



## Leeds for All International Day of Disabled People 2022

### Report



**Not All Disabilities are Visible**



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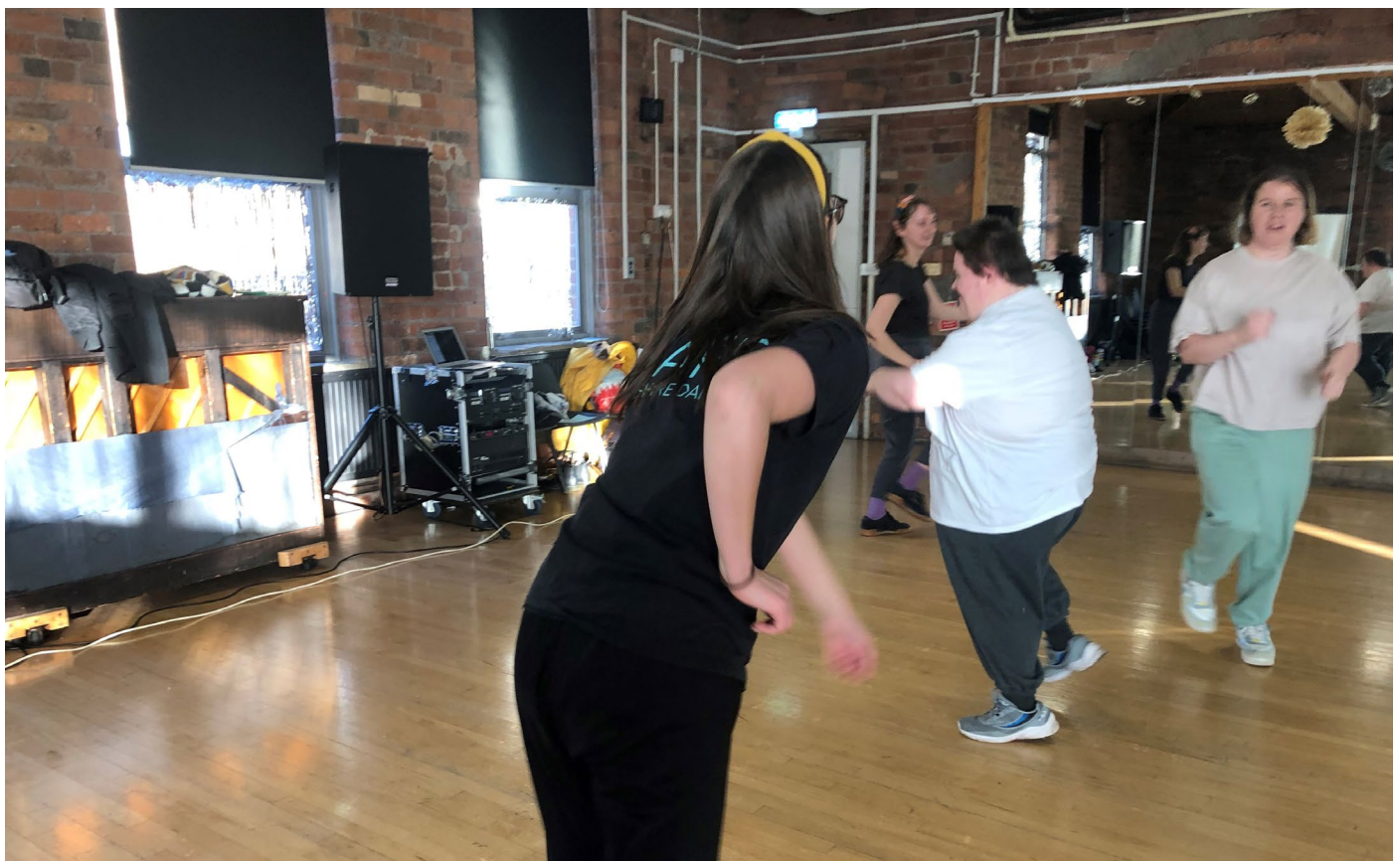


# Introduction

Welcome to the Leeds for All Report which celebrates and raises awareness around International Day of Disabled People in 2022. A busy Marketplace Event was held at Leeds City Museum on Wednesday, 30 November giving people the chance to meet together in a central and friendly location. It was a successful and enjoyable day and thanks go out to all those who supported and took part in the day.



Aspire Stall



Yorkshire Dance - Grant Funded Activity

## Background

The first disabled peoples celebration event was held under the "Leeds for All" banner in 2019 at Leeds City Museum. It was an opportunity for people to reflect, celebrate, raise awareness and to challenge for change. Then in 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic all celebration events were held virtually.



**Leeds For All - International Day of Disabled People 2019**



**Leeds For All - International Day of Disabled People 2020**



**Leeds For All - International Day of Disabled People 2021**

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled People on 3 December aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for dignity, rights and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

The Leeds for All working group was set up in April 2021 following the recommendations of the event report of Leeds For All International Day of Disabled People (IDODP) 2020. The group is made of members from Leeds, City Council, William Merritt Centre, Forum Central and third sector health and care organisations.

The group work together to coordinate an annual event to mark International Day of Disabled People in December. The event celebrates people with disabilities in Leeds and shows ongoing progress and works in the city.

# International Day Of Disabled People 2022

Due to timescales around vacancies and reduced team capacity in both Forum Central and Leeds City Council's Safer and Stronger Community Teams, we were unable to hold a celebration event with multiple activities like those of the previous two years. We therefore had to scale down our aspirations and recognise that a one day Marketplace Event was the best solution at the time. We also recognise from 2022 feedback there is more we can do to improve promotional materials and to provide autism friendly spaces during subsequent events.



**International Day of Disabled People 2022 Marketplace**

For the first time, to support the slimmed down marketplace, grant funded activities from Leeds City Councillor's, Members Improvements in the Community and Environment monies (MICE) were held at individual organisations around Leeds. These proved to be very successful and were enjoyed by all who took part. It also gave organisations more autonomy over the kind of event they wanted to hold and allowed them better ownership over how and when they held an event, ensuring best fit around their own priorities and timetables.

See the group activities summary pages where organisations have provided feedback on their own events. This funding model is one that we will seek to use in the future. We are grateful to those city councillors who contributed.



**Yorkshire Dance - Grant Funded Activity**

## Marketplace Event

In celebration of The International Day of Disabled People 2022, Volition on behalf of the Forum Central partnership and Leeds City Council's Disability Hub collaborated closely with William Merritt Centre and members of the Leeds For All working group to hold a successful day of marketplace and networking on Wednesday, 30 November at Leeds City Museum.

Forum Central members, worked with and for people with physical disabilities, sensory impairments and learning disabilities. There were over 20 stalls on the day. It was a really lively and informal day where people were able to meet and mingle and share useful information about the services, activities, groups and support options that their organisations offer.

In comparison, the 2021 events had to be held virtually last minute due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The 2020 week-long event was also entirely digital and therefore this year we were pleased to be able to host the first face to face, open to the public marketplace event since 2019.

The 2022 event was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Bob Gettings. Speeches were also given by Geoff Turnbull from Leeds City Council Disability Hub, Councillor Kevin Ritchie, Disability Champion and Lead member for the Leeds Disability Hub and Karl Proud, Volition trustee and Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service team member. Karl was the founding member of the working group.



Opening speeches - The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds and Karl Proud

## Accessibility

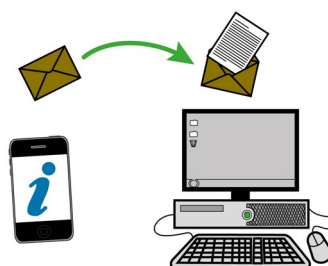
We aimed for this to be a truly inclusive and accessible event, setting the tone for other similar public events and how they can be planned to be “for all” and not just for able bodied people to attend. Leeds Museum was therefore chosen as the venue with accessibility in mind as it is a central location with easy access into the ground floor areas.

- The Marketplace Networking Event was organised by disabled people, for disabled people setting standards and good practice for organising inclusive public events.
- There were two Visual Guides and two BSL interpreters present.
- The Forum Central team wore 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.
- 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 autistic people.



## Event Promotion

The event was promoted by Leeds Disability Hub and the Forum Central network with members and partners taking stalls and inviting service users and clients using social media and flyers. People heard about the event through various sources including Facebook, Twitter, Forum Central website, poster, word of mouth, Leeds City Council, third sector organisations and DeafBlind UK. The event was promoted widely using email, websites, posters, bulletin and social media via our member and partner organisations.



# Marketplace Feedback

We had excellent public attendance throughout the day at the marketplace networking event. We took feedback from people based on the three questions in the chart below and also collated quotes from the days feedback form.

**Feedback was captured on the following questions:**

	What are the barriers and challenges for disabled people in Leeds?	What could be done?	What does an accessible future in Leeds look like?
City Accessibility	<i>"Roadworks - roads and pavements not put back the same - left unfinished"</i>	<i>"More accessible ramps constructed in city centre and improve all accessibility"</i>	<i>"Widespread QR codes with BSL accessible info on them"</i>
	<i>"City centre becoming a no-go zone for disabled people"</i>	<i>"Highway officers &amp; councillors to go out on mobility scooters to experience reality"</i>	<i>"More accessible toilets x2"</i>
	<i>"Buses are bad and life is expensive"</i>	<i>"Need to retain access, paving, safe pavements"</i>	<i>"Good public transport: Disabled bus passes being valid at all times"</i>
Health	<i>"There's a lack of support for people who don't have a diagnosis"</i>	<i>"Give people the right to choose where they go for respite care"</i>	<i>"Day centres for people with physical disabilities"</i>
	<i>"People falling through gaps in health care so health worsens"</i>	<i>"Health services designed with people with learning disabilities"</i>	<i>"More accessible community spaces/ buildings"</i>
	<i>"Long waiting lists for people who need a diagnosis"</i>	<i>"More BSL version access apps info?"</i>	<i>"Supported living for people with physical disabilities (extra care living)"</i>
		<i>"Choice and appropriate funding into social services"</i>	



**Feedback Tree**

**Venue Accessibility, pre event publicity and overall networking scored most highly on people's lists of positive points for the day**

*"Good range of organisations who are happy to talk about their work."*

*"I loved meeting new people"*

**People also suggested some improvements for further events:**

*"Get more organisations. We would love a stall next year please"*

*"More access for BSL, but grateful for the interpreter"*

*"Better refreshment and relaxation facilities or a different venue"*

## Attendee Quotes

*"A wonderful event showcasing the services available to support disabled people in Leeds. The importance of these services is heightened by the cost-of-living crisis which is having a disproportionately negative impact for disabled people. Thank you to everybody involved organising, funding and taking part in the event."*

**Kevin Ritchie**

Councillor for Bramley and Stanningley Ward and Leeds City Council Disability Champion

*"The Leeds for All Market place event was lively and engaging. It was immensely helpful in connecting with a wide range of organisations, some known to me and others not, through informative conversations with staff and volunteers."*

**Stephen Gould**

National Lottery

## Twitter Activity

- The Marketplace Networking Event showed the second highest day of impressions at Forum Central of 3,574 from 15 November - 15 December.
- On the actual day itself there were 605 impressions showing 7.9% engagement rate and at midday it was at its highest rate with 505 and an engagement rate of 8.5%.
- Karl Proud's speech got 323 impressions and the Lord Mayor's speech got 765.



And.... We are off! Thank you to the Lord Mayor for officially opening todays [#LeedsForAll](#) [#internationalDayOfDisabledPeople](#) event at leeds city museum today [@leeds\\_hub](#) [@WMDLC](#) [@MyForumCentral](#)



11:04 am · 30 Nov 2022



And.... We are off! Thank you to the Lord Mayor for officially opening todays [#LeedsForAll](#) [#internationalDayOfDisabledPeople](#) event at leeds city museum today [@leeds\\_hub](#) [@WMDLC](#) [@MyForumCentral](#)



11:04 am · 30 Nov 2022 from Leeds City Museum



Karl Proud, Volition [@MyForumCentral](#) trustee, long-standing member of [#LeedsForAll](#) working group & of [@BIDLeeds](#) talking about the growth of the event, our partnerships across the sector & council, supporting celebrations each year [@WMDLC](#) [@leeds\\_hub](#) [@kevin\\_ritchie1](#) [@GeoffTEquality](#)



11:16 am · 30 Nov 2022 from Leeds, England

You Retweeted



**Leeds Disability Hub**  
[@leeds\\_hub](#)

Great to be at the [#LeedsForAll](#) [#InternationalDayOfDisabledPeople](#) Marketplace event [@LeedsCityMuseum](#) with colleagues from [@MyForumCentral](#)



Kevin Ritchie and 9 others

12:11 pm · 30 Nov 2022

# Marketplace Exhibitors

The Marketplace Event had over 25 exhibitors representing third sector and statutory services:

Aspire

Advonet

Ascendance

Association of Blind Asians

Breaking Down Barriers (DBD)

Care and Repair Leeds

Deaf Blind UK

Leeds Older People's Forum - Friendly Communities

Healthwatch Leeds

Leeds Bereavement Forum

Leeds Disabled People's Organisation (LDPO)

Leeds City Council

Disability Hub

Leeds Involving People

Leeds LGBT+ Forum

Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service

MindWell

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Trust - Learning Disability Service

OmnisCircumvado CIC

People in Action

Purple Patch Arts

Scope - Career Pathways

Specialist Autism Services

Through the Maze

Voluntary Action Leeds

Yorkshire Cancer Community



## Financial Support

For International Day of Disabled People 2022 the sum of £750 was provided by Leeds City Council Safer and Stronger Community Team via their Disability Hub and this was match-funded by Forum Central. The remaining funding was kindly provided by councillors via the Members Improvements in the Community and the Environment Grants (Ward Councillor MICE monies) and over £2000 was donated. The IDODP events therefore continue to be a very low cost and effective project piece for the various positive outputs of networking, socialising and reaffirming trust in partnership working that they create.

## Grant Funded Activities

Applications were submitted in October to the Leeds Disability Hub for grants of £250. Grants were awarded to organisations to undertake activity under the theme of 'Not all Disabilities are Visible'.

The activities celebrated the contributions of disabled people to society and the City of Leeds and to highlight the barriers disabled people still face in fully participating in society. Eight organisations took up this funding and held their activities between December 2022 and January 2023. See group activities summary pages for more information.



**People in Action - Wellbeing Group**



**Leeds Involving People - Deaf Awareness Training**

# Grant Funded Events and Activities Summary

## People Matters

We worked towards developing a training session that could be delivered in other organisations about employing staff with a hidden disability. It was developed by our members as part of our employment project.

In late November we ran three focus groups (with 17 member participants) to develop this and involved five members from our member council (22 members were involved). Training plans were then ready to present mid-December and were done in house first, with a plan to roll this out to prospective employers on an ongoing basis in 2023.

The Wellbeing Group was facilitated by a group leader to help understand and get peoples input on the following questions:

1. What are the myths about employing someone with a Learning Disability and/or hidden disability?
2. What are the benefits of employing them?
3. What is the best way to communicate with each other?
4. Are there any associated costs and/or additional assistance needed to employ someone with Learning Disabilities and/or hidden disabilities?



## PingPong4u

This group works with young adults with SEND at Leeds City College, Beeston Campus. The students have a wide range of complex needs.

They timetabled two half day sessions for different groups to come along to the Beeston and Quarry House campus to high visibility and accessibility locations. They were invited to come and try out a wide range of ping pong related games. The games were open to anyone, regardless of ability.



Prizes were handed out to players, to make them feel good about their achievements and publicity was given to tell participants where/when they can play next.

## Leeds Involving People

Deaf Awareness Training Session: This was open to everyone across the city. This session was made up of two parts: the first part highlighted the barriers that deaf people face in day-to-day life and how to make support services more accessible and the second part celebrated good practice and the work done by Leeds DEAForum and the wider Deaf community.



## Yorkshire Dance

The activity was a one hour dance session, focusing on creativity, celebrating the individual and encouraging each dancer to express themselves in their own unique way. After the class there was an exciting premiere of a Screendance film created by some of their regular dancers with a learning disability. This all took place in the Yorkshire Dance accessible building in the centre of Leeds, led by their experienced dance artists.



## LS-TEN Project

LS-TEN held an enhanced and adjusted skatepark session that was adjusted to make it safer and more accessible for neurodiverse skaters. It was promoted as a two hour "Relaxed Skate Session" for skaters of all disciplines and skill levels.

Fifteen people attended the session and there were several requests to run them more regularly, which the group intends to do once a month on a Sunday in 2023.

Adjustments made included: music levels in the park, having a quiet break-out space for skaters, extra support available and coaching by staff on site.

In the upstairs café there was also a small exhibition of photographs and art work of and by disabled and neurodiverse skaters, which was displayed for the week leading up to the first Relaxed Skate session.



## (DEX) Deaf Experience Limited

We got participants together to produce a short video on how being deaf is not always a visible disability. The film was produced for all audiences and at the launch event tips on how to communicate with deaf people were also shared.

Our video "Would you know if any of these people are deaf if you saw them walking in the street" is subtitled with BSL with clips of deaf people showing they are deaf with a personal message on how deafness is invisible. The film is on YouTube and has been shared with our third sector network.



## People in Action

Leeds City Market: A set of engaging and entertaining performances by their pool of performing talent of autistic people and/or learning disabled people. The performance was a pop-up, busking style performance with casual passers by stopping to watch.



## Harehills Park Bowling Club

In early December the club showcased their adapted equipment with demos for people with disabilities at their bowling club. They also played bowls with participants in a series of mini friendly competitions. Refreshments were provided by the club.



## BID Services - Leeds Hearing and Sight Loss Service

The service aimed to hold a creative writing workshop for a group of up to 10 people with sight loss in Leeds. Space2, a specialist charity which uses art to enable social and personal outcomes and social change will run the workshop.

The session ran for 2-3 hours and included a social element, enabling participants to share their experiences and socialise with others over a cup of tea. Following the session, participants shared some of their work online through a range of media as appropriate.



## Conclusion

For International Day of Disabled People 2023 we will have a similar Marketplace Event and build on feedback from 2022 to include a quiet area and on-site refreshments. We would also like to extend networking and discussion opportunities by having speakers and interactive sessions. We want to include more people with lived experience as organisers and participants at the event.

We also intend to use the small grant funded model again as it gave organisations more ownership over what kind of activities they wanted to run. It also allowed them to better fit the activities into their busy timetables. The highlights people reported to us about holding their activities included the chance to run hybrid events, use all types of social media and most of all to unite, empower and upskill participants. In 2023 we intend to fund more organisations, have more publicity and raise wider awareness and participation at all levels. We want to be Transformative, Innovative and Inclusive!



Healthwatch Leeds stall



Leeds Bereavement Forum Stall

# Leeds for All Working Group

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

Advonet

Ascendance

Association of Blind Asians

BID Services

DeafBlind UK

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Trust - Learning Disability Service

Leeds Beckett University

Leeds City Council

Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Leeds Disabled People's Organisation

Leeds Involving People

Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Leeds Trinity University

Leonard Cheshire

Luminate Education Group

People In Action

Sense

Touchstone

Volition (Forum Central)

William Merritt Centre

Yorkshire MESMAC



BID SERVICES

