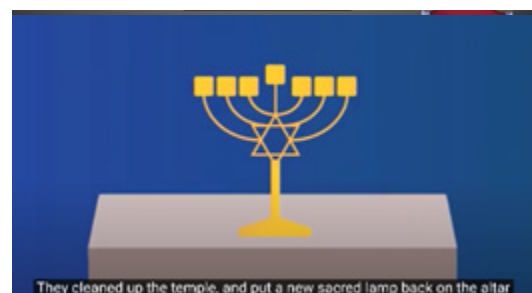
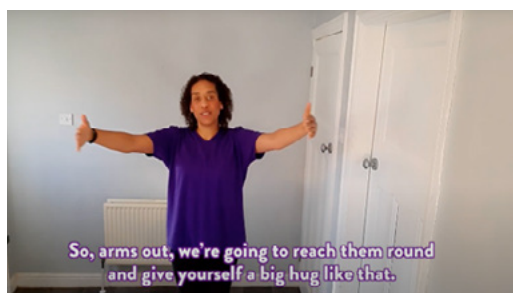
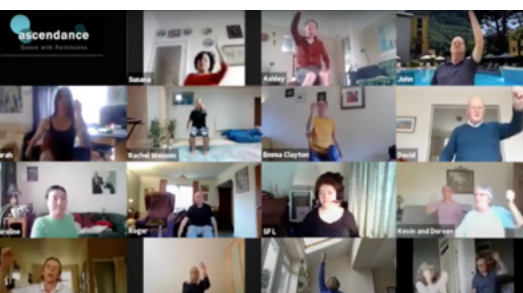
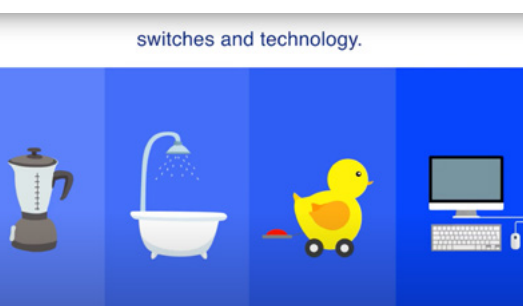




International Day of Disabled People, Leeds For All 1st December 2020 - 4th December 2020

Easy Read Event Report Created by William Merritt Centre & Forum Central



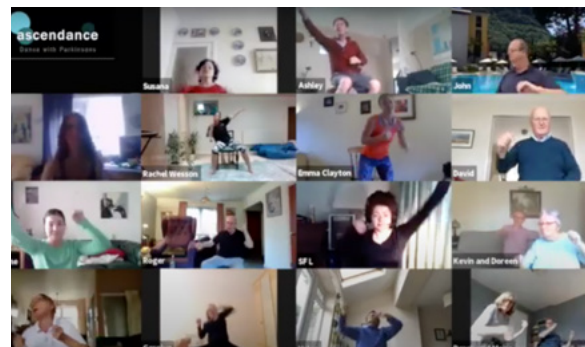
Background



International Day of Disabled People (IDODP) happens every year around the world to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities.



We would usually have an event to celebrate the day in Leeds. Last year we did this at Leeds City Museum.

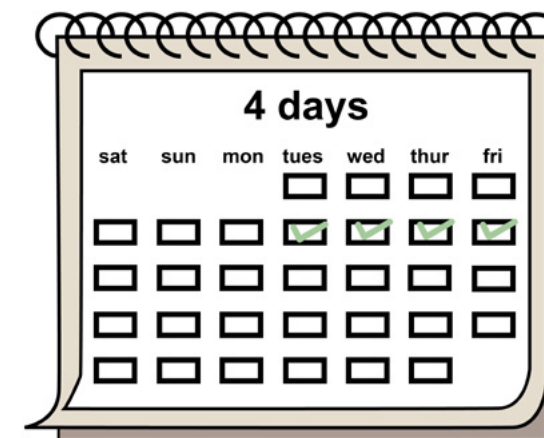


Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we weren't able to meet face to face.



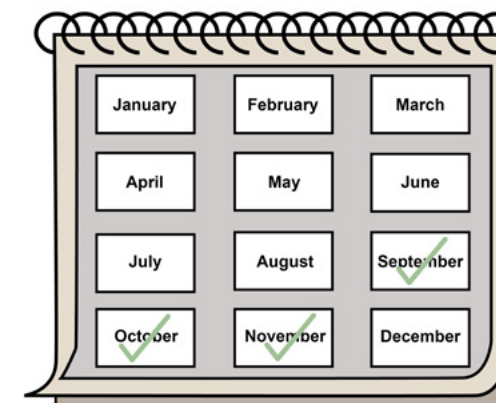
We organised lots of online events to celebrate instead and help people get connected from their homes.

4 days



The events took place from Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th December and were called Leeds for All.

3 months



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

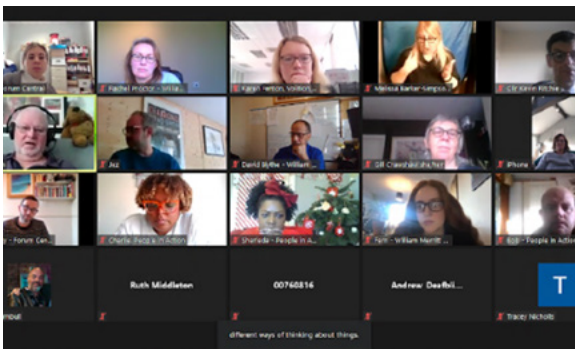


Leeds City Council supported the events.

Activities and Events



Leeds for All was made up of events and activities which took place online using zoom, youtube and facebook. There were films, performances, workshops and exhibitions.



The celebration was opened by Geoff Turnbull and Councillor Kevin Ritchie from Leeds City Council.

event



300 people came to the live events and over 1,000 people watched our films, activities and workshops on YouTube.



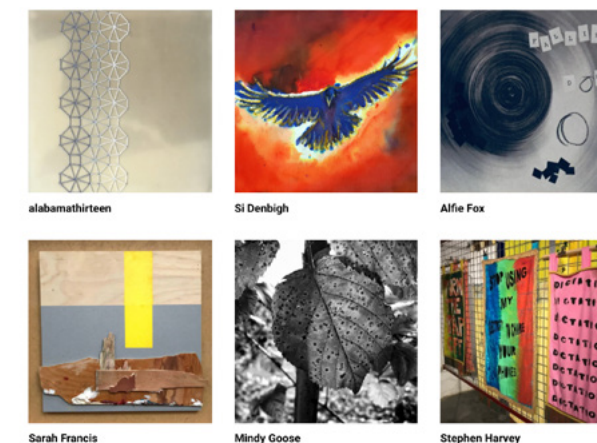
You can watch some of the live and recorded sessions by following the link below:

[Live and recorded sessions](#)



There were also some celebrations from other organisations for example an online exhibition by disabled artists called Possible All Along. You can look at the artwork by following the link below:

[Possible All Along](#)



Accessibility

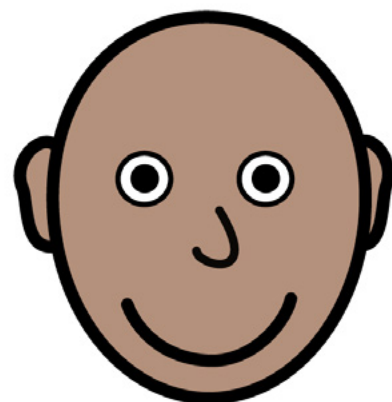


The event was planned by disabled people for disabled people.



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

good



The aim was to show good practice when holding an event that was online and included everybody.

This was done by:

1

Making a programme of events that could be used with screen readers and autistic people.

2

Making the programme in plain text, braille and with audio description versions.

3

Adding subtitles and British Sign Language to lots of the events and videos.

4

Asking people for their accessibility needs when they booked an event.

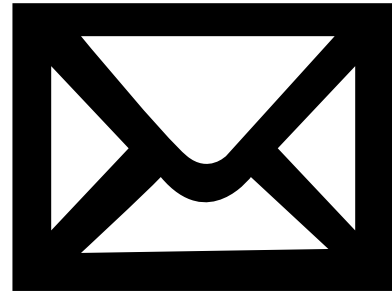
5

Giving support with technology to people who took part in the events.

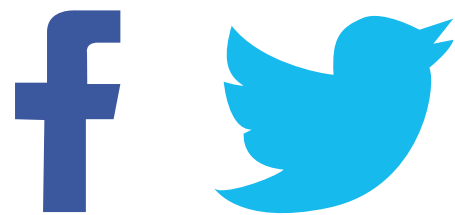
6

Giving people who hosted sessions a guide on how to talk to people with visual impairments, people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people with autism.

Social Media and Advertising



The event was promoted widely using email, websites and bulletins.



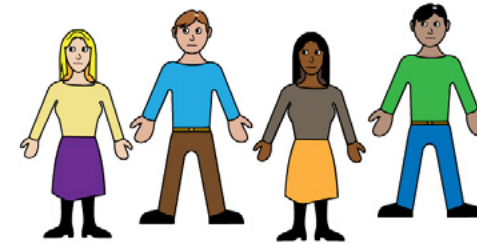
We also used social media to get in touch with people as we couldn't use posters and printed materials like we usually would.

lots of people



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

118,034 people



In total we reached 118,034 people across our social media channels.



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

Leeds For All will showcase disabled people's achievements

A virtual celebration of disabled people and their achievements will be held in Leeds next month as part of a global event.

By Charlie Bullough

Tuesday, 20th November 2023, 4:45 pm



Volition's Karen Fenton, second left, and Phil Gleeson, centre, with some members of the planning group. Pictures: Paula Saloway.

An article was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post. Read the article by following the link below:
[Yorkshire Evening Post](#)

Feedback

People told us what they thought of the events:

“Please do more, this community has been extremely isolated under covid-19, events like these help them reach each other”

“It was as accessible as it could be, given the circumstances”

“It was very informative but had a relaxed atmosphere which was nice”

“Amazing. The speakers were fantastic and so inspirational”

“Great mix of events, something for everyone”

“Loved all the events – wish I could have given them more support and spotlight”

survey



They were also asked to fill out a survey. Most people gave the event a high score and said they would recommend it to their family and friends.



People also said the event was accessible for people with additional needs.

Discussions

3 3 sessions

There were three sessions where people were able to come along and tell us their thoughts.

These were on:

Employment event:

Forum Central held an event with Scope and Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) in Leeds about the difficulties disabled people have when they are looking for a job. Ella shared her journey of looking for a job by writing and reading a poem. You can listen to the poem by following the link below:

[Ella's Employment Poem](#)



Leeds For All 2020



Accessibility of Public Spaces



Our Spaces adopted March 2020



Accessibility of Public Spaces: Forum Central, Leeds Involving People and people working in transport and access in Leeds organised this session. It included a tour of the current changes happening in the city and how people can help by sharing their views.

Strategies for Activism:

Leeds Disabled People's Organisation organised an event which was about the ways the Disabled People's Movement can support disabled people, especially after the coronavirus pandemic.

The Disabled People's Movement says that disability is caused by society and not by disabled people themselves.

You can watch the event by clicking the link below:

[Strategies for Activism](#)

What next?

- Will shift to "everything online" be permanent?
 - Probably not: people are anxious for human contact
 - Need to keep accessibility improvements for home working etc.
- Newly disabled through COVID need support & solidarity
- Resources & money (austerity!) being tight, we need to work together & become visible – opportunities for better ME/CFS, Brain Injury and Cardiovascular condition support
- Need to continue to push against damaging policies



Key issues facing disabled people

- Austerity – COVID economic damage as a cover for more
- BLM & Wider issues of intersectionality
- Brexit & Human Rights in the UK (eg UN Investigation into UK treatment of Disabled People)
- "Long COVID" = Chronic Fatigue, Brain Damage, Cardiovascular Disease more disabled people – could this be positive for actions?
- Impact of COVID & everything online



Money



free of charge



90 pound



Forum Central and the William Merritt Centre helped to organise and run the event. Money from Leeds City Council's Disability Hub and Ward Councillors helped the events to happen.

Lots of people also gave their time for free which was very kind and appreciated.

The events cost £90 each which is good value for money.

What Next?

We were able to connect with and entertain a lot of people across Leeds. We want to continue to do this throughout the year.

We would like to:

1

Hold regular Leeds for All events across the year.

2

Make sure people can easily share feedback from sessions with us and help to design them.

3

Use learnings from the events with the people we work with.

4

Help more people to take part in our events and work with us.

5

Meet with people online and face to face to celebrate International Day of Disabled People in December 2021.

To do this we will need to:

1

Make sure that the people who run the events are able to contact the people who join them so they can work together

2

Show events live on Facebook as well as Zoom

3

Send an agenda for the events to the people who are joining before the meeting so they can read through the information and be prepared.

4

Make the events even more accessible.

5

Ask people what they would like the events to be about.

6

Spend more time planning for the events.