



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle
**Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin**

Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrìck Cooncil

Disability Scheme

Derry City and Strabane District Council 2020-2023

Drawn up in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Derry City and Strabane District Council

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This document is available in a range of formats on request. Please contact us with your requirements (see below for contact details).

This Disability Action Plan can be obtained from the Council in alternative formats, including large print, Braille, easy read, audio alternative format and/or language. It can also be downloaded from the Council's website at: www.derrystrabane.com

If you would like a copy in an alternative format, please contact:

Derry City and Strabane District Council
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98 Strand Road
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Foreword

This Disability Scheme and Action Plan is an important document in that it is reaffirming Derry City and Strabane District Council's commitment to and proposals for fulfilling the statutory obligations in compliance with Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006). This Act had placed new duties on public authorities, when carrying out their functions to have regard to the need:

- To promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- To encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to the effective implementation of all aspects of this Scheme and Action Plan in all parts of its organisation.

The Disability Scheme and Plan outlines how disability issues can be more effectively mainstreamed within Derry City and Strabane District Council, thus ensuring that they are central to the whole range of policy decision-making within Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to carrying out consultation in a meaningful manner in the review of its disability duties. In doing so Derry City and Strabane District Council is keen to bring about change for disabled people and we are therefore focussing on the issue of involvement and participation in the drafting, implementation, monitoring and review of this Plan.

Mayor

Chief Executive

Date: _____

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1. Introduction

1.1 Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 requires Derry City and Strabane District Council, in carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need:

- To promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; *and*
- To encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

1.2 Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to the fulfilment of its disability duties in all parts of its organisation and has set out how it intends to do this in this Disability Action Plan (the Plan) as per the requirement under Section 49B of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the guidelines produced by the Equality Commission “**A Guide for Public Authorities – Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life**”.

Through the initiatives identified in the Disability Action Plan Derry City and Strabane District Council will endeavour to:

- Promote understanding
- Raise awareness
- Challenge stereotypes
- Encourage respect

1.3 Derry City and Strabane District Council will undertake a focussed programme of communication and training on the disability duties for staff and elected members during the lifespan of this Plan.

2. Purpose of the disability action plan

This Plan sets out how Derry City and Strabane District Council proposes to continue to fulfil the disability duties in relation to its functions.

3. Derry City & Strabane District Council – its role and functions

3.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council performs principal roles within its local area and district:

- The direct provision of a number of services and facilities,
- The promotion of the arts, tourism, community and economic development,
- The promotion of equality and good relations in carrying out all its functions,
- The regulation and licensing of certain activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection and public safety,
- A representative role on a number of bodies and Boards including Education and Health,
- A consultative role in relation to functions conducted by other Government bodies and agencies.

3.2 In the performance of the above roles Derry City and Strabane District Council carries out functions in the following areas:

- ◆ the provision of facilities for recreation, social and cultural activities, including leisure centres, community centres, parks, open spaces, sports grounds and places of entertainment
- ◆ street cleansing
- ◆ waste collection and disposal
- ◆ the provision of burial grounds
- ◆ the provision of grant aid to support the arts, community development and the promotion of tourism and economic development
- ◆ the administration and regulation of certain matters relating to the environment, public health and public safety, including building control, food safety, statutory nuisance, houses of multiple occupancy, dangerous buildings, air pollution, noise pollution, dog control, consumer protection and health and safety
- ◆ the licensing and regulation of street trading, places of entertainment, amusement centres, sex establishments, societies lotteries, cinemas, the storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures and the regulation of off-street parking.
- ◆ The making of Bye-laws and regulation of same.
- ◆ Planning Services
- ◆ Urban Regeneration Schemes
- ◆ Community Planning

4. Public life positions over which Derry City and Strabane District Council has responsibility

4.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council has responsibility over the following public life positions:

- Strategic Growth Partnership Thematic Working Groups
- Local Area Growth Planning Groups
- Village Renewal Working Groups
- Equality Assurance and Oversight Group

5. Derry City and Strabane District Council's commitment to the effective implementation of the disability action plan

5.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to the effective implementation of all aspects of this Plan in all parts of its organisation. Overall responsibility for determining policy on how this will be achieved lies with the Elected Members. Day to day responsibility for carrying out the policy determined by the Elected Members lies with the Chief Executive and he will be responsible for the implementation of administrative arrangements to ensure that Derry City and Strabane District Council complies with the disability duties in carrying out its functions.

5.2 As part of its planning process, Derry City and Strabane District Council will build objectives, target setting and monitoring relating to the disability duties into corporate and business plans.

5.3 Details of progress on meeting the objectives relating to the disability duties will also be included in Derry City and Strabane District Council's Corporate Annual report.

6. Internal arrangements

- 6.1 The Council consists of 40 elected representatives who are elected for a four-year period. These representatives meet monthly in full session (except in August) and on a regular basis as members of the Council's various Committees.
- 6.2 The Council currently has six Committees:-
- Governance and Strategic Planning
 - Planning
 - Assurance, Audit and Risk
 - Business and Culture
 - Environment and Regeneration
 - Health and Community
- 6.3 Council Staff who provide support to the Council and its Committees and implement its policies are organised into Directorates / Service Areas.
- 6.4 The Chief Executive oversees the work of Directorates through Directors who are also responsible for the Corporate Management of the Council.
- 6.5 Council is committed to the fulfilment of its disability duties in all parts of its organisation and the Chief Executive is responsible for the implementation of administrative arrangements to ensure that Derry City and Strabane District Council comply with the Disability Duties in carrying out its functions.

7. Annual report on Disability Duties

- 7.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council will submit an annual report on the implementation of its Plan. The annual report will be included as part of Derry City and Strabane District Council's annual report to the Equality Commission on the implementation of our equality scheme.
- 7.2 A copy of the annual report will be made available on Derry City and Strabane District Council's website and on request in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio formats and in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English.

8. Five year review

8.1 Subject to the implementation of the Review of Public Administration Derry City and Strabane District Council will carry out a five-year review of its plan, in consultation with the Equality Commission for NI.

9. Effective engagement

9.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to engage effectively with disabled people in the drafting, implementation, monitoring and review of this Plan.

10. Consultation

10.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council is keen to bring about change for disabled people and we are therefore focussing on the issue of involvement and participation in preparing our Plan.

10.2 To do this Derry City and Strabane District Council will actively engage at both regional and local levels to obtain the views of groups and individuals with a disability.

10.3 Council will engage directly with its Equality Assurance and Oversight Group in the development of this plan.

The Draft Disability Action Plan will also be placed on the Council's website and an invitation will be issued for consultees to forward their views either in writing or in a face-to-face meeting with the Policy Officer (Equality).

10.4 As part of the consultation process, barriers to proper consultation will be removed by ensuring accessibility of documents in appropriate formats. Information will be made available on request in accessible formats. Such information will be made available in a timely fashion.

10.5 Derry City and Strabane District Council is keen to ensure the highest level of inclusivity in our consultation and therefore we will consider the following:

- The time of day of the meeting;
- The appropriateness of the venue to ensure the highest standard of accessibility;
- How the meeting will be run;
- The use of appropriate language;
- Whether a signer or interpreter or other communication support is necessary;

10.6 The Action Plan lays out the initiatives Derry City and Strabane District Council wishes to implement. Council will consider amending them or including additional ones following the comments we receive.

11. Action measures

11.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council has detailed the measures it intends to take in order to implement the disability duties. Full details of these are given in the Action Plan.

12. Timescale for the Implementation of the Action Measures

12.1 The Action Plan outlines the actions and the timescale for the implementation of the action measures we intend to take in order to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life. This timetable outlines the actions, which Derry City and Strabane District Council will take until 31st December 2023.

13. Performance Indicators or Targets

- 13.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to monitoring and reviewing policies and practices to ensure that disability equality duties are being met. Monitoring the progress of this Plan itself is a significant element.
- 13.2 As part of this process, the Annual Review of the Plan will contribute towards the monitoring and review process and assist in drafting appropriate targets and performance indicators (PIs) for the next period, whilst reporting on the achievement, or otherwise, of those set for the current period of the Annual Review.
- 13.3 Derry City and Strabane District Council has included performance indicators and targets in the form of 'Measures of Success' as an integral part of this Plan.
- 13.4 Some targets are very specific, whilst other are of a more general nature, thus ensuring the Plan is a realistic and proactive plan, not solely reactive. Some targets are not related to a specific time, as over period of the Plan, we want to ensure that Derry City and Strabane District Council meets the practical needs of disabled persons and their carers on a timely basis.
- 13.5 The purpose of these measures of success is to provide an indication of how Derry City and Strabane District Council is implementing their disability duties and to ensure we are focusing on their needs at a time when it is appropriate to have them addressed.
- 13.6 Some performance indicators will be measured against similar public authorities, whilst others are specific to an authority by addressing the needs of those receiving the service and/or its employees.

14. How the disability action plan will be published

- 14.1 Following submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, this Plan will be available on Council's website or a copy can be obtained by contacting:

Name: Policy Officer (Equality)
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
DERRY BT48 7NN

Phone number: 028 71 253253

Email: equality@derrystrabane.com

- 14.2 Our Disability scheme and action plan is also available on request in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio formats and in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English.

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