

NewsLink

News, views and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

July 2018

Are disabled people denied access to justice in Peterborough by failure of Courts to make reasonable adjustments?



Disabled people are being denied access to justice because of the city's Courts failure to make the reasonable adjustments that would make the court process accessible to them, according to members of the Disability Forum.

Several members of the Forum paid a visit to Peterborough Crown Court recently and it was obvious that the "legal system" was failing to address the discrimination faced by disabled people who rely on family and commercial courts, employment and benefits tribunals, and the criminal justice system.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) provides a clear duty – under article 13, on access to justice – for UK courts to provide the necessary "accommodations" to ensure that every disabled person can play an "effective role" in all legal proceedings.

Barry Plumb, co-chair of the Disability Forum said "Disability discrimination has not been taken seriously enough in our Courts. Training on providing reasonable adjustments to disabled people for every judge, magistrate and barrister in the country should be made mandatory. Legal proceedings are stressful enough without the added pressure of struggling to get into the building."

Forum member Brian Gascoyne could not carry out his role as a Juror on a recent case due to a myriad of access problems. "I was extremely annoyed and upset that I couldn't carry out my duty. The Court was only built in the 80s but it's a nightmare building to access if you are someone with a disability or mobility problem.

The staff are great and they sympathised with my predicament but someone senior needs to commission a thorough Access Audit and carry out any recommendations."

Coffee shop access review doesn't start well for Starbucks



Its official, over the next few years there will be more coffee shops than pubs in the UK. But how accessible are the existing outlets in Peterborough city centre for disabled shoppers and visitors and their friends and carers? If

Starbucks is anything to go by, the future aint looking rosy! Barry Plumb and Bryan Tyler from the Disability Forum paid a visit to the Peterborough branch of the world famous Coffee shop in Cathedral Square recently and were left somewhat underwhelmed by the experience.



Barry commented "I spend a fair bit of time, and money, in the cafes in the city centre and it's nice to try different places occasionally. I hadn't been in to Starbucks before and to be honest, I'm not in any great hurry to go back. As a wheelchair user I needed to use the ramp, but on the day we went, the bottom of the ramp was covered in

rubbish. It obviously hadn't just got there, it looked like it had been piling up for a few days. I managed (just) to get round it to be faced with a very heavy door. I'm a fairly strong chap but I struggled to get it open.

One of the staff members saw me and opened the door but it took a while for her to notice me having problems getting in. The staff were very polite but I don't think they knew what to do to assist. Perhaps some Disability Awareness training for staff would help. We didn't stay for coffee, it just didn't give a welcoming impression."

Have you got your CEA Card yet?



The CEA Card is a national card scheme developed for UK cinemas by the UK Cinema Association (UKCA). The Card enables a disabled cinema guest to

receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema. The Card is also one way for cinemas to make sure they look after their disabled guests. If you require an adjustment to visit a cinema because of your disability, cinema staff should make them for you whether you have a CEA Card or not. The Card is developed by UKCA's Disability Working Group, whose members include film exhibitors and distributors, and national disability charities such as Action on Hearing Loss, the RNIB, Dimensions and Muscular Dystrophy UK. If you have questions about the card and how it works read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or [contact us. info@ceacard.co.uk](mailto:info@ceacard.co.uk)

Barry's monthly moan

Peterborough's Pavement Purgatory



"It has to be said, since the setting up of the Disability Forum some years ago accessibility, parking and access to services in Peterborough and the city centre specifically has improved immeasurably.

It's not that long ago that I travelled to places like Milton Keynes to do my shopping-but no longer! David Wait and his staff at Serpentine Green have been working with the Forum to improve facilities and services at the shopping centre. The Forum has also been involved in the Planning of the new £48m extension and refurbishment over at the Hampton site.

Queensgate Shopping Centre are also working with the Disability Forum to deliver training to staff to improve the shopping experience for disabled shoppers. And the aspiration of getting a new lift and ramp from Bourges Boulevard in to Queensgate seems to be closer to realisation each week. As far as shopping in Peterborough for people with disabilities, it's a massive pat on the back for everyone involved!

But what is it about some of our pavements in the city centre? Some of our paths and "dropped kerbs" look like they haven't been touched in years and in certain places dangerous for many disabled people. The Council have made a fantastic job of Cathedral Square, Long Causeway, Bridge Street and Cowgate but Wentworth Street and Priestgate really do need some TLC. They are "gateways" into the city centre.

If I was a disabled visitor coming to Peterborough for the first time, Priestgate and Wentworth Street would not encourage me to return. You don't get a second chance at making a first impression!"

Special Olympics
Peterborough



**Special Olympics Peterborough
have announced their brand new
Boccia sessions.**

Boccia is on Tuesdays between 10.15pm – 12pm at Peterborough Indoor Bowls Club, Burton Street, Peterborough, PE1 5HA and costs £2.00

Boccia is a similar game to Bowls played seated. The sessions are aimed at people with an Intellectual Disability of all ages.

The sessions will be made up of warm up exercises that build to participation in a full Boccia match.

Fear, frustration and anger as hundreds of disabled people in Peterborough have their benefits stopped



Hundreds of people in Peterborough have lost their disability benefits after being reassessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) is gradually replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with the new PIP benefit. These benefits help people pay for disability-related living costs such as carers or mobility aids.

In Peterborough, 800 people receiving DLA had their benefits stopped after reapplying for the new scheme between April 2013 and October 2017, 33% of all previous claimants. The criteria for PIP are stricter, and claims are reassessed on a more regular basis.

Assessments, carried out by private contractors such as Capita, came under fire after a 2017 review revealed that 65% of those who challenged DWP decisions successfully had them overturned in court.

One Disability Forum regular has challenged the honesty of some of the appraisers. "Gary" said "my neighbour kindly agreed to act as my support on the day of my Assessment, he opened the door to the two people from Capita and saw them into my kitchen where I was seated at the table. I answered all their questions and did the seated coordination tests, not once did they ask me to walk.

Imagine my surprise when I received a copy of my assessment and it stated they observed me walking more than 20 metres. My PIP was declined, I challenged their decision and pointed out the many errors made by their assessors. My benefit was reinstated. Blatant lies by employees of Capita? Who am I to judge?"

Another Forum regular "Christine" added "I hear that DWP are supposed to be giving independent and impartial advice to people claiming for PIP? How can they give impartial advice when they are paying bonuses to assessors based on the number of claimants they refuse?"

Still time to join us for the Disability Peterborough Skydive.

Sunday 29th July at Sibson Airfield. All part of Serpentine Green manager, David Waits "Waity's Massive Challenges". David is raising funds for Disability Peterborough by taking part in a series of worldwide, death defying tasks. bryan@inspirepeterborough.com

Inspire Peterborough, Inspires Peterborough

Inspire Peterborough participant Mick Born sings the charities praises.

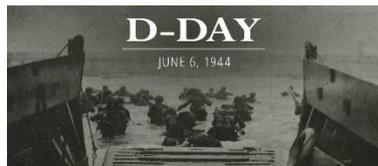
“Dear Inspire Peterborough, I just wanted to give a BIG thank you. If it wasn't for meeting with Barry Plumb, (at Sporting Saturday 2018) and finding out about Inspire Peterborough I would never have discovered the many activities open to me as a wheelchair user, as well as the variety of activities my 2 Autistic girls and my wife (my carer) could join in with.

I discovered a wide range of activities I could do, and also found out about Para Ice Hockey and Wheelchair Basketball. My wife enjoys doing the Inspire tai chi classes. I have now joined the Phantoms Para Hockey Team, and am enjoying the training immensely! Thanks again for showing me I can be in a wheelchair AND still do sports and have fun.”



D-day 75th anniversary visit to Normandy

On June 6th 2019 it will be the 75th anniversary of the Normandy landings.



Cllr John Fox, Chair of the Armed Forces Partnership Board, David Wait, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and Bryan Tyler from Disability Peterborough are looking at arranging a visit to the Normandy Beaches for WW2 veterans (and their carer.)

The number of local D-Day veterans diminishes each year therefore we would also like to invite veterans from subsequent conflicts-Aden, Malaysia, Korea, Falklands, Northern Ireland, Gulf etc and possibly family members of those who fell in the Normandy campaign and buried in Ranville or Bayeux or one of the other Commonwealth war graves associated with Overlord. The idea is to visit as many places as possible linked with Sword Beach (Merville Battery, Pegasus Bridge, Ranville, Ouistreham etc) and visit briefly the other beaches, inc: Gold Beach at Arromanches with The Museum of the Landings and Mulberry Harbour and at Omaha Beach the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer and St Mere Eglise.

If there is enough interest, the organisers will be looking for sponsorship to help keep the cost of travel and accommodation for veterans to an absolute minimum. Veterans must live within the Peterborough ward boundary (must pay council tax to Peterborough City Council)

More details to follow but if you are interested:
bryan@inspirepeterborough.com

One community, one Peterborough

Kelly King, Inspire Peterborough volunteer interviewed Councillor John Fox just before his term as Mayor came to an end

Before Cllr Chris Ash became the new Mayor of Peterborough, I spoke to Cllr John Fox and discussed what it really takes to be the Mayor of "one of the most cohesive cities in the country". As the first citizen of Peterborough, it's the Mayor's responsibility to represent and promote the city. It is clear that, from his time as Mayor, Cllr John Fox achieved this and more. His three main priorities as Mayor were: to anchor the community together, to bring businesses and the community together and to get recognition for the people at the heart of our community.

"One community, one Peterborough'. It's what it's all about, combining all of our abilities and beliefs together" stated Cllr Fox, who believes that if we work together the community is a better and stronger city. Another way he has implemented this is by organising informal meetings where businesses were able to discuss how we can improve on apprenticeships in our area. "I think this is important, as I believe that apprenticeships are a really good way to learn."

Something that Cllr Fox is passionate about is giving recognition to those who are at the heart of our community such as the Lollipop Ladies, the City Centre Cleaners, the Enforcement Team and the Electoral Registration Team; the people who help our community to function but don't get the attention they deserve. "We are sometimes very reluctant to say thank you to these people and we don't say well done often enough" Cllr Fox declared, whilst telling me about the times he has invited these people to the Town Hall for a cup of tea and biscuit as a way of saying thank you and to show them how much their hard work is appreciated. "This has worked quite well, and something that I hope will continue in the future."

Picking just one of Cllr John Fox's achievements during his time as Mayor is difficult, but his personal achievement whilst being Mayor is not turning down many events and appearances throughout the year. "It has been a very busy and very tiring year, but it's been brilliant! I wouldn't have changed it for the world. Being Mayor was a privilege and an honour."

As somebody who had little knowledge on what the role of a Mayor was, I have learnt from meeting Cllr Fox that "being mayor is about the people." As he prepared to step down from the role of mayor I asked him what advice he would like to give to the new Mayor. His answer was simple: Just to be himself.

While Cllr John Fox takes a well-deserved holiday to celebrate the end of his time as Mayor, the community welcomes Cllr Chris Ash as the new Mayor of Peterborough.

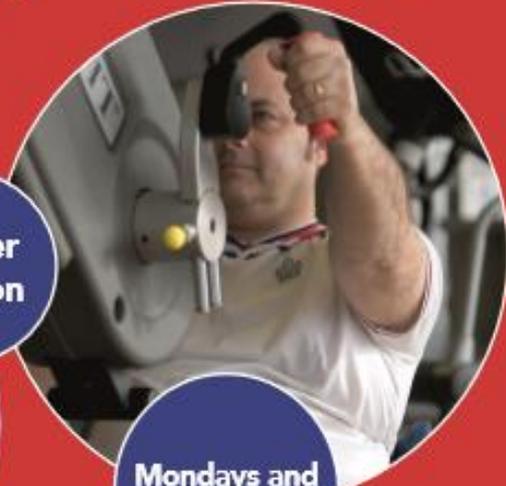
Amilly Fitness

Inclusive health and wellbeing centre

inspire
Peterborough
enhancing lives

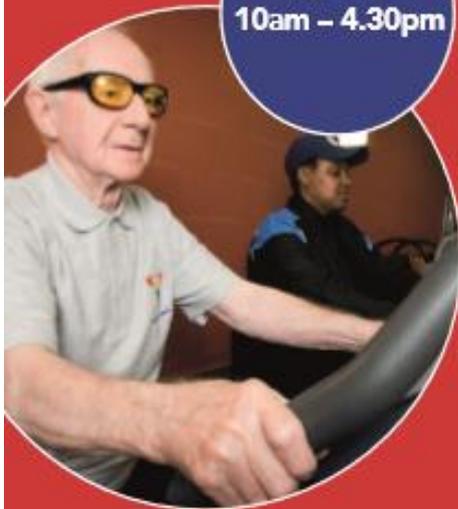


£2 per
session



Mondays and
Wednesdays

OPEN:
10am – 4.30pm



Inspire Peterborough have teamed up with Oak Activities to run an inclusive fitness centre for adults with a long term health condition, special need, physical, mental, sensory or learning disability.

Chair based exercise classes and open gym sessions

Booking essential via
www.bookwhen.com/amilly-fitness
or for group bookings please call 01733 330 815

Amilly House, 88 South Street, Stanground PE2 8EZ



Contact Inspire Peterborough for more information

www.inspirepeterborough.com | [/amilly-fitness](https://www.facebook.com/amilly-fitness)
T: 01733 330 815 | E: contact@inspirepeterborough.com

Disability Peterborough Project/Registered Charity Number: 1089250

And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

Care and Repair 01733 863895

CareZone 01733 575083

Carers Trust Peterborough 01733 645234

City Care Clinic 01733 293800

Child Benefit 0845 302 1444

Department of Work and Pensions (new claims) 0800 055 6688

Disability Peterborough (DIAL) 01733 265551

Fire and Rescue Service 0800 917 9994

Headway Cambridgeshire 01223 576550

Housing Options 01733 864064

Inland Revenue – Tax Credits 0845 300 3900

Inspire Peterborough 01733 330815

Peterborough Association for the Blind 01733 344 844

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme 0844 4994120

Peterborough Direct 01733 747474

Peterborough City Hospital 01733 678000

Peterborough Pensioners Association 01733 270528

Peterborough Police 101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Shopmobility 01733 313133

St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool 01733 453583

YMCA GYM 01733 313 085