



Cabinet Office



Easy
Read

Disability Action Plan

What we have done in the last
year



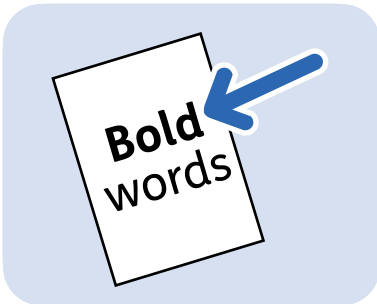
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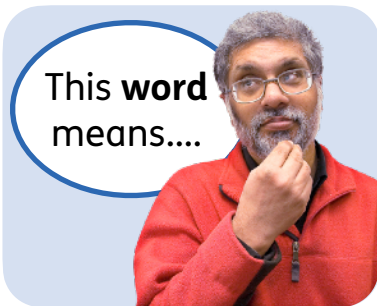
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What we have done in the last year



The Government is working to improve the lives of disabled people.



This document explains what different parts of the Government, called departments, have done in the last year.

Disability Unit



The Disability Unit is a team that works on issues that affect disabled people.

We have:



- Worked to make sure British Sign Language is treated as a language of England, Wales and Scotland.



- Spoken up about including disabled people around the world.



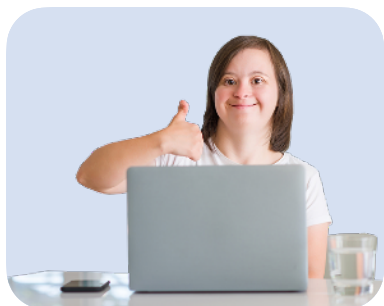
- Found out about the lives of disabled people.



- Found out whether disabled people are having difficulties affording what they need to live.

Taking part in government services

We have:



- Made it easier for disabled people to get government services online.



- Supported disabled people to apply to **Public Appointments**.

Public Appointments are jobs that people do in their spare time to help with things like museums, galleries and the NHS.

Companies and jobs

We have:



- Supported people to get good jobs.



- Supported carers so that they can be happy and healthy when they are working and caring.



- Made sure companies talk to disabled workers about ways of working that are good for that person.



- Written a new law about giving carers time off from work.



- Given businesses run by disabled people more chances to work around the world.

Culture and sport



Culture includes art, theatre, films and museums.

We have:



- Included more disabled people who like sport, art and museums.



- Made it easier for disabled people to volunteer - this means helping a local organisation or charity by working without being paid.



- Spent money to make museums easier for disabled people to visit.



- Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 saw more disabled people take part than ever.

The countryside



We have:

- Made it easier for disabled people to go for walks in the countryside.
- Spent money to make farms and other places in the countryside easier for disabled people to visit.
- Told people that being in the countryside can sometimes help improve your mental health.



Heating and electricity



We have worked to improve a lot of people's homes to make them warmer.



Many disabled people live in these homes.

Schools and learning



We have:

- Written a plan to give more help to disabled children in school.



- Started a new service called the Universal Services Programme.

This will help schools and colleges to help young people who need extra support.



- Trained staff to use technology, like computers, to better support disabled children in school.



- Listened to disabled children and their parents about how to give more help to disabled children in school.



- Spent money giving disabled children and young people short holidays.

Health and care

We have:



- Supported a new law that helps people with Down Syndrome.



- Written a plan to improve the lives of people with rare diseases. Some of these people may be disabled.



- Spent money to help build more housing for older people and disabled people.



- Written a plan to get more disabled people living in their local community, instead of mental health hospitals.



- Written a rule that all health and care staff must get training on caring for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

We have also:



- Worked on a new law to better support people with **mental health issues**.



Mental health issues affect how you think and feel, like being worried or sad all the time.



- Supported the NHS to work on better ways of caring for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

Homes, buildings and including everyone

We have:



- Written rules for new houses, so that they are better for disabled people.



- Spent money on making more **Changing Places toilets**.

Changing Places toilets have enough space and equipment for people who can't use the toilet independently.



- Supported more disabled people to vote and take part in politics.



- Helped some disabled people to buy their home using a new **shared ownership** scheme.

A **Shared ownership scheme** is where a person who wants to buy their house but cannot do it on their own, buys the house with their landlord. This can include disabled people.

Science and technology

We have:



- Written a new law to protect disabled children online.



- Supported disabled students to study new technology.

Transport

Transport is different ways of getting around, like trains, buses, cars and planes.



We have:



- Written new rules to make sure disabled people are treated well when they fly on a plane.

We have also:



- Made sure disabled people can use and get around trains and train stations.



- Passed a law to help disabled people to use taxis.



- Made sure that there is information about local buses and coaches that disabled people can understand.



- Made it easier for disabled people to get and use a **Blue Badge**.

A **Blue Badge** lets you park your car in a special space if you are disabled or need some extra help.



- Worked on projects to help disabled people feel good about travelling.

Work, pensions and benefits



Benefits is money the Government gives to some people to help pay for the things they need to live.

We have:

- Written a new law about:



- How we will support disabled people to start, stay and do well at work.



- Supporting disabled people who get benefits.



- Made changes to rules to help people near the end of their lives get enough money to pay for the things they need.

We have also:



- Made it quicker for people to get a **Personal Independent Payment (PIP)**.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a type of benefit that helps you with everyday life if you have an illness, disability or mental health condition.



- Given extra support to disabled people because the prices of everything were going up.



- Worked on lots of ways to help disabled people work, and do well at work.



- Created Health Adjustment Passports. These are documents that explain what changes a disabled person might need at work.



- Supported people to have good mental health at work.

Around the world

We have:



- Written a plan for how we will support countries around the world to include disabled people.



- Written plans to support disabled women and girls around the world.

Money and taxes



We have worked on ways to support people who have been ill for a long time.



These will help them to get the services they need, and come back to, or stay in work.

Police and border staff



Border staff check who is coming in and out of the UK.

Border Staff are like police officers but they look after airports and ports.



Border staff are working to make it easier for disabled people to travel through ports and airports.

We have also:



- Worked to get more disabled people to become police officers.



- Made British Sign Language easier to use for our staff and customers.

Armed forces



The **armed forces** are the army, navy, air force and other services that work to keep our country safe.



We have supported disabled people who work for the armed forces.

Courts

We have:



- Changed the law so that **d/Deaf** people can take part in juries.

d/Deaf means you may have difficulty hearing, or you cannot hear. You may use sign language.



- Worked to get more disabled people to take part in court.

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