

Leeds for All International Day of Disabled People 2023

Easy read report

Background and Summary



Transformation, Inclusion,
Innovation



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

This is the 5th year Leeds has had a celebration event for IDODP.

The theme of the 2023 Leeds for All, International Day of Disabled People was: Transformation, Inclusion and Innovation.

A Marketplace celebration event was held on Thursday 30th November 2023 at Leeds City Museum. Organisations had stalls with information, and activities took place.

380 people

380 people came to the event on the day.

People who came had lots of different lived experiences including:

- learning disabilities,
- sensory impairments,
- physical impairments,
- autism,
- family, friends, carers of, and people who work for organisations which support people with disabilities.



Organisations were invited to host an activity or event to celebrate IDODP 2023 and money was awarded to organisations to help with this.

This was called the IDODP Small Grants Fund.

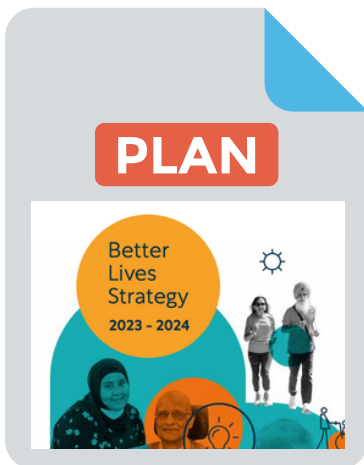
12 organisations

12 organisations were given money from the IDODP Small Grants Fund to run an event or activity.



511 people

511 people came along to these activities and events which happened in community venues all around Leeds.



The IDODP Marketplace is an event which brings the disability community in Leeds together.

It is an event for organisations, commissioners,, can meet and engage with disabled people.

Leeds for All celebration of IDODP links to Leeds City Council strategies. For example the Best City Ambition and Better Lives Strategy.

The Better Lives Strategy is a document which says how Leeds City Council aims to “support every person to live in a place they call home with people and things they love, in communities that look out for one another, doing the things they love”.

The event and grants were coordinated by Forum Central and Leeds City Council’s Disability Hub with input from the Leeds for All steering group.





The Leeds for All steering group had 10 members from third sector organisations and The Disability Hub at Leeds City Council.

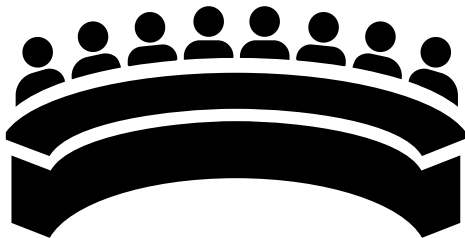


The steering group aimed to be innovative, creative and collaborative to put on the event to the theme of ‘Transformation, Inclusion, Innovation’.



Working together meant new things could be tried. This helped the event to be a success as it got lots of good feedback.

Funding - Money



Councillors of Leeds kindly gave money to pay for the International Day of Disabled People (IDODP) event and small grants fund from a pot of funds called MICE money:



“Members Improvements in the Community and the Environment” (MICE) scheme.

£3450



£2350



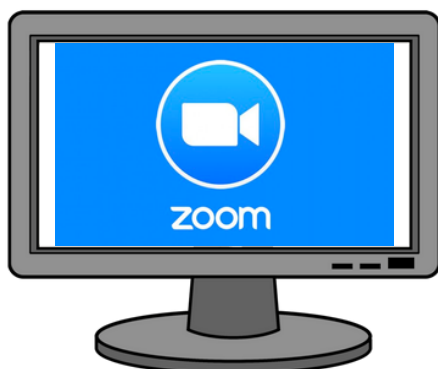
24 Councillors gave a total of £3450

3 different departments of Leeds City Council gave money towards IDODP:

- Adults and Health Directorate gave £1000
- The Equality Team gave £1000
- Children and Families gave £350

Forum Central contributed staff member's time for the event planning and promotion, as did The Disability Hub.

Stall Holder Information

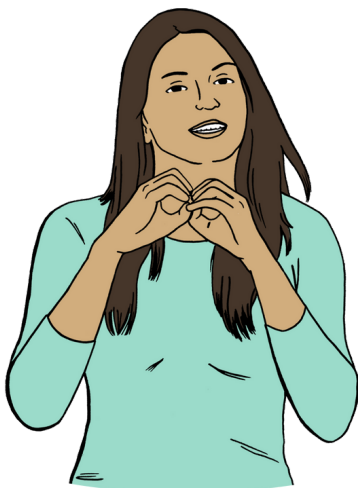
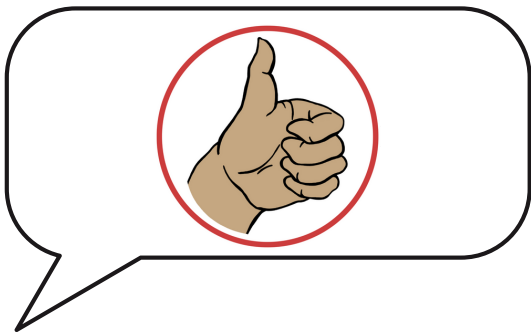


An online meeting for Stall holders happened in the weeks before the event.

16 stallholders attended the briefing session.

It had all the information about hosting a stall on the day.

Accessibility



Venue Access Tour Video

A video was made and shared before the event to show people how to get around Leeds City Museum, and where things like the toilets, lifts and activity rooms were located.

This got some really good feedback.



This [Access Tour Video](#) is [available to watch on Youtube](#).

Sight guides

Forum Central staff trained as sight guides so that 4 Sight Guides were available at the marketplace event to support anyone who was blind or partially sighted. Staff also wore Hi-visibility vests.

BSL Interpreters

2 British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters were there on the day to help any deaf people take part in the day's activities and speeches.



Easy Read Programme and Welcome Table

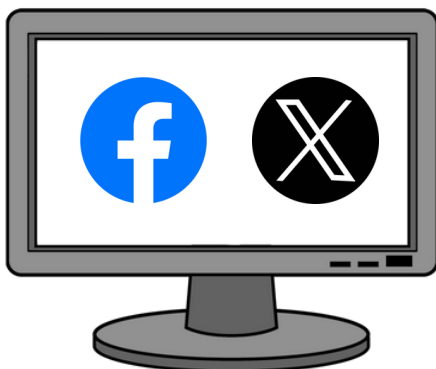
Forum Central and Leeds City Council shared a stall at the entrance to the museum to welcome people arriving at the event. It had leaflets and information on the table.



An Easy Read programme was on the welcome table. It explained what was happening at the event.



Promotion



The event and small grants fund was promoted widely by Forum Central, Leeds Disability Hub and the stall holder organisations via emails, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and on websites.



Posters were also displayed at venues and workplaces around the city centre.

More about the Marketplace



Guest Speakers

The event began with five people giving short speeches:

1. The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Al Garthwaite
2. Geoff Turnbull, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager from the Leeds City Council Equality Team
3. Councillor Kevin Ritchie, Disability Champion and Lead member for the Leeds Disability Hub.

4. Jodie Boyd Ward, Captain of Leeds Rhinos Wheelchair Rugby Team
5. Craig Crimes, Director of Experience Community CIC

Marketplace Stalls

The Marketplace event had 29 stalls by different local organisations who work with disabled people or are self-advocacy organisations for disabled people.





Interactive Stalls

There were interactive stalls where people could do something fun like create a plasticine figurine, or write about their thoughts on disability and the future of Leeds.



Illustrations

People's feedback was turned into drawings by artist Tom Bailey, and were shown on the big screen in the main hall.

Activities

Activities happened at different times on the day that people could drop-in to take part in.

These were:

- Table ping-pong, by Active Leeds (21 people took part)
- Table cricket, by Yorkshire Cricket (14 people took part)
- Free movement, by Yorkshire Dance (34 people took part)
- Circus skills by The Feel Good Circus (28 people took part)





Sensory / Quiet Room

There was a quiet room with low lighting and sensory activities for anyone who needed to take time away from the loud event. It was well used on the day by 35 people.

Councillor Kevin Ritchie gave this feedback about the event:

“I thought the day was excellent, the programme varied and interesting. The joy of the participants downstairs during the various activities was a pleasure to see. The range of stalls and quality of information was first class too”



27 organisations



27 organisations applied to the IDODP Small Grants Fund this year.

Applications were chosen by a panel made of Forum Central and The Disability Hub.

Money was awarded to organisations based on their activities being on the theme of Transformation, Inclusion and Innovation. Up to £350.

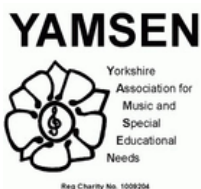
The 12 organisations awarded a grant were:

- Canal Connections CIC
- Craft Conscious Café CIC
- DEX (Deaf Experience) Ltd
- GFS Community Enterprise (Gipton Fire Station)
- Leeds Bereavement Forum
- Leeds United Foundation
- Macular Support Group Leeds
- People in Action
- Spider-Y (The Home Of Wheelchair Sports In Leeds)
- Swarthmore Education Centre
- YAMSEN: (Yorkshire Association for Music and Special Educational Needs)

12 organisations



www.canal-connections.com
People. Heritage. Nature.



Swarthmore
Education Centre

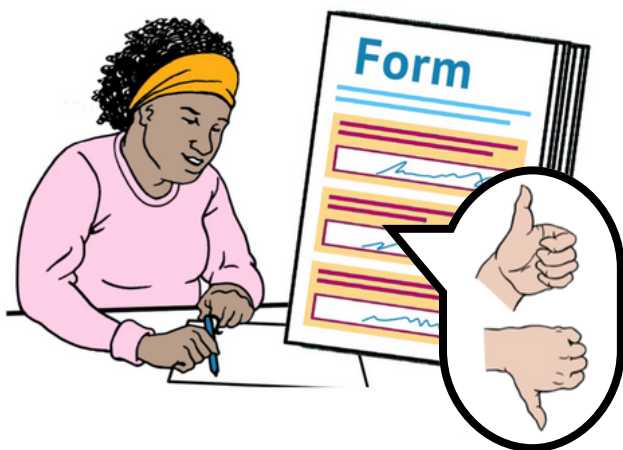
511 people



The total number of people who took part in a grant funded activity was 511.

Many different types of activities and events were funded.

This photo is from an open day celebration event at Gipton Fire Station which had stalls and activities and refreshments.

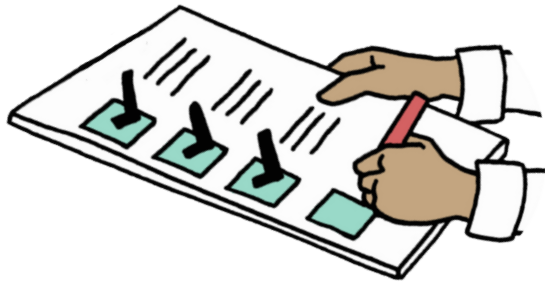
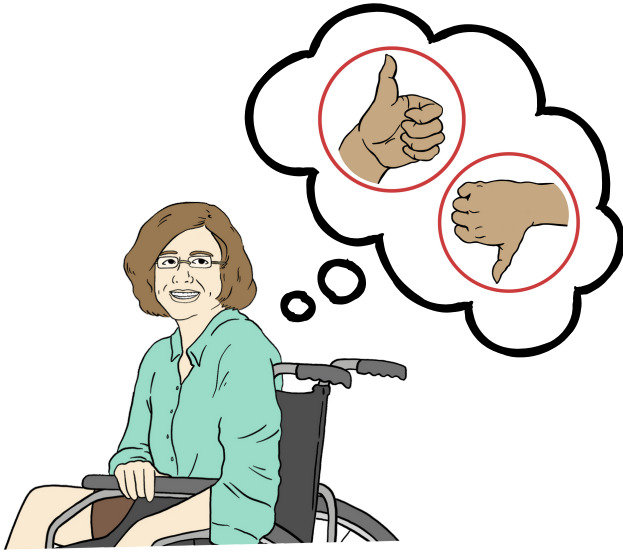


Each grant-funded organisation filled in an Evaluation Form about:

- Lessons learned from holding the event.
- Steps they will take as a result of being part of the scheme.
- Whether or not they used Social Media.
- If they would like further connection with Forum Central (if not already).



Feedback



**49 pieces of
feedback received**



Understanding what people thought of the event is important to the organisers and steering group.

We asked people to tell us what they thought about the event on the day using a feedback form.

There was a printed out version and a digital one online.

We received feedback formally from 36 attendees and 13 informally via email. That's 49 pieces of feedback in total.

Everyone fed back that they did enjoy the event day. And said it was accessible for them.

Most said yes to the question: "has the event made you think more about your wellbeing and how to connect with other groups?"

“What did you like about Leeds for All 2023?”

Of the 36 people who completed the feedback form, 35 answered this question. People answered that they liked:

- the range of activities.
- opportunities to network.
- the event was well-organised.
- the event was informative.
- the event brought the community together.



Examples of what people said:

“This has developed so much since last year, very engaging!”

“Friendly people - well organised, lots of info!”

“Very informative! Really enjoyed the varied info and Mindwell making an origami owl :)”

“The variety of services that were there, meeting a variety of different people and being able to network with other agencies.”

“The variety of stallholders and the speeches. Great networking opportunities and felt very inclusive and like a community.”

“Lots of attendees throughout the day, we got a lot of enquiries. We also made some great connections with other stall holders.”

“It was a truly inclusive event that had a lot to offer the community of Leeds with options for using services and engagement. It also gave us the opportunity, as a charity, to share our services and make links to other charity groups who we could work with.”

“What did you NOT like about Leeds for All 2023?”

Of the 36 people who completed the feedback form, only 25 answered this question, 5 people responded “nothing”.

Peoples answers said:

- accessibility for those with a hearing or sight impairment could be improved.
- the sound quality in the main hall is not good
- the layout of stalls could be improved



Examples of what people said:

“Can be a bit difficult to access some stalls.”

“The venue is quite echoey.”

“Hard to navigate the stalls as sight impaired.”

“I hope to get more BSL interpreters next year”.

“It was very echoey in parts and hard to hear the speeches being in the main hall with the stall holders.”

“Acoustics in the hall made it hard to hear the speeches.”

“Layout of the marketplace could have been a little more spread-out and less claustrophobic.”

Here are some more examples of feedback and quotes from people:

“Loved it.”

“Really lovely and enjoyable event. Varied too!”

“Became more aware of groups I was unfamiliar with before.”

“Building on existing connections.”

“So much information available to help people connect.”

“The event was great for networking with other organisations and threw up lots of potential opportunities for collaborative working.”

“...it was a great event, especially for reaching people we might not connect to in other parts of our work that have a narrower learning disability focus.”

“Really amazing, bringing together of people - thank you.”

“More opportunities to be a guest speaker. More break out spaces for organisations.”

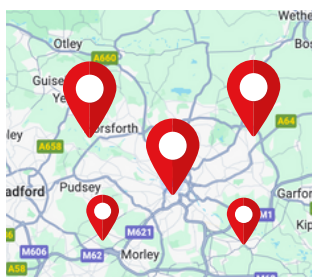
“We met lots of potential new groups, and were able to welcome new participants into our session.”

“I found the International day of disabled people a really vibrant and inclusive event where people with learning disabilities were able to have their voices heard while also finding out more about what is happening in the City of Leeds.”

“...How we need to consider inclusion in everything we do”.

“Advertise the event more.”

Conclusion



Overall the 2023 IDODP Marketplace Event was a great day of celebration and making connections.

The Small Grants enabled many more people to celebrate disabled people's contribution and raise awareness of accessibility.

Recommendations:

- To hold a more community based IDODP Celebrations Event in future.
- To make the IDODP Small Grants Fund a central part of future plans.
- To consult earlier with the IDODP Steering Group over major decisions.
- To build stronger engagement with Hearing and Sight Impaired people.



- To have basic BSL training available pre-event for all Leeds for All staff.
- To further develop Leeds for All accessibility strategies.

Thanks to everyone who took part in IDODP 2023.

Thanks to the stall holders and grant holders and to the Leeds for All steering group members:

- ABA (Association of Blind Asians)
- LDPO (Leeds Disabled People's Organisation)
- Leeds Involvement
- Leeds City Council (Access, Equality, and Special Services Departments)
- Leeds Autism Services
- LCIL (Leeds Centre for Integrated Living)
- Volition, Forum Central

THANK YOU



Photo Credit: many thanks to Cheryl Ferris-Stewart and the grant holder organisations for photos of the IDODP 2023 events.



Image Credit: many thanks to CHANGE for many of the illustrated images used in this report.