



HM Government

National Disability Strategy



easy
read

Contents

Page

Introduction 3

About this strategy 4

Disabled People 5

Lives are improving 6

Our vision 8

The everyday experiences of disabled people 10

What we want to do 13

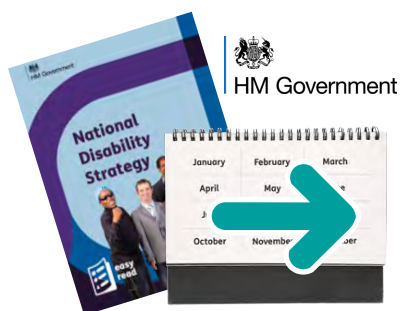
Disability is everyone's business 16

Government departments 17



In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



The government has written this National Disability **Strategy**.

A **strategy** is a plan for a long period of time.



This strategy explains:

- how we want the lives of disabled people to improve
- what the different parts of the government will do to help improve the lives of disabled people
- how we can encourage other people to do things that will improve the lives of disabled people.



About this strategy



We worked with many different people and organisations to write this strategy.



We had:

- meetings with disabled people, parents, carers, disability organisations, businesses and many others



- long conversations with disabled people.



We launched the UK Disability Survey in January 2021. Thousands of people filled in the survey including disabled people, families and carers.

Disabled people



Over 1 in 5 people in the UK are disabled.

That is over 14 million of us.



There will be more disabled people in the future because:

- people are living longer



- people can now live a long time with a long term health condition.



Disability matters to all of us.

Lives are improving



It is now 25 years since the government made a law that said disabled people should be treated in the same fair way as everyone else.

Since then:



- there have been many improvements to services for disabled people



- access has become easier and there are more opportunities for disabled people



- more disabled people have a good job



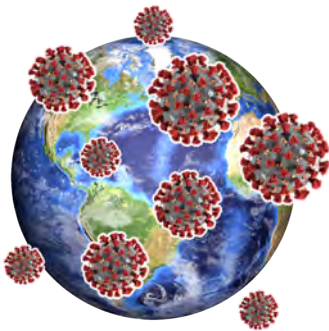
- attitudes towards disabled people have started to change.

It is not enough



Despite these improvements:

- disabled people still face many difficulties



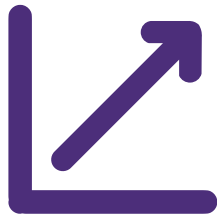
- disabled people have suffered more than others during **COVID-19**.

COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus. It is an illness that is spreading around the world. It can make people ill, such as affecting their breathing.

Our vision



A **vision** is how we want things to be in the future.



We want to improve the everyday lives of disabled people.



We want disabled people to have the same opportunities as everyone else.



For example, we want to:

- support disabled children more at school



- help to change how people see disabled people.

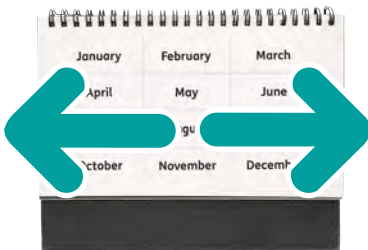


We want to include:

- people who have disabilities that you cannot see



- disabled people who do not think of themselves as disabled



- people who have been disabled in the past or may be disabled in the future.

The everyday experience of disabled people



Home

Homes are often not suited for disabled people to live in.



Transport

Only a quarter of stations have a way to get from one platform to another without using stairs.



Work

It is still much harder for a disabled person to get a job than a non-disabled person.

Shopping



2 in every 5 disabled people said they have difficulties with shopping.



These difficulties include:

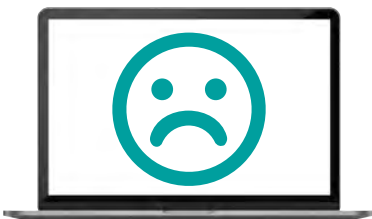
- not enough facilities for disabled people, like toilets
- using public transport, like buses and trains
- moving around shops.



Online

Many websites are not fully **accessible**.

Accessible means it is easy to use and suitable for people with different needs.



Lonely



Disabled people are much more likely to feel lonely than non-disabled people.



Having to stay at home during COVID-19 has affected the mental health of disabled people more than non-disabled people.



Safety

Disabled people are more likely to be the victim of a crime than non-disabled people.

What we want to do



We want to change how we work so that disabled people are at the centre of how we:

- make our plans
- run services.



We will make sure that people in all parts of the government understand the lives of disabled people.



All government departments will:

- treat everyone fairly and equally, including disabled people



- think about disabled people from the start when we plan new things



- help disabled people to be independent and have choice and control over their lives



- talk to disabled people directly about how we run services and as part of our planning



- collect information so we can understand more about how disabled people are affected by the things we do.



Yearly reports

We will write a report each year which explains what work we have been doing to help disabled people.

Next year



Next year we plan to focus on:

- making products and services more accessible



- tackling crime against disabled people



- ways to make sure disabled people have the same opportunities to take part in things.

Disability is everyone's business



We want everyone to make changes to improve the lives of disabled people.



We plan to:

- have a **campaign** that helps people to understand more about disabled people

A **campaign** is a plan of things to do over time, to try and change something.



- encourage people to behave in a better way towards disabled people



- use Disability and Access Ambassadors to talk to businesses about including disabled more and using disabled people's talents.

Government departments



Each of the different government departments will be responsible for working on these plans.

The Cabinet Office



Cabinet Office

The **Cabinet Office** helps the Prime Minister to make sure the government runs well.



The Cabinet Office's plans include:

- getting more disabled people onto the list of people who get an honour from the Queen
- making it easier for disabled people to get jobs helping to run public services





- letting people work from home if that suits them best



- making sure government buildings are accessible



- making sure disabled people can take part in elections



- bring in rules so that disabled people can ask for the shared areas in properties to be made accessible



- making it clearer how you can complain about websites that are not accessible



- working with large businesses to make it fairer for disabled people at work



- making it better for disabled people who work for the government



- making more information available to increase understanding of disabled people.



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy



The **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy** looks after businesses, employees and customers.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's plans include:



- encouraging people to invent equipment and technology that helps disabled people



- helping disabled people to start their own business



- looking at ways to make work more flexible



- helping carers to be able to take time off when they need it



- improving advice to disabled people and businesses employing disabled people.



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport



The **Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport** looks after TV, radio, theatres, music, websites and sport.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's plans include:



- making it easier for disabled people to access arts and cultural places



- making the UK more accessible for tourists



- working with Sports England to help disabled people be more active and enjoy sport



- looking at making websites more accessible.



Department
for Education

Department for Education



The **Department for Education** looks after education and services for young people.



The Department for Education's plans include:

- looking at improving things for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)



- more money for services for children with complex needs



- more money for schools to make their buildings more accessible



- more training for teachers



- helping children, young people and parents to have a say in our services for children with SEND.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



The **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** looks after the countryside and businesses that produce our food.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' plans include:



- helping make the countryside accessible to everyone



- more money for helping disabled people to get out into the countryside to improve their health.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care



The **Department for Health and Social Care** helps people to live healthier and more independent lives for longer.

The Department of Health and Social Care's plans include:

- involving disabled people in our plans to improve **social care**

Social care is the extra support some people need with everyday things such as personal care.

- improving the information we collect so we understand disabled people better

- helping make sure disabled people are better understood

- making sure disabled people get the same good healthcare services as non-disabled people.





Department
for Transport

Department for Transport



The **Department for Transport** is responsible for roads, railways, airlines and buses.

The Department for Transport's plans include:

- helping disabled people feel more confident about travelling
- improving the accessibility and safety on trains and stations
- improving the accessibility of buses, bus stations and bus stops
- getting more community transport drivers





- making taxis more accessible



- making electric vehicle charging more accessible



- improving the Blue Badge Scheme which helps disabled people to park in convenient places



- reducing the number of vehicles that park on the pavement.

Department for Work and Pensions



The **Department for Work and Pensions** is responsible for helping people find jobs and paying **benefits**.

Benefits is money paid to some people by the government to help pay for the things they need to live.

The Department for Work and Pensions' plans include:

- improving the way we check if people should get disability benefits
- helping disabled people move from school and college into a job
- helping disabled students when they leave university
- working with businesses to increase job opportunities for disabled people
- supporting more disabled people to get a paid job.





Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office



The **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office** works with other countries to help solve big problems in the world.



The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's plans include:

- improving how we involve disabled people in the way we help less developed countries in the world
- making sure that disabled people are involved in the projects we support in less developed countries
- helping more disabled people to work in our defence and security services.





Home Office

Home Office



The **Home Office** is responsible for the police and keeping people and the country safe.

The Home Office's plans include:

- improving the way we deal with crime - including disability **hate crime**



Hate crime is being harassed or attacked because people think you are different.



- involving disabled people when we look at new ways to deal with hate crime.



Ministry of Defence



The **Ministry of Defence** is responsible for the defence services such as the army, and keeping the country safe.

The Ministry of Defence's plans include:



- giving more disabled people the chance to work for them



- helping disabled people who have worked in the defence services to take part in sport.

Ministry of Justice



The **Ministry of Justice** is responsible for making sure the justice system works for everybody including disabled people.

The Ministry of Justice's plans include:

- helping more disabled people to become **magistrates**
- Magistrates** are like judges in the lower courts.

- giving more help to disabled people who have been the victims of crime

- helping people who use British Sign Language to be on a jury

- helping our staff to understand people who have different mental health issues and disabilities

- helping disabled people to access courts.





Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government



The **Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government** is responsible for housing, local government and supporting strong communities.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's plans include:

- building more new homes that are suitable for disabled people
- making sure that disabled people are safe in buildings, especially when there is an emergency
- looking at ways to make shopping areas better for disabled people
- having more Changing Places toilets - these are fully accessible toilets
- encouraging local councils to build more playgrounds that are suitable for disabled children.

