

Detective cards

Use these cards to help you think about how your meeting place can be made more accessible



People who use mobility aids

Some people use wheelchairs, walkers, or sticks (or other mobility aids) to help them get around. They may use them all of the time, or just some of the time: there are lots of different reasons that people use mobility aids.

Every disabled person is different, so people's needs will be different. In general, some people who use mobility aids may need:

- Ramps or lifts instead of (or as well as) stairs or steps (even if it's just one step).
- Accessible toilets with equipment that helps people use them (for example, a hoist or a chaining bench).
- The red cord in accessible toilets to be left loose, so people can pull it if they need help.
- Non-slip mats in places that may get slippery (such as showers). You need to be able to take these out so the floor is totally flat.
- A space (instead of a chair) at places such as a table, and tables that are tall enough for people to tuck into if they're using a wheelchair.
- Doors and cupboards that can easily be opened while sitting down, without needing lots of strength (not all people who use mobility aids have strong arms, for example).
- Doors that open wide enough for people to fit through with their mobility aids.
- Information on accessibility on your website (or social media, or wherever people find out about your group).

Does your meeting place have these things? What else might help someone who uses a mobility aid? Write or draw what's already great, and what could be improved to make your meeting place more accessible:

Deaf people or people who have a hearing impairment

Some people are born D/deaf, and other people become D/deaf. Some people can hear a little, while others can't hear anything at all. Some people may choose to use hearing aids or wear a cochlear implant—they may hear differently, and could need some time to understand and respond. Other people may lip read or use sign language.

Every disabled person is different, so people's needs will be different. In general, some people may need:

- Emergency alarms (such as fire alarms) that also have a flashing light when they go off—especially in places such as toilets, where people might be on their own.
- Technology such as hearing loop systems, and someone who knows how to use it.
- The person leading an activity to sign the instructions or use pictures. Do your games have pictures and words that help everyone to play?
- Enough light to lip read, and the people who lead activities to make sure they face the right way and speak clearly.
- Subtitles on any films or film clips you watch.
- A way to contact people. Do the people leading use emails and text as well as phone calls?
- Everyone to be quiet so there isn't too much background noise when they need to listen. A traffic light system can help people understand how much noise they're making. This might include people not scraping chairs, or putting rubber on the legs so they make less noise.
- One person to talk at a time so they can understand—whether they lip read or are able to hear a bit.
- If you have a lift, D/deaf people may need buttons to light up when they're pressed, and an emergency number inside to text (as they may not be able to use a emergency button that needs them to talk and listen).
- Information on accessibility on your website (or social media, or wherever people find out about your group).

Does your meeting space have these things? What else might help D/deaf people? Write or draw what's already great, and what could be improved to make your meeting place more accessible:

People who are blind or partially sighted

Some people wear glasses to help them see. Some people can't see well even with glasses—they may be able to see nothing at all, or they may have some vision. Some people use aids such as a white stick.

Every disabled person is different, so people's needs will be different. In general, some people may need:

- A clear and tidy space so there aren't things they may trip over.
- Large, easily visible, emergency signs and instructions, or emergency signs and instructions in Braille (a language made of raised dots people can feel).
- Posters and pictures big enough so everyone can see them clearly.
- Activity sheets available in Braille, or larger print, or with higher contrast colours.
- Tactile maps.
- Television shows, films, or plays to be audio described.
- Computers or phones to read text out loud.
- A way to contact the people who lead activities without reading, for example being able to call them and know they'll answer.
- People available to act as guides, especially on a hike, for example.
- Information on accessibility on your website (or social media, or wherever people find out about your group).
- Warnings before steps, for example, textured floor.

Does your meeting space have these things? What else might help blind and partially sighted people and people with visual impairments? Write or draw what's already great, and what could be improved to make your meeting place more accessible: