

Impact

Disability Action North East

October 2004 has been in the diary for five years. So are all goods and services now accessible?

According to research by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) on the eve of the implementation of Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act, four out of five British high streets were unprepared, but we knew that didn't we?

It comes as no surprise that the DRC survey revealed that:-

In four out of five city centres disabled people encountered major problems getting in - encountering steps, heavy doors, narrow entrances and bad layout inside stores.

Nearly a quarter of all the 88 major high street outlets surveyed were rated as poor or very poor by disabled shoppers.

Overall, four out of five

disabled people had serious problems with cinema access. In three locations disabled people couldn't get in at all.

A lack of large print information in key places like cafes, restaurants and cinemas and almost a complete lack of induction loops were found.

One third of public toilets were difficult or impossible to access.

Four out of five disabled people encountered problems with lack of space between tables in restaurants, cafes and pubs.

Notice on a local shop door

**Wheelchair ramp available
on request.**

Please ask inside.

Vote Online for Best and Worst Access

The DRC is conducting an online poll to discover which service providers are shutting disabled people out.

Individuals can vote for the 'best' and 'worst' in three categories:-

Major stores (like IKEA or Marks & Spencer);

Major entertainment and hotel/leisure venues (like Odeon Cinemas or National Trust; and

Local authorities.

If a service provider isn't listed, you can nominate a store or venue to be added to the list.

Website Relaunch

www.disabledunited.com, which already receives 100,000 visitors each month, relaunches this month in a new improved format.

Poets Wanted

The Once Orange Badge Poetry supplement is a bi-annual publication for disabled people. Poems for future issues are being sought and should be sent, with a stamped addressed envelope, to Martyn Heath. PO Box 184, South Ockenden, Essex. RM15 5WT 01708 852827
Onceorangebadge@poetry.fsworld.co.uk

Accessible Scotland

VisitScotland, the country's national tourist board, has recently published Accessible Scotland, a brochure listing almost 1,000 places offering accommodation, both serviced and self-catering, and visitor attractions that are accessible to those with a mobility impairment.

For a copy call VisitScotland on 0845 22 55 121, e-mail info@visitscotland.com or visit their website www.visitscotland.com



Disability Action North East

Formed in June 1992, Disability Action North East (DANE) is a political network of disabled people and our allies. DANE believes the source of disabled people's problems is not our bodies, minds or intellect, but society. Disability is a social oppression. DANE believes only organisations controlled by disabled people can truly represent disabled people.

The disabled people's movement has identified 7 basic needs that must be met if we are to lead independent lives, and this is essential to our equality:-

Information—To be able to make informed decisions about our lives we need information in accessible formats, e.g. audiotape, Braille, sign language, etc.

Housing – There is a shortage in this country of accessible homes for disabled people and we often don't have a choice about where we live. We need affordable accessible homes and the ability to exercise control over where we live and in what type of housing.

Technical Aids – Many of us need equipment to enable us to live our daily lives effectively, e.g. wheelchairs, text phones, etc. This equipment needs to be free or easily affordable and readily available.

Personal Assistance – Personal assistants are workers that assist us as disabled people in our everyday lives. Unfortunately, it is difficult to get funding for personal assistance and the pay is often low. We need decent levels of funding if we are to recruit and maintain our personal assistance.

Transport – Most public transport is inaccessible. Without equal access to transport, we can't take part in activities outside our homes.

Access -Most services are inaccessible to disabled people. Without access as a right, we will continue to be denied equal choice.

Peer Support – As we face discrimination and disempowerment in our daily lives, we need to be able to gain strength from support networks of people from our own community.