

Norfolk Community Cohesion Network

Norfolk Partnership Disability Equality Scheme

Promoting disability equality

A new law (the Disability Discrimination Act 2005) tells us we must promote disability equality, which means that we should make sure that disabled people get the same opportunities as other people, and that we do not treat them unfairly or badly because of their disability. We should also encourage other people to be positive about disabled people. We should encourage disabled people to take part in public life. We should make sure we do as much as we can for disabled people, even if that means we do more for them than for other people.

Working together

These organisations worked together on a Partnership Disability Equality Scheme: Norfolk County Council, all the Norfolk district and borough councils, the Norfolk County Association of Town and Parish Councils, Norfolk Constabulary and the Police Authority. Norfolk Coalition of Disabled People gave valuable advice and guidance.

Involving disabled people

We made sure we heard the views of disabled people by

- Surveying them on access to services
- Getting their views recorded on to audio tapes and a video
- Listening to them in person and on the phone
- Arranging a conference where disabled people met service managers to speak to them directly about services

Our promises

We have made 10 promises to disabled people. The top 3 are:

- We will always treat disabled people with dignity and respect, and listen to their views and comments.
- We will base our priorities for action for our Disability Equality Scheme Action Plans on what disabled people tell us.
- We will promote disability equality at every opportunity.

Social Model of Disability

We believe that disabled people are disabled by society, and because of this they face barriers and unfair treatment that other people do not have to experience.

Making sure we do what we said we would do

We will be asking disabled people about the progress we're making, and we will report on this to the Norfolk Community Cohesion Strategic Group and then to the County Strategic Partnership Board. We will publish an annual report.

The Big Issues

Disabled people in Norfolk told us that the big issues for them are:

- Transport
- Parking
- Footpaths and pavements
- Access to buildings
- Leisure
- People's attitudes
- Isolation

Action Plan Summary

1. A media campaign to champion the rights of disabled people, to raise awareness of issues such as wrongful use of disabled parking spaces, and to promote positive images of disabled people.
2. We will hold events for disabled people around the county.
3. We will hold a 'road show' to get the views of disabled people.
4. We will improve our knowledge and communication skills with people with aphasia, dysphasia, deaf-blindness, and people with mental health issues.
5. We will work in partnership with the health sector in meeting issues raised by disabled people.
6. We will work in partnership with Town and Parish Councils to raise awareness of access issues, and disability equality.
7. We will explore ways of providing support for Disability Forums and other ways of supporting disabled people.
8. We will develop ways of supporting disabled people through the use of technology.
9. We are exploring the feasibility of setting up a protocol for the reporting of disability related crime through partner agencies.
10. We will review, monitor and update the Scheme and action plan.

How to contact us:

You can contact any of the partners via:

Joan Emerson

Norfolk County Council

joan.emerson@norfolk.gov.uk

01603 223816

Please let us know if you'd like a printed version of the full partnership scheme. The full partnership scheme is also on the Internet, at www.norfolk.gov.uk under Council and Democracy.