



**Leeds For All**

**International Day of Disabled People 2021**

**Event Report**

**The theme for this year was “Leeds for All - Recovery from Covid -19**

In celebration of the International Day of Disabled People, Forum Central and the Leeds for All working group were delighted to present this week-long programme of events delivered by Third Sector organisations across Leeds starting on Monday 29 November.



# Background

International Day of Disabled People (IDODP) is an annual awareness raising day, marked around the world, which falls on the 3 December to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities. According to the World Health Organisation, around 15% of the world's population are disabled, but often the needs of disabled people are not catered for by the society they live in. Data from the Census 2011 shows 16.7% of people in Leeds have a long-term health need or are disabled, so we must do more to change attitudes and remove the barriers disabled people face in our communities. These barriers stop disabled people living like other people.



The momentum started under the brand of “Leeds for All” in 2019 as a celebration event at Leeds City Museum, an opportunity to reflect, celebrate, raise awareness and to challenge for change. Last year, in 2020, due to Covid-19 the event was held virtually. In 2021 the event was planned to be delivered face to face but 48 hours leading up to the event, with concerns about the Omicron variant of Covid-19, the celebratory event was moved from face to face to hybrid with live streaming via Facebook from Leeds City Museum.

The Leeds for All Working Group started to plan for the event in July 2021. The working group consists of our partners Leeds City Council, Anchor Organisations (a group of the city's largest (mainly) public sector employers who come together and focus on areas where they can make a difference for people as an employer) and our members. See Appendix 1 for the list of the working group members. See the table on page 10 to listen to live stream interviews from members of the Working Group.



Following the event, here at Forum Central, we have had some interest from new small and voluntary led third sector organisations to join our membership. We will continue to grow the membership to include a diverse representation.

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



An array of week long events consisting of face to face, online and hybrid activities were planned commencing 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 and in a hybrid format.

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

We had 242 people attend 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. Participants were asked for their wider accessibility requirements on booking for all activities so we could accommodate them.



# Monday 29 November 2021



Dream CIO started the week with a crafternoon session making penguin pom pom art decorations. The event was initially planned for Monday 29 November, but postponed due to adverse weather conditions and took place on Monday 6 December.



Cafe Leep held a Holiday Hangout Christmas afternoon on Tuesday 30 December with the #abilitiesnotdisabilities team.

Sense delivered a Tai Chi session with gentle flowing movements to channel positive energy via Zoom.



The day ended with a Comedy Night with Luke Poulton, Essex Comedian of the Year 2019 via Zoom. Luke shared stories about living with Autism and jokes about movies that no one else wants to watch!

## ***Tuesday 30 November 2021***

A face to face session on “What’s Next in Leeds” was held at Thackray Medical Museum by Connect in the North. The session included looking at what can be done in Leeds to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities.



Climate Action Leeds delivered a session explaining what climate change and climate justice is, to explore how disabled people feel about it and what we might be able to do about it. [Watch here](#)

Yorkshire Dance held a “digital disco” via Zoom. Attendees were given the opportunity to dance to their favourite tunes.

An Autistic Question Time session was delivered by Advonet. A great opportunity to ask a panel of autistic staff your questions.

## ***Wednesday 1 December 2021***

A chair based exercise session was delivered via Zoom by Sense. The exercises were designed for people with complex disabilities to improve mobility and coordination.

Association of Blind Asians held an Eye Health Talk session, discussing the importance of regular eye check ups and how to maintain good eye health. [Watch here](#)

Stockhill Community Woodwork Group showcased their work with a film and a live Q & A session.

Navigating the New World: Post Covid Life for the Sensory Impairment Community session was held by DeafBlind UK and Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service. [Watch here](#)

Leep1 Friendship Group met online via Zoom. The Group consists of adults with learning disabilities and autism.

## ***Thursday 2 December 2021***



A hybrid dance programme was held at Leeds City Museum by Ascendance. Technology enabled people to join in either in person or via Zoom.

A session was delivered on 'Making Leeds Accessible and Inclusive' at Thackray Medical Museum by Leeds City Council. The session was live streamed via Facebook to ensure it was accessible for those who are clinically vulnerable and with a British Sign Language Interpreter.

A vision for the future with access at its centre session was also held at Thackray Medical Museum by Leeds City Council.

Purple Patch Arts delivered a Disco via Zoom. It was a fun-filled inclusive evening with good music and dancing.

## ***Friday 3 December 2021***

The marketplace and celebration event was to be held at Leeds City Museum. However, 48 hours prior to the event, due to rising concerns relating to the Omicron variant of Covid-19, we had to reconsider with the best interest of the public and our members, specifically those with disabilities and clinical vulnerabilities, and cancel the face to face event and bring some elements of the events and activities online.

The event was hosted on Zoom all day and live streamed on Facebook. We had an average of 37 people who joined us 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.



It was a challenge, one which the team are incredibly proud of rising to, being able to achieve and diversify the content and utilise our combined skills (and that of some of our partners/members) to completely change the format of the event in less than 2 days.



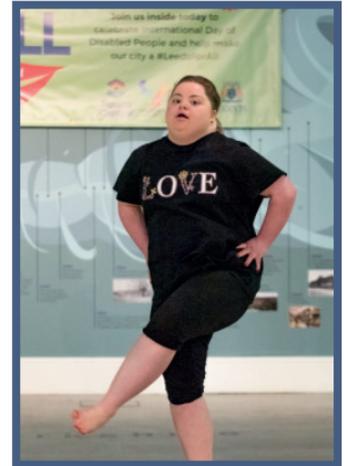
Adam Douglas from Leeds City Council hosted the highly inclusive and accessible event.

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



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

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



Aarron from the Lippy People's "Life, Loss, Learning, Legacy" Project shared his video on how it feels when someone close to us dies?

[Watch here](#)

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 (a dance course for adults with learning disabilities)



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



## ***Videos and Interviews***

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

Videos taken from the event on 3 December

***[Click here to Play Videos](#)***

Videos taken from the events 29 November to 2 December

***[Click here to Play Videos](#)***

Interviews recorded by Marvina Newton

***[Click here to Play Videos](#)***

## Exhibitors

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 37 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

Accessibility was embedded from the onset of planning for the event. It was an event organised by disabled people, for disabled people setting standards and good practice when organising an inclusive public event.

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



- A Quiet Hour was incorporated in the programme of events on the 3 December at Leeds City Museum to make the part of the event more accessible for people with neurodivergent conditions including people with autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
- A dedicated quiet space was made available for people with neurodivergent conditions to have some time out from the too busy or noisy area of the main event.
- We had arranged visual guides to be available wearing high visibility jackets to be easily identifiable.

- A map of the room was circulated showing routes, layouts and exits and location of events.
- Detailed external maps showing drop off points, ramp access and lower level access were circulated widely.
- The venue is accessible, it has ramps, lift access and disabled toilets and a changing places facility.
- 12 Disabled Car Parking Spaces were reserved at Rose Bowl Car Park and 5 at Civic Hall to ensure the event was highly inclusive, and an accessibility requirements option was available on Eventbrite.
- 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.
- 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](#)

## **Finance & Budget**

A funding proposal was made to the Members Improvements in the Community and the Environment Grants (MICE) and Leeds Safer and Stronger Communities. Leeds City Museum and The Equalities Team also part funded the event.

## **Support in kind**

Volition, Forum Central team, William Merritt Centre, members of the Physical and Sensory Impairment and Disability and Wellbeing Network contributed to the Working Group and overall planning and running of the event.

The Thackray Museum supported the event by loaning wheelchair accessible tables and Leeds City Museum provided the venue. Healthwatch supported the event by recruiting volunteers to help on the 3 December.

Leeds Hearing & Sight Loss & William Merritt Centre provided the event programme in various accessible formats including British Sign Language (BSL), video and audio. Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss also delivered the Visual Guide Training, Advonet ensured the events were accessible for people with Autism and Forum Central produced the event programme in Easy Read.

## Social media report

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, 31 responses and 2 clicks. The paid Facebook advert reached 6,775 people, with 200 engagements and 133 link clicks.



Hashtag - #LeedsForAll had 288 mentions and reached 506.5k on the actual day. Twitter summary over last 28 days [recorded on 08/12/21]:

Tweets	119	up 28%
Impressions	66k	up 4.4%
Profile Visits	8131	up 85.8%
Mentions	335	up 53%
Followers	2924	up 72%



Google profile updates showed 122 views.



	IDODP21 main programme	Venue change	Press Release
<b>Page Views</b>	1026	68	23
<b>Unique Page Views</b>	830	54	20

# Feedback

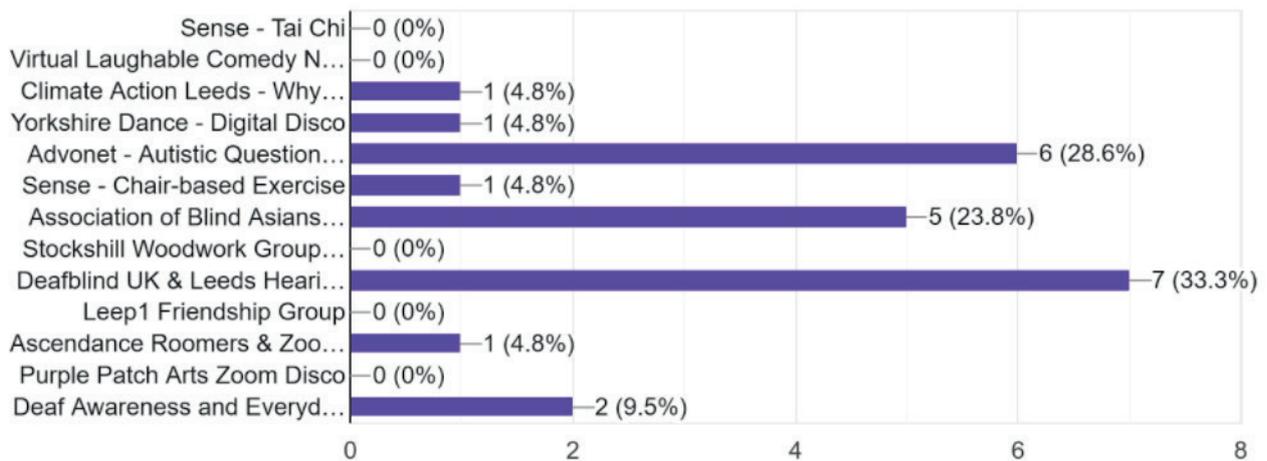
Illustrator Tom Bailey captured visual minutes during the event with a particular focus on:

- What additional challenges people with disabilities have faced through Covid?
- What can be done differently to support people with disabilities going forward?

**Feedback was also collated via a digital anonymous form, we received 23 responses:**

Which Leeds for All session did you take part in?

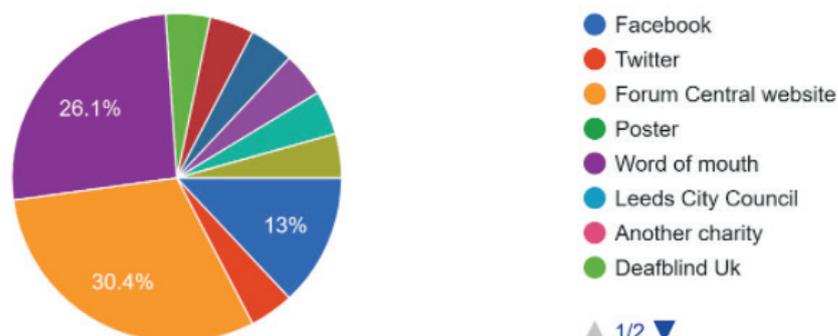
21 responses



People heard about the event through various sources:

How did you hear about the Leeds for All events?

23 responses



▲ 1/2 ▼

100% of attendees who completed the Google form said the events were accessible.

We are so proud of how the day turned out despite the many challenges we faced leading up to the day. Here is some overall feedback from our participants and exhibitors:



## Below are some of the reasons why people took part in celebrating International Day of Disabled people:

- To ensure that the organisation I worked for contributed to making disabled peoples' voices heard.
- I thought it really useful for some programmes.
- Love to know about services from different organisations
- I was interested to get involved in different sessions and see what

resources available for people with disabled

- To raise my awareness and gain ideas to support service users.
- Relevant to working practice.
- I hope people see there technologies to remove barriers.
- Great to see what brilliant work people are doing across the community.
- For better understanding with the problem I have.
- Improve understanding of the experiences of autistic people [specifically this session].
- I am a disabled researcher and activist living in Leeds and interested in any events going on in Leeds to do with disability or disabled people.
- I heard of it and had the time. It sounded interesting.
- Just wanted to reach out and find out a bit more about Autism related things within the area.
- I am still very much learning how my condition affects me, despite being 3 years diagnosed, so any additional insight would be a boost.
- it was the first time and i wanted to see what it was all about.
- I believe that we should be an accessible city.
- I have recently started working for a sight loss charity I wanted to learn more about barriers.
- faced especially for specific groups within our communities.

- I think it is helpful to capture good practice and share information.
- Interested due to work.
- Further information for my role (habilitation).

### **Suggestions people gave on how we could improve sessions like this in the future**

- Make sure Zoom works! I had difficulty joining the Autistic Question Time session using the desktop app, as did several people who registered. This can be attributed to Zoom having an off day rather than human error.
- I think BSL interpreter should be on every sessions, prefer BSL qualified not trainee. another thing, it would be useful if every sessions have notes takers, its hard to write some information down and not look at bsl interpreter same time.
- The video for the main hall events was blur but understand it wasn't possible, hope if online again, look at camera options??
- Brilliant inclusive, informative, entertaining Leeds for All online session this year, thank you so much, great work from so many third sector organisations!
- Possibly advertise them more widely? Though I appreciate the difficult circumstances...
- Some more introduction, e.g. about panellist's areas of expertise, might make it easier to ask questions early on.

- Facebook notice was a little last-minute, I don't know if it's possible, but a little bit earlier notice I think would help. Maybe even having something like this a little more regularly?
- Advertising it to the wider community. Get it on what's on in Leeds and student publications. I apologise if you did this already.
- Keep continued.
- I thought it was a good session. Quite organic and interactive. I did find it difficult with people talking over the top of one another.
- If possible, having an idea of what the agenda was before the session. This might help to get you thinking before the session.

#### **Other comments from attendees:**

- Maybe a five-minute break midway through sessions could work for presenters and attendees.
- Note takes would be helpful.
- Session was a good length with sensible breaks.
- It was well balance.
- As expected.
- The panel was excellent and the meeting was well organised and chaired.
- I was expecting more people there, but I think it was still a worthwhile discussion! Hopefully something like it can be done again with more people involved.

- Great accessibility!
- Good exercises.
- Pretty much as expected for what I saw.
- i thought it was good.
- Everyone did well to get the marketplace online in such a short space of time because of COVID restrictions.
- Really Enjoyed the session, thank you very much.
- Very informative. Lots of ideas and things to think about e.g. accessibility, confidence and independence.
- BSL version of the programme was too long, 25 minutes is too long.

### **Feedback from exhibitors/ event organisers**

- Ascendance loved performing at Leeds City Museum as part of the celebrations. It was a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the work we have been doing and present it from a major Leeds Venue free of charge.
- The technical support we received from the Museum was excellent and it was a major achievement for us to get the HYBRID system working for the first time to demonstrate to other community organisations what is possible with live performance and face to face events.
- It would have been nice to have had more people attend from other organisations on the zoom side. I think because our event was run

on Thursday it wasn't given the same promotion as the main event.

- Also it would have been good to have hard copy print for those who are not on social media.
- You did a brilliant job co-ordinating everything, so thank you for making it such a success despite all the difficulties.

### **Feedback from attendees was as follows:**

- It was a good length of time. Nice to see and meet people.
- Good length of time.
- Very inclusive.
- Good activities, nice cuppa, lovely people.
- Friendly. Covid secure. Not too hot or too cold at the venue.
- Enjoyable. Prefer this venue. Very comfortable.
- Lovely afternoon.
- Lovely group varied activities, very inclusive and really enjoyable.
- Thank you, interesting and informative discussion.
- Thank you very much!

### **Feedback from the Working Group**

#### **What worked well?**

- The event was very well managed, and it was nice to be part of the planning stages too.

- A great learning exercise for working on digital platform for live broadcasting a large scale public event.
- Reach is greater through live streaming and the zoom platform. The digital event provided access to a greater number of people from a wider geographical spread. People were able to access the event who may not have been able had the event been just a face to face event. Argument for hybrid event in future years.
- The national reach enabled the good work and practice adopted in Leeds to be shared in a positive way across the UK. Another argument for the benefit of future hybrid events.
- The event encouraged collaborative and partnership working, for example collaboration sessions delivered via Zoom as part of the week.

### **What didn't work well?**

- The incident with the Hackers was unpleasant. Big thanks and credit to Karen Fenton for how Karen dealt with the incident while live on Zoom. Learning to take on the safety aspect of public broadcasting and appropriate risk mitigations to prevent this happening in the future. Due to the very short time limit of 48 hours in delivering the event from face to face, Forum Central shared the zoom link on social media, in future any online event will require booking to avoid meeting being hacked.
- Exhibitors wanted more time for the online marketplace but were

limited due to other events on zoom.

- Camera in the Museum was too wide an angle which did not have a clear enough view of faces of presenters and speakers which created an accessibility barrier for those who wanted to lip read. Close Up angle of people's faces for future events.
- Leeds City Council and Leeds City Museum are looking at ways how we can improve delivery for hybrid events. In particular cameras that have facial recognition which follow people's faces during meetings.
- A lot of time went into organising the BSL interpretation for the events. Reflection to be taken on what is asked of BSL interpreters, making it clear what is expected and in detail what they are being asked to do. Two issues arose from the event which we have taken on board as a learning for future events:
  1. Interpreters not wanting to be recorded.
  2. Interpreters needing more information for preparatory purposes for events months in advance.

### **Learning from this years event**

- Learning to take on the safety aspect of public broadcasting and appropriate risk mitigations to prevent this happening again.
- Learning to be taken on what is asked of BSL interpreters, making clear what is expected and in detail what they are being asked to do.
- Earlier planning to take in time to produce resources, e.g. information for BSL interpreters on content of events.

- Earlier planning to give time for organisations to prepare materials / resources on their achievements.
- Harder to get organisations on board earlier in the year, hard to get organisations to commit to an event later in the year.
- Proper archiving of the event.
- Question of negotiating the local theme of the event in relation to the IDODP international theme.
- 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.



## **Appendix 1**

Representatives from the following organisations form membership of the Leeds for All Working Group.

<b>Volition, Forum Central (Physical &amp; Sensory Impairment; Learning Disability)</b>	<b>Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People</b>
<b>William Merritt Centre</b>	<b>Advonet</b>
<b>Leeds City Council: Communities Team (Commissioner), Arts Health &amp; Wellbeing; Museums &amp; Galleries; Disabilities &amp; Wellbeing Network</b>	<b>Leeds Disabled People's Organisation</b>
<b>Asian Blind Associations</b>	<b>Independent Disability Arts Curator</b>
<b>People In Action</b>	<b>Yorkshire MESMAC</b>
<b>Leonard Cheshire</b>	<b>Sense</b>
<b>DeafBlind UK</b>	<b>Leeds Hearing &amp; Sight Loss Service</b>
<b>Ascendance</b>	<b>Touchstone</b>
<b>Leeds Involving People</b>	<b>Leeds Beckett University</b>
<b>Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust</b>	<b>Leeds Trinity College</b>

