

DA News

Issue 56 May 2009

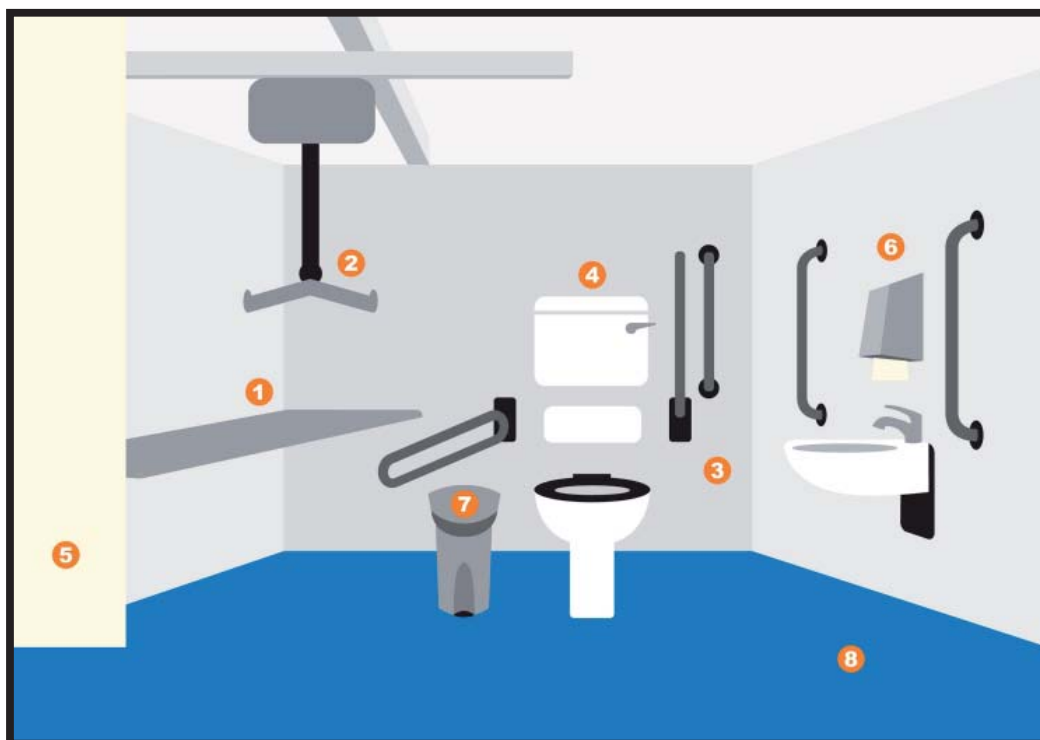


Changing Places, Changing Lives with Mencap

Learning Disability Week takes place from 22-28 June. This year's theme focuses on the Changing Places, Changing Lives campaign. Mencap, together with the Changing Places Consortium is campaigning to get Changing Places toilets installed in all big public places, such as shopping centres and arts venues.

There are only 2 Changing Places toilets in Northern Ireland. Without Changing Places toilets, carers are forced to change disabled family members on dirty toilet floors, limit outings or stay at home. This means families are denied the right to do normal things we take for granted – like go shopping, go out for lunch or visit the cinema.

A Changing Places toilet is different to a standard accessible toilet. It is a room equipped with an adjustable changing bench, a mobile hoist, adequate space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two carers, a centrally placed toilet with room either side for carers, a screen to allow the disabled person and carer some privacy, paper roll to cover the bench, waste bins for disposable pads and a non-slip floor.



You can make a life changing difference by supporting the Changing Places, Changing Lives campaign and taking part in Learning Disability Week. There are many ways to get involved from signing our online petition to holding a local event. You will be able to get a Learning Disability week pack with all the materials you need to take part.

To find out how you can get involved and to order your pack,
E-mail: rebecca.shea@mencap.org.uk or Telephone Rebecca on 028 9069 0152.

Baywatch Survey is Back

After a year off, the Baywatch Parking survey is back. The 2009 Parking Survey will be held from 18 to 25 May. The purpose of the survey is to highlight the difficulties experienced by disabled people when non-disabled people abuse accessible parking bays.

The Baywatch Campaign is asking people across Northern Ireland to carry out a survey of any car park during the week and return it to Imtac using the freepost address. Copies of the survey form are available on www.imtac.org.uk/baywatch.php or by contacting Imtac.

The Baywatch Campaign will publish a report on the findings of the survey. The campaign will use the findings to encourage the public not to abuse accessible parking bays and ask service providers to do more to deter abuse. In previous years the surveys have highlighted that nearly one in every four accessible parking bays are being abused at any time in Northern Ireland.

Imtac

Enterprise House
55-59 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8FE

Telephone: 028 9072 6020
Textphone: 028 9072 6016
Fax: 028 9024 5500
Email: info@imtac.org.uk



Forum of Mobility Centres visits Disability Action

Hugh McIlhatton, Manager of Disability Action's Mobility Centre, hosted the Forum of Mobility Centre's Board of Directors' first visit to Northern Ireland. Hugh, who became a Director of the Forum in 2008, welcomed the members at the meeting held in Disability Action's Belfast office.

The Forum of Mobility Centres is a registered charity and has a network of 17 independent organisations covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



The Forum of Mobility Centre's Board of Directors at Disability Action May 2009

The Centres offer professional, high quality information and advice as well as assessing individuals who have a medical condition or are recovering from an accident or injury which may affect their ability to drive. For more information contact the Mobility Centre Telephone: 028 9029 7880, Textphone: 028 9029 7882 or E-mail: mobilitycentre@disabilityaction.org

www.OpportunitiesForAll.org is designed for people with physical and sensory disabilities in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area. It aims to provide an accessible resource of information and support on a range of opportunities.

The website will act as a directory where people in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area can find information covering all aspects of life in their surrounding area.

Topics covered include

- Education & Training
- Sports & Recreation
- Health & Social Care
- Employment
- Leisure & Tourism
- Local Councils
- Volunteering
- Community & Voluntary
- Transport
- Housing
- Computer Accessibility



Users of the Manor Centre, Lurgan

Disability and International Development Seminar

Disability Aid Abroad in partnership with Children in Crossfire, Livability and CBM invite you to a seminar on Disability and International Development.

Date: Friday 12 June 2009

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Disability Action, 189 Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9ED

The theme of the seminar is 'Education and Learning for People with Disabilities in Africa and Asia.' The event is part of a Disability and International Development week sponsored by Dochas, the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations.

Chair: Carmel Hannah, MLA

Keynote speaker: Chris Sherpa

Speakers: Eithne McNulty, Trocaire
Richard Moore, Children in Crossfire
Andrea Brown, Disability Aid Abroad
Stephen Muldoon, Livability
Ben Gobin, Christian Blind Mission

Disability Aid Abroad

For a booking form contact Angela Hutchison Telephone: 028 9029 7880,
Textphone: 028 9029 7882 or E-mail: mobilitycentre@disabilityaction.org

DSD Minister Margaret Ritchie MLA Visits Disability Action

Department for Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie MLA visited Disability Action recently to find out about the work of Disability Action and for an update on projects of interest to her Department, namely Housing, Benefits and the development of Belfast City Centre.

The Minister first heard about the work of the housing project that Disability Action is currently undertaking. In relation to social security, Chief Executive, Monica Wilson, raised concerns about the introduction of the new Employment Support Allowance and the upcoming Welfare Reform Bill. Disability Action will now be holding further meetings with the Social Security Agency to work directly on these issues.

Finally the discussions moved to the ongoing development of Belfast City Centre (Public Realm) and the effect it will have on people with disabilities.

The key issues raised included, the lack of an Access and Mobility Strategy in relation to continued works in the City Centre and the increasing restrictions in parking for Blue Badge holders .



Margaret Ritchie MLA meeting with Monica Wilson, Kevin Doherty and Dermot McCluskey at Disability Action, Belfast office on 1 April, 2009.

Speaking after the meeting Monica Wilson, Chief Executive, said, "it is important to have ongoing dialogue with government on the key issues effecting the lives of disabled people in Northern Ireland. We look forward to working with the Minister and her Department to ensure that the concerns of people with disabilities are addressed."

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



If you require DA news in braille, audio tape, large print, as a pdf document, on disk or any other accessible format please contact us.