disabilities in Leeds.

The event gave organisations and individuals the opportunity to showcase and celebrate. It included films, performances, artwork and stalls. There was a 'comfy corner', to encourage people to stay awhile and socialise with others and a creative feedback space, with a message tree and post box where people could write comments and thoughts: both on the event itself and wider thoughts on what it's like to be a person with a disability living in Leeds.

Around 200 people came to Leeds City Museum to the event in the Brodrick Hall, which was provided without charge by the museums team, along with complimentary drinks and cakes available throughout the day.



The event was planned in 3 months by a core group made up of representatives from organisations supporting people with a wide range of impairments, both sensory and physical as well as learning disabilities and autism as detailed below. On the day, the event team was made up of members of the planning group, wider Forum Central team support and 6 Healthwatch Leeds volunteers.

Forum Central - Psi-Volition
Forum Central - Tenfold
Leeds Disabled Peoples Organisation
LCC Museums & Galleries
Advonet & Leeds Involving People
DeafBlind UK
Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service
Healthwatch Leeds



The event was opened by Geoff Turnbull, from the Disabilities Hub and Communities Team, which commissioned Forum Central to lead on the event and Councillor Kevin Ritchie, Disability Champion for Leeds City Council.



There was a marketplace with 35 stalls from both individuals and supporting organisations. It took place from 10am till 3pm. Exhibitors were:

Association of Blind Asians	Leeds City Museums
Active Leeds and Ping Pong 4U	Leeds Directory
Leeds Autism Aim	Leeds Disabled Peoples Organisation
LCC Adult Social Care Hubs	Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service
Barca Leeds	Leeds United Community Foundation
Care and Repair	Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service –Deaf Connect, Support Group and Dial House
Carers Leeds	People in Action
Catholic Care	People Matters (West Yorkshire) CIO
DeafBlind UK	PHAB Leeds
Different Strokes	Pyramid of Arts
Equalities Assembly - Disability Hub	RNIB
Forum Central	St Anne's
Healthwatch Leeds	The Bridge Project
I can Exercise	Through the Maze
Kirsty Ramsay-Hogan	Time to Shine
Leeds CIL	Vickie Orton
West Leeds Activity Centre	Advonet – Deaf Advocacy

Films and art by Disabled artists was shown on the big screen with live performances every half hour. Members of the People in Action's PAI Presents group entertained with dances, singers and guitar solos, which were highly praised and appreciated by those who fed back.



Films and art on screen	
Swift Film	SWIFT - Supporting Wellbeing & Independence for Frailty
Healthwatch – Visual Impairments Film	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqatXdcgCjA
Leeds Hearing & Sight Loss Service	https://www.bid.org.uk/hearing-impairment-menu/leeds-hearing-and-sight-loss-service
Leep 1 Leeds People First	https://leep1.co.uk/

Kirsty Ramsey-Hogan – Deaf Advise, What’s the Assumption and Disrepped	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y_9AlcgfMQ&feature=emb_title
Performance Artists	Via People in Actions, PIA Presents Project
Francis Henry	Dancer
Jenny Robinson	Singer
Chris Stewart	Singer
Callum	Singer and Guitar Soloist

Accessibility

Throughout the planning there was a focus on accessibility. It was an event organised by disabled people, for disabled people which aimed to set a ‘new norm’ standard and good practise example of steps to take when organising an inclusive public event.

Steps taken included:

- ✓ Visual Guide Training. 15 members of the event team were given complementary, introductory training on guiding a person with sight loss. Provided by Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service and DeafBlind UK.
- ✓ Visual guides were available on the day wearing high visibility jackets to be easily identifiable.
- ✓ Detailed external maps showing temporary obstructions from the markets, drop off points, ramp and lower level access and disabled parking spaces were circulated widely.
- ✓ A map of the room was circulated showing routes, layout and exits.
- ✓ Wheelchair access and room to move around was considered when planning stall layout.
- ✓ Clear Signage was displayed throughout.
- ✓ The venue has ramps, lift access, museum stewards on the doors, disabled toilets and a changing places facility.



- ✓ Event team were fully briefed and had an information pack each.
- ✓ Dedicated meet and greet desk, offering welcome and support.
- ✓ 2 fully qualified BSL interpreters were available and to translate performances.
- ✓ All films shown had subtitles. Some had audio description.

- ✓ An autism friendly hour between 2-3pm, with lowered light and reduced noise levels.
- ✓ A break-out room as a quiet space was identified.
- ✓ Exhibitor packs for attendees clearly stated all of the above and included guides on Communication tips for talking to people with visual impairments, people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people with autism.
- ✓ We worked with the event team from Millennium Square in advance to ensure Stewards working the Christmas Markets that day were also briefed.

Feedback Tree

There was a creative feedback space, where attendees were encouraged to leave their thoughts about what it's like to live in Leeds as a person with disabilities.

People were free to leave general comments on this subject, though were also prompted by the following questions on display:

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



Feedback received was as follows:

1. What does an accessible future in Leeds look like?

More info on Radio, TV and Buses
I wish more shops, groups and places were more wheelchair accessible
All services for disabled people should be led by disabled people
Accessible future = diverse future. People are heard, respected, treated as people. Stronger communities too!
Improved Transport links

2. What are the barriers and challenges?

Bus changes to Leeds due to roadworks
Not enough wheelchair space on buses
Bullying
I am not allowed to watch the end of the football match because my support worker has to finish his shift on time
Too many shops not wheelchair accessible
Disabled people face many avoidable and discriminating barriers to participation
It needs to be remembered that not all disabilities are visible

People think that I'm too young/not sick enough to need my mobility scooter
There is too much reliance on families to be carers. What is a lone-person to do?
Bus drivers could be kinder-sometimes they are grumpy about putting the ramp out, especially for people who use walkers

3.What could be done?

More dropped kerbs and banning cars parking on dropped kerbs
More dropped kerbs in rural areas
Stop Uber taxis from using disabled spaces to pick up passengers
More accessible toilets in Leeds
More dropped kerbs for wheelchairs and supporting people with disabilities
Have more room for disabled people on buses
A decent bench needed at every bus stop
I want more protests about bullying
I want more things to happen for those who can't have children
Disabled people want to lend tech equipment through equipment services (where you get wheelchairs etc)
There is a lack of role models. Artists with a learning disability with a high profile. To inspire people to get involved
Easy access to medical centres. Long waits are hard for our members. Information isn't always clear
People should stop littering because it's bad for the environment and could kill animals as well
More larger, accessible taxis that accommodate large wheelchairs are needed to enable people to get out and about

3. Positive comments

Leeds is diverse and disability friendly
Supportive people and groups
New groups rock!
In Leeds now there are more ways for people with a learning or physical disability to go to groups and socialise
Lots of charities and good MP's in Leeds to offer support



Event Feedback

Attendees were invited to leave their feedback on the event using forms and a post-box for anonymous comments. We asked the following, with responses:



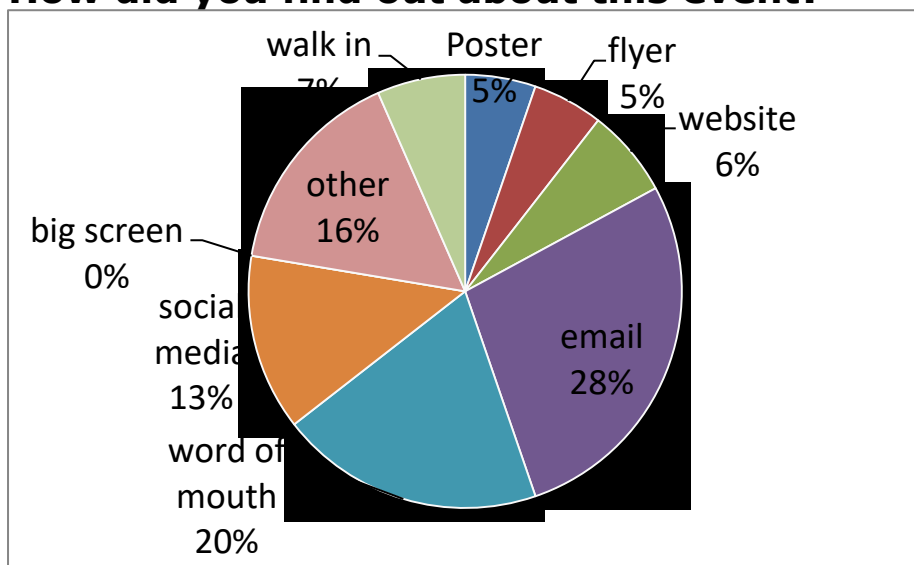
How do you rate this event?



Was the event accessible enough for you?



How did you find out about this event?



Social Media and Advertising

The event was promoted widely using, email, websites, posters, bulletin and social media via Forum Central, the LCC Disability Hub, member and partner organisations.

An event was created on Facebook to promote, which reached 3,320 people with a targeted advert.

Postcards were made, displayed and distributed in public spaces including the Civic Hall, Town Hall, Leeds Central Library, Merrion Centre hub, The Old Fire Station and The Vinery Centre.

The event was displayed on the big screen in Millennium Square on the content loop, twice hourly between 9am and 10pm for 3 weeks prior.

There were 50 x A3 posters displayed on the lightbox drums in the city for 2 weeks leading up to the event.

Key Themes and Learning

Key learning from the event was as follows. This includes feedback received during the event verbally, from feedback forms and debrief conversations.

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

" Performances were very good"

" Positive promotion of local talent"

- People really enjoyed the opportunity to be social. For conversations, the comfy corner, networking, making connections and find out about activities going on in the city.

"Lots of interesting people to talk to"





"Very welcoming"

"I love how many new groups you find out about at events like these"

"Good opportunity to network with organisations we wouldn't usually see"

- Exhibitors need to give prior commit to remaining till the event end time. There was some activity from 2.30pm which meant the quiet hour was interrupted.
- Organisations reflected that they found it difficult to bring together celebratory material for display. Highlighting an opportunity for organisations to be able to promote good practise and achievements creatively and outside usual of reporting and monitoring requirements.

- The city museum is a listed building with some constraints for access. Some handrails were inadequate and there was no ramp to the stage so unsuitable for use. These comments have been fed back to the management at the museum.

- Further rooms were needed to best showcase films and allow additional break out space.

"Audio difficult in places".

- Ensure the needs of people with autism are better met.



Representatives from The Advonet Autism AIM project have committed to joining future planning groups.

- Work closely with deaf groups and organisations in the city to promote the event to the community. Utilise videos and social media.

"More promotion for deaf people, advertise with videos and use social media"

- When planning future events, earlier planning will allow wider promotion of the event to attract more people.

"Set aside more time to plan the event"

- Disabled parking nearby is an issue which stopped some people from attending. In particular rear entry spaces, as the closest are side-by-side. Discussions are taking place with colleagues in the council about protecting some space at the Civic Hall for disabled parking next year.

What Next?

- Another celebratory event for 2020 will be planned. With wider emphasis on both the skills and talents of people with disabilities.

"Keep it going and keep expanding on how many people come"



"I loved it, everything, and all the different services available in the community"

- The planning group will expand to include expertise and knowledge of the accessible and communication needs of people who are profoundly deaf and people with autism.

"have set quiet spaces"

- Opportunities to explore further collaborative work with the Leeds City Council Millennium Square Events Team utilising contacts made. Potential to influence future layout of public events to be more accessible and inclusively focused.
- All key themes and learning will be taken to the relevant strategic groups of influence for feedback and discussion.
- Explore an opportunity to create an Accessible events guide. Utilising learning from the event.
- Scope out with partners the potential for the city to host suggested events specifically for: The Deaf Community, Autism Friendly focus, A disability arts and creativity event or festival.



Report by Karen Fenton, Development Worker for the Physical & Sensory Impairment and Mental Health Networks, PSI-Volition, Forum Central

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