



Easy
Read

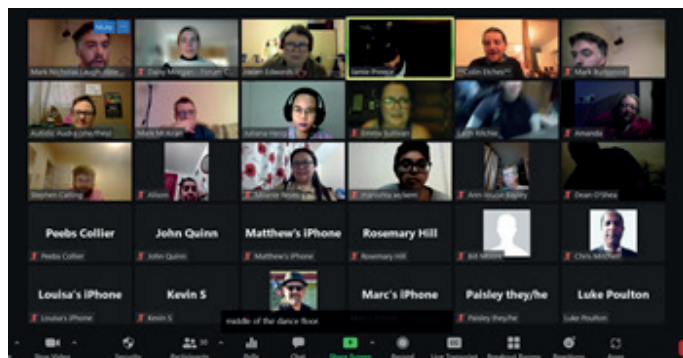
Leeds For All

International Day of Disabled People 2021

Easy Read Event Report



Background



International Day of Disabled People happens every year on the 3 December to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities.

At Leeds for All - International Day of Disabled People 2021, the theme was “Leeds for All -Recovery from Covid -19”

Forum Central and the Leeds for All working group presented a week of events put on by organisations across Leeds starting on Monday 29 November.

In 2020, due to Covid-19, the event was held online. In 2021 the event was going to be face to face but 48 hours before the start the event was moved online to keep people safe.



The working group is made up of Leeds City Council, Anchor Organisations (a group of the city’s largest public sector employers), and Forum Central members.

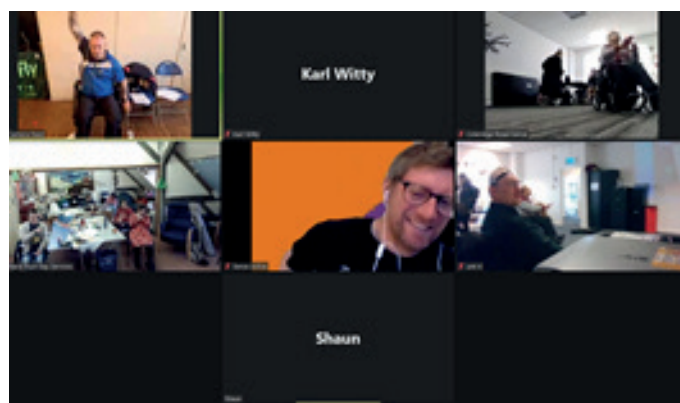
Following the event Forum Central has had interest from new small and voluntary led third sector organisations to join the membership.

Leeds City Museum has also set up an Accessibility Group to look at inclusivity and accessibility at the museum and the permanent exhibitions since the event

Events and Activities



The week of events ran from Monday 29 November to Thursday 2 December throughout the City of Leeds, with a celebratory event on 3 December at Leeds City Museum.



Events and activities were either online, in person or both.

[The full easy read programme of the events is available here.](#)



242

242 people were at the events and activities from Monday 29 November to Thursday 2 December.

All the events had either a BSL interpreter and/or closed captioning that provided subtitles. People were asked for their accessibility needs.



37



The event on the 3 December was hosted on Zoom all day and live streamed on Facebook. An average of 37 people joined each of the sessions on the day.



The Brodrick Hall at Leeds City Museum was set up as a recording studio with live streaming equipment and camera to record the event, speakers and live performances.



The format of the event on the 3rd was changed in two days, a huge achievement by the partners involved.



Adam Douglas from Leeds City Council hosted the event on the 3 December.



Cllr Kevin Ritchie, Disability Champion and Lead member for the Leeds Disability Hub and Geoff Turnbull, Leeds City Council, Safer and Stronger Communities spoke at the event.



The event was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Asghar Khan.



There were performances by People in Action, Leeds Talent 2021.



Ella Frances Sanderson shared her poetry on her Asperger's, inspiring people with difficulty not to give up on life.



There was a dance performance by members of the Northern Ballet's Ability Performance.



The event was closed by Cllr James Lewis - Leader of Leeds City Council.

Below are links to three sets of videos taken from the week of the events:

1

Videos taken from the event on 3 December

[Click here to Play Videos](#)

2

Videos taken from the events 29 November to 3 December

[Click here to Play Videos](#)

3

Interviews recorded by Marvina Newton

[Click here to Play Videos](#)

The marketplace event was held online and exhibitors were asked to do a presentation of their services over Zoom or via a slide show compiled of pre recorded content. The original marketplace had 38 exhibitors:

Climate Action Leeds	Disability Hub - LCC
Leeds City Museum	City Plan - LCC
Connecting Leeds	Leonard Cheshire
Leeds Phab Club	Leeds Involving People
Healthwatch Leeds	Luv2meetU
Age UK Leeds – Digital Wellbeing Service	Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service
Physical Impairment & Older Persons Day@ Holt Park	SJOG- Terry Yorath House
Ping Pong 4U/Active Leeds	Through the Maze
The Advonet Group	William Merritt Centre
FDM - For Disability Mobility	Leeds Cancer Awareness
Carers Leeds	Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service
Dial Leeds	Care & Repair
Ascendance	Microlink pc
ABA	RNIB
Linking Leeds	DeafBlind UK
Feel Good Factor	Aspire CBS
People in Action	Deaf Women’s Society
Deaf Ex Mainstreamers	Leeds Society for Deaf & Blind People
Openspace	Dream CIO

Accessibility



The events were organised by disabled people, for disabled people setting standards and made as accessible as possible.



Visual Guide Training was provided to 13 members of the event team by Leeds Hearing & Sight Loss Service.



Exhibitor packs for attendees included guides on Communication tips for talking to people with visual impairments, people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people with autism.



BSL interpreters were available to translate at the celebratory event on the 3 Dec.



The event programme was available in a variety of formats:

[Easy read](#)

[Audio / BSL programme](#)

[PDF programme](#)

[Text programme with links](#)

[Plain text programme](#)

Budget and Support



Members Improvements in the Community and the Environment Grants (MICE), Leeds Safer and Stronger Communities, Leeds City Museum and The Equalities Team part funded the event.



Volition, Forum Central team, William Merritt Centre, members of the Physical and Sensory Impairment Network and Disability and Wellbeing Network supported the event.

Audience

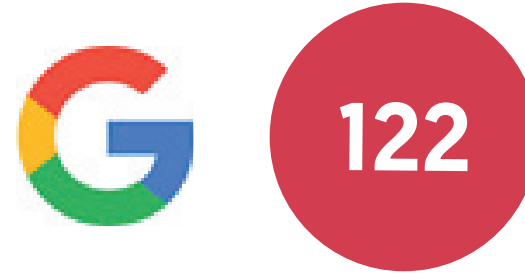


The event was promoted widely using email, websites, posters, bulletin and social media via our member and partner organisations.

We reached over half a million people on social media.

The Facebook event reached 6,206 people. The paid Facebook advert reached 6,775 people.

The Hashtag - #LeedsForAll had 288 mentions and reached 506.5k on the day.



The Google profile showed 122 views.

Feedback



Illustrator Tom Bailey captured visual minutes during the event. [You can see what Tom created here.](#)



People heard about the event in different ways, e.g. social media, and word of mouth.



Everyone who filled out the form said the events were accessible.

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Karen huge congratulations to everyone involved for changing this to online so quickly

Amazing switch up!

Absolutely amazing so quickly!

This is amazing and the sound and visuals are fabulous! Can this be shared more widely it is really awe inspiring

Such amazing work is being carried out by all these organisations

Making this event happen today despite the many challenges is a powerful symbol of strength and resilience.

The Myforumcentral team have done a brilliant job taking today's International day of Disabled People event online in such a short timeframe.

Congratulations to you and the team on managing to turn the event into a virtual one and pull it off brilliantly at such short notice! You all did an amazing job and the dancers loved being part of it.

The work being done here by all of these organisations is incredible!

well done everyone on this event so far, jam packed with amazing performances - dancing, stories, poetry - in less than 30mins. Thankyou

Thank you for an informative and enjoyable event. Many thanks to all who organised and contributed to the day. Much appreciated.

Excited to see what today brings. Well done to everyone involved. It's not an easy time to plan events!

A real hands on deck situation, a massive learning moment and a real achievement!

Fantastic performances from everyone. Real talent!

very moving and important to share memories of people

I think you've done an amazing job of changing this to a Zoom event at such short notice

such brilliant presentations this afternoon!

Great event-thanks everyone for organising



Below are some of the reasons why people took part in the day.

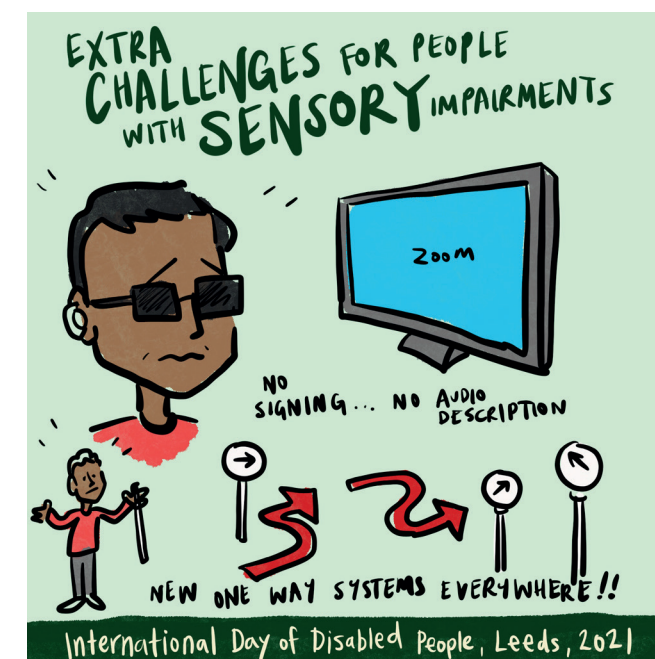
Great to see what brilliant work people are doing across the community



Improve understanding of the experiences of autistic people.



I am still very much learning how my condition affects me, despite being 3 years diagnosed, so any additional insight would be a boost.



Below are some suggestions people gave on how the sessions could be improved.

i think BSL interpreter should be on every sessions.



The video for the main hall events was blur but understand it wasn't possible, hope if online again, look at camera options??



Advertising it to the wider community. Get it on what's on in Leeds and student publications.



Other comments from attendees:

The panel was excellent and the meeting was well organised and chaired.



Everyone did well to get the marketplace online in such a short space of time because of COVID restrictions.



Very informative. Lots of ideas and things to think about e.g. accessibility, confidence and independence.



Some feedback from the Working Group.

A great learning exercise for working on digital platform for live broadcasting a large scale public event.



The event encouraged collaborative and partnership working.



Exhibitors wanted more time for the online marketplace but were limited due to other events on zoom.

Learning

1 Look at safety if public broadcasting to stop hackers.

2 Look at what is asked of BSL interpreters, making clear what is expected.

3 Start planning earlier to take in time to produce resources, e.g. information for BSL interpreters.

4 Start planning earlier to give time for organisations to prepare materials / resources on their achievements.

5 Harder to get organisations on board earlier in the year.

6 Proper archiving of the event.

7 How to match the local theme of the event with the IDODP international theme.

8 Sharing facebook and social media comms successfully with organisations and stakeholders.

What's next?

1 Everyone wants more events like this throughout the year so create a calendar of key disability events for 2022.

2 Work with our partners in the Local Authority and Anchors to raise the profile of the work of the third sector.

3 Improve collaboration, networking, communication, and better sharing of good practice.

4 Split of physical and sensory impairment events.

5 Look at bigger event across two sites plus a digital version for 2022.

Report by Zaira Khanum

Development Worker for Physical & Sensory Impairment

Forum Central

February 2022

