

DA News

Issue 59 April 2009



Photo of 2008 exhibition at Lagan Valley Leisureplex.

Countdown to Disability Exhibition 2010

Northern Ireland's largest disability exhibition is back. Disability Exhibition 2010, will take place on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 June at the Lagan Valley Leisureplex in Lisburn.

This year's exhibition is being organised by Disability Action in conjunction with Ability NI, Northern Ireland's first disability magazine and is sponsored by Taxi and Bus Conversions (TBC Specialist Conversions), Northern Ireland's leading specialist vehicle converters for taxis, wheelchair accessible vehicles, minibuses and vans.

If you are a person with a disability, a family member, carer or healthcare professional interested in finding out about the latest products and services for people with disabilities, then this bi-annual event should not to be missed. Entertainment will be available for children, so the event promises to be not only informative but also a fun day out for all the family.

Feedback from Disability Exhibition 2008 showed that:

- 100% of visitors would visit the exhibition again;
- 89% of visitors got the information they required from the show; and
- 65% of visitors said they would make a purchase from someone who exhibited at the show.

The exhibition is open from 10am - 5pm on Friday 4 June and Saturday 5 June and is free of charge.

For further information on Disability Exhibition 2010, please contact Ability NI on:

Telephone: 028 9265 0059

Text/SMS 078 7244 8939

Email: donna@bebmedia.com

www.disabilityaction.org

Make your voice heard this election

It's election time again and once again Disability Action would like people to take part in a Polls Apart survey to measure how accessible the electoral process is for people with disabilities.

This survey follows on from previous research carried by Disability Action, during each election since 2003 and aims to track any progress in making the voting process and polling stations more accessible to people with disabilities.

While many changes have been made to electoral law and practice since the last Westminster elections in 2005 that have improved the accessibility for people with disabilities, much more still needs to be done to ensure that everyone can access the democratic process.

Make sure your voice is heard and tell us about your experience of the voting process. The Polls Apart survey can be filled in online on Disability Action's website www.disabilityaction.org

Polls Apart surveys are also available in a range of formats. Please contact Una at Disability Action, advising of your requirements:

Telephone: 028 9029 7880

Textphone: 028 9029 7882

Email: unareid@disabilityaction.org

Sighted guide support at Royal Victoria Hospital

Two initiatives have recently been introduced at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH). Both projects aim to help people visiting the hospital site to find their outpatient's clinic or ward. For people with a sight loss accessing the RVH site can be difficult and stressful so please take advantage of these new services.

In January the Belfast Trust launched their Volunteer project at the Royal Victoria Site. Volunteers are now located at the Falls Road Entrance to assist visitors and patients with their journey through the hospital. The Falls Road Entrance is one of the easier entrances to access using public transport and the route to Low Vision and Ophthalmic Clinics is fairly straight forward from here.

Towards the end of 2009, the Shop Mobility Service at the Royal Victoria Hospital expanded their support service to include a sighted guide service for people with severe sight loss. In conjunction with Belfast Trust Sight Support Team, sighted guide training for the RVH Volunteers has been completed and you can now request sighted guide support through Shop Mobility.

In order to ensure that a Shop Mobility Volunteer will be ready to meet you when you reach the Royal, it is advisable to contact the Shop Mobility Unit at the RVH prior to your visit or appointment. So give them a ring on 028 9031 0923 to arrange for your sighted guide volunteer to meet you on arrival.

Chair of UN Committee on Rights of People with Disabilities visits Northern Ireland



Monica Wilson, welcomes Professor Ron McCallum, Chair of United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee).

Disability Action recently welcomed Professor Ron McCallum, Chair of United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee). Professor McCallum came all the way from Australia to lead a seminar focused on how the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities should be implemented in Northern Ireland.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international agreement which confirms that people with disabilities have the same human rights as everyone else and binds countries to protect those rights.

Speaking after the seminar Professor McCallum commented:

“I was amazed to see representatives of Government, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland discussing with persons with disabilities and their organisations about how the Convention should be implemented. This is what the UN Committee expects - a collaborative process to implement, protect and monitor the Convention.”

For further information on the UN Convention on Human Rights for People with Disabilities, contact Disability Action’s Centre on Human Rights for People with Disabilities:

Telephone: 028 9029 7880

Textphone: 028 9029 7882

Email: humanrights@disabilityaction.org

Website: www.disabilityhumanrights.org

Members of the REAL Network meet with Professor Ron McCallum at Disability Action offices on his recent visit to Belfast.



Understanding the Human Rights of People with Disabilities

The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities confirms that people with disabilities have the same human rights as everyone else.

If you are a person with a disability or a representative organisation, it is important that you understand this Convention and recognise when human rights are being violated, so you can challenge such treatment.

Disability Action's Centre on Human Rights for People with Disabilities is running two OCN accredited training courses:

- **Understanding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (OCN Level 2) will help you to understand the principles of this Convention, appreciate disability concerns and understand the mechanisms and frameworks needed to translate the Convention into practice.

- **Understanding Human Rights** (Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2) provides practical information about human rights and their relevance to people with disabilities. It is useful for people with disabilities or those wanting to learn more about the impact of human rights on people with disabilities.

For further information on available dates for the courses, contact Heather Logan at Disability Action's Centre on Human Rights for People with Disabilities:

Telephone: 028 7136 0811

Textphone: 028 7137 2077

Email: heatherlogan@disabilityaction.org

Website: www.disabilityhumanrights.org

DA News is the Newsletter of Disability Action. It is published quarterly and aims to bring our members and associates up-to-date information on what is happening within the sector.

For further information please contact us:

Disability Action
Portside Business Park
189 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT9 3ED

Telephone: 028 9029 7880
Fax: 028 9029 7881
Textphone: 028 9029 7882
Email: marketing@disabilityaction.org
Website: www.disabilityaction.org



DA News is also available in a range of formats. Please contact us with your requirements.

www.disabilityaction.org