

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Evidence Session 1

Presentation for People Select Committee  
June 28 2021

Jane Webb

Community Engagement Manager

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

## Evidence Gathering

### Re-focussing & expanded Officer Group

- Adults Services
  - Children's Services
  - Libraries & Information Services
  - Customer & Digital Services
  - Community Services
  - Inclusive Growth & Development Services
  - HR, Legal & Comms
  - Staff Forums
- 
- **Some early findings... we don't know what we don't know till we find out...**
    - I. Stockton Libraries & Information Service
    - II. Disability Confident Status

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

## Next Steps

**We have contacted Directorates/Services with the following Key Lines of Enquiry – Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> July**

KLE 1- How does your service area/team communicate with and implement recommendations from any disability groups? If so, how can this be improved?

KLE 2- How does your service area/team improve services for those with hidden disabilities i.e. autism, dyspraxia?

KLE 3- How can your service area/team go beyond statutory minimum standards and beyond providing wheelchair access?

KLE 4- Are there any areas of best practice you currently offer or you know of to support a more disability inclusive borough?

KLE 5- Do you know of any other local authorities/organisation and work they have developed to improve disability inclusion?

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

## Evidence Gathering

- **Todays session – Member questions from last time & next steps**
  1. John Angus (Projects Officer – Highways Transport and Environment)
  2. Ray Sullivan (Building Control Manager)
  3. Jane Webb

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

## Q&A from Session 1 Q1

**Members questioned what had happened to the Ayresome Industries building, a school for the blind in Middlesbrough, and what had replaced this service. Officers agreed to provide Members with an answer to this query.**

MBC recently completed the sale of the Ayresome Industries premises (on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020). The window frame and brush making by the disabled workforce ended prior to this and the building was then used as an operational Council depot before it was declared surplus and marketed for sale.

The school for the blind on Stockton Road was demolished many years ago as the building had been unused for a long time and had fallen into a dilapidated condition. They have relocated in the building next door and are operating under the Teesside & District Society for the Blind. They have a website [www.teessideblind.co.uk](http://www.teessideblind.co.uk)

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

## Q&A from Session 1 Q2

**Members questioned if the outcomes of a previous study, based on the use of pictorial messages to assist people with learning difficulties, had been implemented. Officers agreed to provide Members with an answer to this query.**

Both Adults & Children's Services are part of the revised Officer working group for this review and have been asked to explore this during the gathering of information for the key lines of enquiry.

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

Q&A from Session 1 Q3 – John Angus

**Members discussed the difficulties that some residents faced travelling on pavements in wheelchairs due to a lack of dropped kerbs in some areas**

**On occasion, residents had asked Members if dropped kerbs could be purchased through the Community Participation Budget (CPB).**

**Members questioned if a mapping exercise of dropped kerbs could be conducted as part of this review.**



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Q&A from Session 1 Q4 - Ray Sullivan

**Members asked if registered providers of social housing could be encouraged to make housing more 'user-friendly'. For example, through the widening of doors and paths.**



# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Progress to date

## Q&A from Session 1 Q4 - Ray Sullivan

### **Building Regulations 2010 (2015 amended) Approved Document M (Vol.1) Access to and Use of Buildings**

Category 1 – Visitable dwellings.

Category 2 – Accessible and adaptable dwellings.

Category 3 – Wheelchair user dwellings.

Category 1 – Visitable dwellings. Compliance with this requirement is achieved when a new dwelling makes reasonable provision for most people, which includes wheelchair users to access and enter the dwelling, and access habitable rooms and sanitary facilities on the entrance level.

Category 2 – Accessible and adaptable dwellings. This requirement is met when a new dwelling provides reasonable provision for most people to access the dwelling and includes features that make it suitable for a range of potential occupants, including older people, individuals with reduced mobility and some wheelchair users.

Category 3 – Wheelchair user dwellings. This requirement is achieved when a new dwelling provides reasonable provisions for a wheelchair user to live in the dwelling and have the ability to use any outdoor space, parking and communal facilities.

Requirements Category 2 and Category 3 are 'Optional Requirements' as defined in the Building Regulations. An Optional Requirement only applies where a condition that one or more dwellings should meet the relevant Optional Requirement is imposed on new development as part of the process of granting a planning permission. Where no condition is imposed, dwellings only need to meet the requirements of M4(1). Compliance should only be assessed against one of the Requirements for any given dwelling.

SBC standards from The Local Plan:-  
50% Category 2  
8% Category 3

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Planning ahead

## Future Evidence Sessions (TBC)

### July

- BMBF (How does disability inclusion form part of the activities and ethos of BMBF?)
- Teesside & District Society for the Blind for the Blind/Guide Dogs for the Blind (What is their approach to disability inclusivity? Is there anything we can learn?)
- Officer to talk about Disability Confident Award

### September

- SBC Libraries & Information Service on the work they do such as the '6 Steps Promise'
- Regional good practice example
- Jane to present next steps

# Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

## Suggestions & Questions...

- Have we missed anything?
- Any suggestions on anyone further we should speak to/consult with?
- Any Questions?

Jane Webb

Community Engagement Manager