

Easy Read Report

International Day of Disabled People 2024

Version 2. Published May 2025

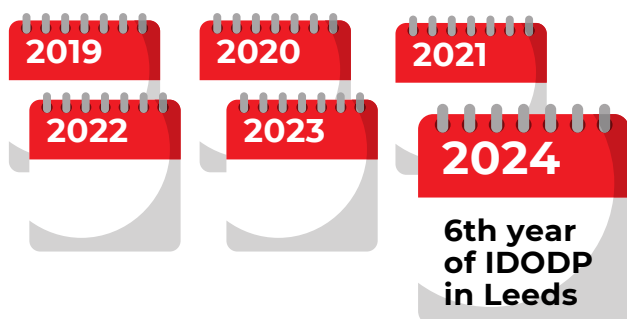


Photos taken by Cheryl Ferris-Stewart

Background and Summary



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



2024 was the 6th year Leeds has had a celebration event for IDODP.

Transformation, Inclusion, Innovation

The theme of the 2024 Leeds for All, International Day of Disabled People was: Transformation, Inclusion and Innovation.



A Marketplace celebration event was held on Tuesday 3 December 2024 at Leeds City Museum.



You can watch a short highlights video of IDODP 2024 here on YouTube.

520 people



Around 520 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 people with disabilities,
- people who work for organisations which support people with disabilities.

27 organisations



There were 27 organisations that had stalls at the marketplace event.



People with disabilities performed during the event. This was organised by People in Action.

7 performers



There were 7 performers. They did dance, rap, singing, guitar and Performance Poetry.

Guest Speakers

The event began with five people giving short speeches.



1. Geoff Turnbull, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager from the Leeds City Council Equality Team opened the event and spoke about health and safety.



2. The Lord Mayor of Leeds - Abigail Marshall Katung welcomed everyone and talked about what accessibility means to her.



3. Councillor Kevin Ritchie, Lead Member for Disability at Leeds City Council.



4. Rob Moriarty - Businessman, Entrepreneur and Self Advocate who shared his personal experience of being disabled.



5. Anne Marie Davies - Volunteer and Advocate who shared her experience of being disabled.

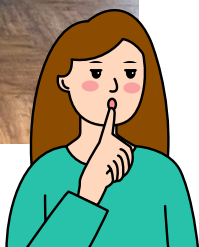
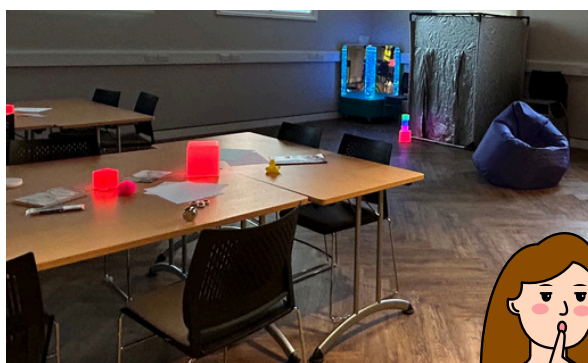


BSL interpreters were available throughout the event. They translated the speeches.



Art Zone

The Art Zone run by Pyramid of Arts had 72 people drop in during the event. Activities were designed to be accessible. Or people could go to look at the artwork.



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 40 people.

There was an activity in the main room called the Wishing Tree. People could write comments about their hopes for the future of Leeds.

All the wishes that people wrote are listed in this document:
[Wishing Tree Statements.](#)

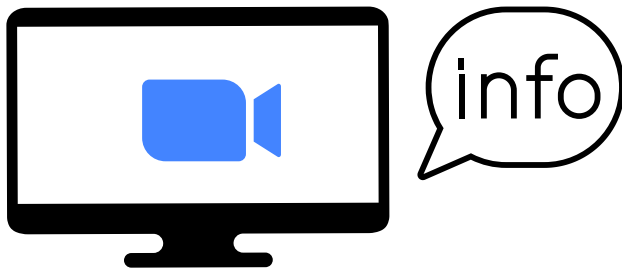


Preparing for the event



The event was organised by Forum Central and Leeds City Council's Equality Team and their Disability Hub with input from the Leeds for All reference group.

The Leeds for All reference group was made up of 8 organisations.



There was an online meeting for Stall holders before the event. 12 stallholders attended this briefing session.

It had lots of information about hosting a stall on the day.

Accessibility



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

[You can watch the venue tour video 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.



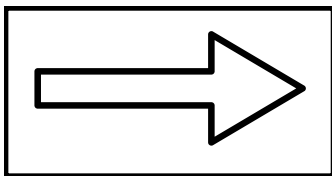
BSL Interpreters

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.

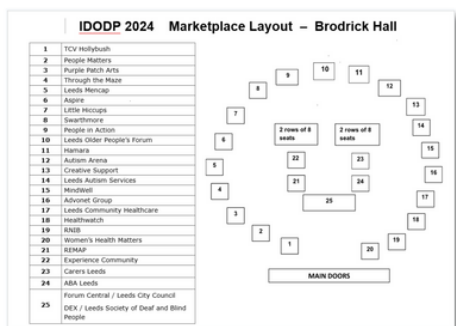


Welcome and Easy Read Programme

There was a welcome table at the entrance which had an Easy Read programme with details of speakers, times and activities.



There were signs and arrows directing people around the museum venue.

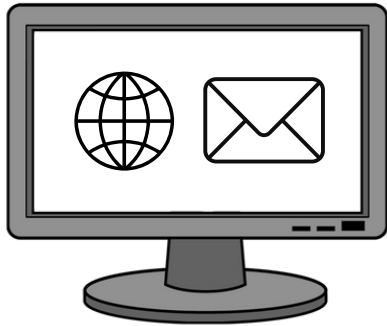


There was a map of the layout of organisations who had stalls in the main hall.

Promotion



The event was promoted by Forum Central, Leeds Disability Hub and the stall holder organisations.



Information about the event was on our website and was sent to people by email.



We shared posts on social media, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X, which used to be called Twitter.

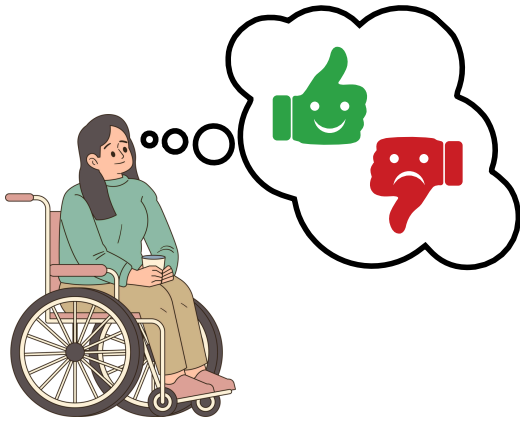


Posters were displayed at places and offices around the city centre and taken to day centres.



A press release was on the Yorkshire Post and Yorkshire Evening post website. And the event was listed on Leeds Inspired and other websites.

Feedback







Feedback Form - Attendee

International Day of Disabled People Marketplace Event 2024
Tuesday 3 December, Leeds City Museum 11am to 3pm

Please share your feedback to help us plan IDODP 2024. Thank you

1. Did you enjoy the event today? Please put a tick (✓) in the box to answer

Yes, a lot	Mostly	A little bit	No
			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What did you like about today?

3. What did you not like about today?

4. Was the event accessible for you? Please put a tick (✓) in the box next to your answer

☐ Yes ☒ No



It is important to the event organisers to understand what people thought of the event.

We asked people to fill in a feedback form to tell us what was good or bad.

There was a printed out paper form and a digital form online.

20 pieces of feedback received



We received feedback from 10 people who came on the day, and from 10 stallholders via the form, or by email. That's 20 pieces of feedback in total.

Everyone who gave feedback said they did enjoy the event. And said it was accessible for them.

Some people said the main hall was too loud and echoey.

“What did you like about the Leeds for All event in 2024?”

10 people answered this question. This is what they said:



“Meeting people to explain things better”

“Good atmosphere”

“Making new connections and being part of something intersectional”

“The variety of stalls”

“The vibe”

“Lovely atmosphere and great chance to meet people”

“The whole event was great, well put together and a great variety of people. - Wonderful day!”

“A time of celebration. The performances were brilliant!”

“The fact there were so many organisations in one place, nice to speak to and find out more under one roof.”

“We were really pleased that people who were interested in becoming members at Pyramid used the event as an opportunity to bring in their sketchbooks and artwork to show us. Having the designated art zone allowed us to have really meaningful 1:1 conversations with people about how they could get involved with Pyramid. Hopefully the people we met at the event will be joining us to make more art in the Pyramid Studio soon!”

Alice Clayden - Pyramid of Arts - Creative Programme Coordinator

“What did you NOT like about Leeds for All 2024?”

5 people answered this question with negative feedback. This is what they said:



“Acoustics of the venue made talking to people difficult at times when performances were on, people coming round stalls were oblivious to this and wanted to talk.”

“It was focussed on LD and Autism. Could be more focused on other disability.”

“So much going on, and when performances were on people coming round stalls oblivious to this and wanted to talk.”

“Hard to run a stall while performances are on – noisy! Also unfair on the performers. It’d be a shame not to have performers somewhere.”

“Think it stretched out a bit too long”

Other comments from people:

“Great networking event, lots of info gathered and connections made.”

“More spacious venue. Tea/Coffee”

“It covered subjects I am passionate about already”

“no new or different thinking but lots of valuable info sharing and networking”

“All the leaflets, I collected it. I am going to read them and implement them in my work.”

“...keep it up.”

Conclusion

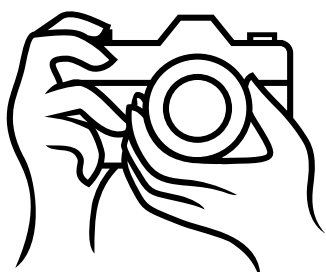


Overall the 2024 IDODP Marketplace Event was a great day of celebration and making connections.

Recommendations:

- Change the venue of the event.
- Bring back the IDODP Small Grants Fund.
- Engage more with Hearing and Sight Impaired people.
- To have basic BSL and sight guide training available pre-event for all Leeds for All staff.
- To use Plain English.
- To work on our Leeds for All accessibility strategies.
- To use the event to try improve outcomes for disabled people.

THANK YOU



Thanks to everyone who took part in IDODP 2024.

Thanks to all the stall holders, contributors and to the Leeds for All reference group members:

- Leeds City Council – Access, Equality, and Special Services Departments
- Leeds Autism Services
- Leeds CIL (Leeds Centre for Integrated Living)
- DeafEXperience (DEX)
- REMAP
- People in Action
- Harehills Park Bowling Club
- Volition, Forum Central.

Thanks to Cheryl Ferris-Stewart and Pyramid of Arts for the photos.