

AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO CABINET
20 JANUARY 2022
REPORT OF PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety - Councillor Steve Nelson

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DISABILITY INCLUSIVE BOROUGH

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the People Select Committee's review of Disability Inclusive Borough.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22. The review is now complete and the report has been approved by the People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That opportunities to share and promote good practice across the Council and wider community are identified.
2. That all Directorates be asked to review and demonstrate how disability inclusivity and co-production of services is embedded within their areas.
3. That a Disability Inclusion Charter is published to evidence the Council's commitment to being a Disability Inclusive Borough.
4. That an Equality Statement is produced setting out the Council's approach and commitment to equality and diversity.
5. That an external Equality Information Directory is developed to better inform the public and assist with signposting of services.
6. That improvements are made to the Council's website to support easy navigation to up to date information about current services and future plans.
7. That a programme of staff awareness raising is put in place to highlight the different types of disability and how to best serve those with physical and hidden disabilities in order to improve communication and customer service.

8. That additional disability training modules be incorporated in the proposed E-learning management system, due to go live in February 2022 and consideration be given as to how to make disability training procured directly by services more widely available.
9. That a publicity campaign is developed to continue to highlight the problems caused by parking over dropped kerbs with opportunities for improvements investigated subject to funding.
10. That engagement of disability groups in the VCSE Adults Forum/ Disability Task and Finish Group, facilitated by Catalyst, be kept under review to ensure that it provides a representative and effective voice for disabled people of the Borough.
11. That lessons learnt from the upcoming refurbishment of the junior/toddlers play area at Preston Park be used to inform future play provision designs with respect to inclusion and accessibility.
12. That the provision of changing places toilet facilities be progressed, where practicable, as part the Town Centre Development Programme, subject to funding through the Changing Places Fund.
13. That posters/ cards promoting simple sign phrases are adopted across customer services centres and receptions to assist communication with the deaf community.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough. The aim of the review was to explore how Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council can contribute to a more disability inclusive borough.
2. The Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers, BMBF, Disability Staff Forum, Horizons Specialist Academy Trust, Stockton Parent Carer Forum, Daisy Chain, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RNID and Middlesbrough Council.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. This review has provided the Committee with the opportunity to highlight and promote the need for disability inclusivity. The review highlighted the need for greater understanding and awareness of all disabilities and hidden disabilities as part of a continuous journey to make Stockton a disability inclusive Borough.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. As set out in the report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

7. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None.

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