

Annex 2 - Disabled People Together Day key findings

A. Chatterbox Session Tablecloth Summary summarised by Sam Holmes, student project team leader

a. Introduction

Participants were split in 5 roundtables. Tables were given paper table clothes which had four questions/ discussions topics written on them. Attendees discussed each question and recorded their answers on post-it notes, which they stuck under the relevant question.

b. Findings

Question 1: Do you know of any group's of/for disabled people ?

The organisations listed in reply have been divided into three groups (please see below). Some groups may have disabled members yet may not consider themselves to be a group especially for disabled people. Next to the name of each group is the number of post-it notes, which mentioned that group.

National Charities/Organisations

Age concern - 2

Epilepsy Action - 3

Macmillan Cancer Care - 1

Marie Stopes - 1

Mencap - 5

National Autistic Society - 1

Remploy - 2

Royal National Institute for the Blind - 3

Royal National Institute for the Deaf - 2

Scope - 1

Talkback - 2
Wilberfoss Trust - 1
Wilf Ward Trust - 1

Local

Access - 2
Brunswick Organic Nurseries - 2
Clifton Women's Institute - 1
Disabled People Action Group - 2
Disability GO - 1
Dyslexia York - 1
Gateway Club - 3
Greenworks - 1
Hands and voices Choir - 1
Lollipop (deaf children) 1
Older Peoples Assembly - 2
Our Celebration - 2
PACT children's group - 1
Saint Sampson's - 1
Snappy - 3
Social Inclusion Group (York Council) - 1
Woodlands/ York MS society - 1
York Arthritis Group - 2
York Blind and partially sighted society - 4
York Craft - 8
York Deaf society - 1
York Diabetes Group - 1
York Fellowship - 1
York Partnership Board - 3
York People First - 8
York Salvation Army - 3

Care/Medical/Social Services/Day Centres

Avalon - 2

Carewatch - 1
Citizens Advice Bureau - 1
CVS - 1
Future Prospects - 1
Joseph Rowntree Trust - 1
Limetrees - 1
Saint Leonards Hospice - 1
York Cancer Centre - 1
York Carers - 1
York Coronary Support Group - 1
York Housing Association - 2
York Wheels - 1

Question 2: Are you a member of any disabled people's groups?

- **If yes what do you find to be the benefits of this?**
- **If no, why not?**

It was clear from the feedback that people were members of groups locally and in some cases regionally and nationally. There were 35 post-it notes identifying people as belonging to groups however some people would be members of more than one group and there could have been several members of the same group on one table.

Some of the **benefits** people identified of being in a group are as follows (with number of post-it notes stating benefit written next to the statement):

Communication - 2

Meet people in similar position - 2

New ideas being passed on to members - i.e. York Against Cancer -
new medication information being passed on - 2

Older people focussed - however this could also be a negative - 2

Personal development plan - 3 (York Craft - specialist work training)

Social activities and community - 3

Support - 7

Training (especially at Greenworks, Krumbs café, YorkCraft and York People First members) - 4

Workshops to help understand disability - 1

People who are not currently members of groups identified the following **reasons for non-membership**:

Do not know any - 2

Internet is a source of support and is more flexible - 1

Lack of time - 2

Nothing appropriate available - 2

No transport to help access - 2

Part of wider-world so do not feel need to - 1

Poorly Supported - 1

Too much work to do! - 1

Underfunded - 1

Would rather do social activities in spare time - 1

Question 3: Do you know of any groups that work together?

- **Has working together made a difference?**
- **Why has this worked or not worked?**

National Level

RNIB and RND

Local Level

Cancer Care Centre and York Against Cancer

CVS affiliated groups

Fifty Plus festival - It was felt that groups across the board were getting involved which was good.

York Craft and Work Steps

York People First and local Disabled schools

York People First and local Learning disability day centres

York People First and Self-Direct
York People First and the Partnership Board

Not many people on the tables were aware of much inter-group working. There were fewer post-it notes on this question.

Not much overall was known about local groups working together and on what.

Those groups that did work together felt that it was good and successful. It was reported that sign posting between groups was good. The newsletter/ survival guide was an example of good inter-working.

York Craft was a good example of an organisation working with numerous disabled people and creating a good atmosphere and team spirit while producing a competitive and professional product.

Groups worked well together over providing information on disability benefits and other welfare matters.

It was also evident that groups were environmentally conscious and were keen to be eco-friendly in their business.

However many people reported that:

- Groups needed to improve communication between them.
- More meetings like this were needed to improve awareness of other groups and to network within the disabled community
- Groups do not share resources and ideas as they are in competition for resources and clients and not part of the same remit

More information needed to be circulated telling people what was available and who could help with different roles/ jobs.

Question 4: Should there be a single disabled people's group in the city to run along individual groups?

- **If yes, what would you like it to do and how would you like it to work?**
- **If not, why not?**

A single group?

The session on the whole seemed to be in favour of a single disabled people's group in the city. This was with the proviso that many factors would need to be correct.

31 post-it notes were in favour of a single group.

5 post-it notes were not.

What would you like it to do?

Provide a good place to meet and communicate with all other groups
- 3

We all have something in common so best work together- 2

Create shared goals and work on those for the disabled community -
2

Include all groups - 1

Promote education, employment, transport and other issues within disabled community and society generally - 4

Be similar to Lives Unlimited, which has set-up a one-stop shop -
been very successful! - 2

Set up a centre for independent living - 2

All disabled groups be treated equally - 1

Be not bound by personalities and commitment of those involved - 3

Not affect advocacy work of individual groups - 1

How would you like it to work?

Council to arrange meeting place/ people to run it - 3

Run by someone independent - 1

Not to be tokenistic and to have some teeth to take action - 6

To have a structure and not be a talking shop - 4

Needs to be user-led - 2

Will need to be financially secure, well-funded - 8

Be autonomous and independent - 2

To promote bigger disabled issues leaving individual groups to promote more group specific ones - 3

Will need shared and specific goals - 2

Less attention to labelling people as this stops people attending - 1

Need to get all groups onboard so must offer something - 2

Have a representative from each individual group - 1

If you don't take part you can't complain - 1

Why would you not like a single group?

Too big - 3

Will lose individual specialisms - 2

May affect individual group advocacy - 1

B. Wall of Comments

During lunch participants were encouraged to make comments on post-it notes about life in the city concerning leisure, education and training, safety, work, and anything else. 12 comments were made about a number of issues in these areas and they will be passed to appropriate departments and Council partners for their response.