



ODInsight

News from Office for Disability Issues

Working across government to deliver equality for disabled people

Issue 003 - April 2008



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What's happening

- The ODI is seeking views on how disabled people and their organisations could be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Independent Living Strategy. Consultation events will be held in York on 12 May and London on 4 June. Details of these events and other ways you can tell us your ideas are [on our website](#).

Independent Living Strategy launched



A new cross-government strategy for Independent Living was launched by the ODI on 3 March 2008.

Key point

The ODI has launched a cross-government strategy to make Independent Living possible for more disabled people.

The strategy sets out how the government will:

- deliver real choice and control for disabled people
- ensure greater access to housing, health, education and training, employment, transport and mobility opportunities and participation in community and family life.

The five-year strategy was co-produced with disabled people. It will play an important role in delivering the government's aim of equality for disabled people by 2025.

More information on the [Independent Living Strategy](#).

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→ A new improved version of the Directgov Blue Badge map has recently been launched by the ODI. The map shows Blue Badge parking bays, accessible toilets, council car parks, petrol stations, shopmobility centres, train stations and accessible beaches in over 100 locations across the UK – a great resource not just for drivers! Have a look at the [Blue Badge map](#).

→ Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, attended the launch of Disability LIB's report "Thriving or Surviving: Challenges and Opportunities for Disabled People's Organisations in the 21st Century" on 28 February. Disability LIB is an alliance of seven disability-led organisations, which has secured £4.2 million of lottery funding to build the capacity of disabled people's organisations across England. Find out more on the [Scope website](#).

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ODI launches new website

Office for Disability Issues The ODI launched its new website in early April. It contains helpful tools, resources and information for government departments, local and public authorities and disabled people and their organisations. The new website also contains

Key point

The ODI launches its new and improved website.

information in British Sign Language, Easy Read and audio. [Log on to the new website](#) to find information which can:

- inform government departments on how they can involve disabled people
- provide guidance on how to implement a disability equality scheme
- advise disabled people and their organisations on how they can engage with Government.

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Equality 2025 meeting in Northern Ireland



Key point

Equality 2025 will hold a meeting for local disabled people and their organisations in Belfast on 15 May.

Equality 2025 held its latest meeting in Belfast in late March. Local speakers who attended to update members were Bronagh Byrne and Michelle Millar from the Centre on Human Rights, Karen McGrath of Disability Action and Gerry Mulligan, Head of Equality and Social Needs Division at the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Equality 2025 is a network of disabled people which advises Government on issues affecting disabled people across the UK.

They will also hold their next regional public meeting for local disabled people and their organisations in Belfast on 15 May. Further details can be found on [Equality 2025's website](#) or email g.mcgladdery@sky.com.

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New disability survey to measure progress towards equality



Key point

A group of government staff and a group of disabled people have been set up to help make decisions about a new survey of disabled people.

ODI has commissioned the Office for National Statistics to develop plans for a Longitudinal Disability Survey.

A reference group of disabled people, managed by RADAR, is involved in decision making for each stage of the survey's development. The first meeting of the group was held in February, when they advised on prioritisation of topics to cover in the survey. A cross-government steering group has also been set up to guide the project. The findings should be published in 2011.

The survey will provide important evidence to measure progress towards the Government's goal of equality for disabled people by 2025.

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Key court ruling on the disability equality duty



A recent ruling in the High Court has gone against a local council for failing to take full account of its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. The judge ruled that Harrow Council's decision to introduce a policy to provide services to people with critical needs only was unlawful.

Key point

High Court ruling sets the standard and serves as a reminder for public authorities of their disability equality duties.

and had been taken without sufficiently considering the "seriousness and extent of the duties".

This ruling serves as a reminder for public authorities of their obligations under the disability equality duty and shows how

seriously it is being taken by the courts. Guidance is available on the [ODI website](#) and [Equality and Human Rights Commission website](#) to help public authorities fulfil the duty.

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