



**Disability Sheffield**  
Centre for Independent Living



# Report about Disability Event 16 May 2024



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# Introduction



On the 16th of May 2024, our first-ever Disability Network Event took place at the Israac Centre in Sheffield.

The Disability Event was attended by both deaf and disabled people as well as professionals.



Professionals from Sheffield Teaching Hospital, Sheffield Council, Sheffield ME, Fibromyalgia Group and Sheffield City Trust attended, along with various other disability groups.

We discussed future events, shared ideas, and received useful feedback on how to improve services and accessibility in Sheffield.



# Here are some pictures from our first Disability Network Event!



# Presentation about Long Covid

Our colleague Kathryn Littlewood, from Sheffield Voices shared some information about Long Covid.

We summarised her key points:



**Signs and symptoms of Long Covid**



**How to seek help**



**Local support in Sheffield**

**For more information, please contact:**

**[kathryn.littlewood@disabilitysheffield.org.uk](mailto:kathryn.littlewood@disabilitysheffield.org.uk)**

# What do you want our Disability Network to be doing?

## Inclusivity

To be inclusive to people who use day services. To promote and encourage methods of inclusivity across Sheffield and the services.

## Regular

Monthly meetings to be held in person or online.

## Representative's

More representatives are needed for BAME Disability groups.

## Collaborative

Professionals promoting each other and sharing information learnt. People in need get the most complete and holistic support possible.



## Efficiency

Minimise the same information being given, to avoid time wasting and confusion.

## Democratic

To have more opportunity to feedback what the most important topics are to people. Not just Sheffield Voices asking for feedback on their chosen topics.

## Networking

More opportunities for networking (including evenings and weekends)

## Guidance & Advice

Communication – The best form of contact discussed beforehand (email, text, or phone?)

## Better promotion

Increased promotions of all the services that are available to the people in Sheffield.

# What changes do you want to see happening? (page 1)

## Awareness

Better public awareness to reduce discrimination across all disabilities.

## Youth Services

More service provisions for 16–18-year-olds, not just colleges or the option of going straight into day services.

## Road safety

To increase the number of safe places to cross the road across Sheffield.

## Transport

Disability bells upstairs as well as downstairs on buses/public transport

## Employment

More employment opportunities



## Sport

Pond Forge Leisure Pool to be open in the daytime (with the wave machine and rapids on).

## Accessibility

More BSL or Makaton access in the public.

## Representation

Disability forums and organisations should be chaired by and directed by disabled people.

## Bus driver awareness

Drivers being more mindful of people moving on/off bus and being patient with people with disabilities.

## Transport

Travel training to be mandatory to increase awareness for those on/working on public transport.

# What changes do you want to see happening? (page 2)

## PAAs / support staff

Higher quality PAs / support staff. It's often seen 1-1 PAs ignoring the person they are supposed to be supporting.

In addition to high level of checks and reporting.

## Networking

More people and organisations actively taking part in events across the city and surrounding areas.

## Travel

Travel training to increase the awareness of disabled passengers on public transport.

## Independent living

More and earlier support in place for those independently living.



## Communication

More ongoing engagement between disabled people and representatives of health services, council, and other organisations

## Representation

Working together on specific issues to which individual disabled people can contribute their views

## Disabled Parking in Hospitals

Hospitals in the area have minimal disabled parking bays. In particular Hallamshire Hospital and Northern General. Some only having 6 spaces, not enough space for a wheelchair, this can be dangerous for those attempting to park and access the hospital

# What do you think is missing in the Sheffield Disability community?

## Basic access!

Things should be made accessible without it being a "hassle"

## Collaboration

The knowledge and access to various networks - who can assist in the planning?

## Youth activities

From an organisational POV, who runs activities for children and young people?

## Collaboration

A fluid connection between services – e.g. the referral system

## Information

Knowledge about how to get in contact and the best form of contact



## Deaf community

Advocacy for Deaf people

## Accessibility

More accessible places

## Children in care / foster homes

Guidance on how to improve foster inclusivity for children and young people in Sheffield



# What do you think about our event today?

Useful information

Better communication – BSL  
More easy information  
More deaf awareness  
More deaf sign language for driving lessons

Informative

Enjoying today

Would love to have the opportunity next time to understand barriers for young people and how to overcome



Beautiful food

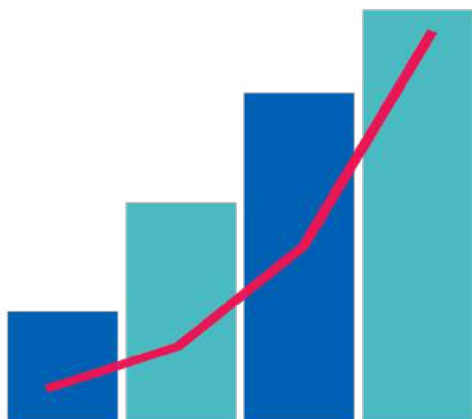
Nice to see Deaf people

More sports

Nice to have opportunities to bring various communities together

Met people  
Nice food

## Next steps



We will be collecting all the information gathered at this event, seeing how we can make any changes needed, then plan another event in 3 months' time. We will meet with the group and discuss progress and plans for changes based on their comments. We will think about how we can continue to support the members of the group and the wider community in Sheffield to make a difference.

We will be focusing on setting up more groups local to those communities in need, that perhaps cannot travel to the centre of Sheffield. Such as a Deaf community group meeting in Meadowhall and groups in ASDA. We will think about where we can access suitable places and meeting areas for free to minimise costs.



We will aim to set up a group with relevant professionals and invite members of the disabled community in Sheffield. We will feedback directly to them and to set up a wider network to see how we can all work together to aim to implement the changes needed.

**If you have any questions please email:**  
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