

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (SCTC) Disability Strategy Updated April 2017



1. Introduction:

Sutton Coldfield Town Council (SCTC) is committed to influencing equality for all and has identified a Disability Champion (Cllr Janet Cairns) and a Disability Strategy (DS). The purpose of the DS is to set out a plan in the form of work streams for SCTC to raise awareness and create influence in support of alleviating some of the issues that local people with a physical or mental disability have in their everyday life and activities of living, socialising and working in Sutton Coldfield and furthermore, to add value to the lives of Sutton Coldfield Residents and Visitors that have restricted mobility.

Getting a job or education, travelling between home and work, going for a drink or to the cinema with friends are activities that most of us take for granted. But for many disabled people these ordinary aspects of life remain difficult to achieve because access and understanding cannot accommodate their needs.

The DS is composed of six work streams which have been validated and researched via local groups and services and from the experiences of local people who live and work in Sutton Coldfield and appreciate the values of the Royal Town in which we live as well as can demonstrate how Sutton Coldfield can be enhanced to provide better facilities to meet the needs of all of its residents and visitors.

2. Evidence:

Based on national figures for disability Sutton Coldfield will have 6 – 10% of their population who will have a mental/physical disability for which they need additional support and additional measures in place to participate equally.

The evidence for the work streams has included not exclusively reference to the following sources:

National (International) perspective (UK):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Carers UK○ SCOPE○ Disability Rights UK○ Equality Act 2010○ disabilityrights.gov.uk○ United Nations; Human Rights General assembly (2008)○ National Disabled Motorists Motor Club○ YMCA
City perspective (Birmingham):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Birmingham City Council○ Clinical Commissioning Groups○ PohWER disability information and advice○ Phab○ Access Birmingham

Local perspective (Sutton Coldfield):

- Local Neighbourhood Forums and Ward meeting members
- Carers United
- Sutton Coldfield YMCA
- Lisieux Trust disability information service
- Sutton Coldfield Carers Form
- Friends of Good Hope and Heartlands Hospital NHS Trust
- SCOPE about disability (Sutton Coldfield/ Erdington)
- Wilson Stuart “Live” College
- KKats community group
- GAP
- Urban Devotion
- Wilson Stuart College/Academy
- Boldmere Moms
- St James Hill Social Inclusion Modal (Business case)
- Access Denied Boldmere

3. Disability facts and figures (Scope's Research Team):

➤ **Disabled people in the UK:**

- There are 12.9 million disabled people in the UK
- 7 per cent of children are disabled
- 17 per cent of working age adults are disabled
- 45 per cent of pension age adults are disabled

Source: *Family Resources Survey 2014/15*

➤ **Disabled people in employment:**

- Over 3.4 million disabled people are in employment
- Disabled people are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people.

Source: *Labour Force Survey April to June 2016*

➤ **The importance of employing of disabled people:**

- A 10 percentage point rise in the employment rate amongst disabled adults would contribute an extra £12 billion to the Exchequer by 2030.

Source: *Scope 'Enabling Work' (2015)*

➤ **Disabled people more likely to live in poverty:**

- Life costs you £550 more on average a month if you're disabled.

Source: *Scope - 'Priced Out' (2014)*

➤ **Housing:**

- After housing costs, the proportion of working age disabled people living in poverty (30 per cent) is higher than the proportion of working age non-disabled people (18 per cent).

Source: *Households Below Average Income 2014/15*

➤ **The cost of disability benefits fraud:**

- Disability benefits have the lowest levels of fraud – Disability Living Allowance (DLA) fraud represents 0.5 per cent of the total amount spent on this benefit, or £60 million.

Source: *Fraud and Error in the Benefit System 2015-16 preliminary estimates*

➤ **The spending power of disabled people:**

- The spending power of families with at least one disabled person is estimated by the Government to be over £200bn a year.

Source: *Department for Work and Pensions*

➤ **How attitudes to disabled people changed as a result of the London Paralympics:**

- A year on from the Game in 2013, 70 per cent of disabled people through the coverage of the Paralympic Games had a positive effect on public perceptions.

Source: *Scope survey (2013)*

- But, four years on from London 2012 nearly half (43%) of the British public don't know anyone who is disabled and the majority (67%) feel awkward around disability.

Source: *Scope (2014) 'Current Attitudes to Disabled People'*

➤ **The most common disability** (The most commonly reported impairments by disabled people are):

- Mobility (53%)
- Stamina, breathing, fatigue (39%)
- Dexterity (29%).

Source: *Family Resources Survey 2014-15*

4. Strategy Development:

The DS is a working document and a developing process that has aspirations to remain a legacy for SCTC as the Council itself matures and moves forward in its work for Sutton Coldfield which is why the DS responds to the SCTC “Six Pillars Strategy” (“Healthy and Happier”) and will always align to the developing and emerging longer terms plans that SCTC will create as it continues its journey.

The DS combats disadvantaged and social isolation with a particular focus on understanding the needs of younger disabled people in order to increase the offering of greater opportunities to participate in active citizenship and to achieve this we have made specific links with local Schools (Including Wilson Stuart Special Needs School, College and Academy) to develop engage children, young adults, teachers and parents/Carers again this will not be exhaustive and will develop as we move forward with the DS.

The DS as it progresses will also be aligned to the Birmingham City Council Health and Wellbeing agenda and the Commissioning strategy of the City’s Clinical Commissioning Groups to increase the momentum of improvements for local people which will have a genuine impact on the ground and make a real difference.

The DS strategy will form the basis of the Community Incorporated Organisation: Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group.

The DS will expand to Langley School and other Education Centres in Sutton Coldfield as appropriate.

The DS second phase will review and appraise where it can influence improvements to:

- The development of a Community Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to sit along side SCTC that will be independent: Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group
- Further disability awareness and awareness activities/ workshops
- Develop relationships with Langley School in Sutton Coldfield and other related Education Centres. This will fall to the CIO
- Consultation on Leisure and play facilities and opportunities to support and enhance these in Sutton Coldfield for Children and Adults who believe themselves to be disabled
- Support to improve opportunities to take part in sports as a wheelchair user in Sutton Coldfield and to work with local schools and Groups to improve and widen the facilities available
- Improved access to transport and healthier modes of travel
- Housing and working with Birmingham City Council to lobby for improved access in future new domestic and commercial builds particularly the Langley SUE and Pedimore housing and commercial development in Sutton Coldfield
- Employment/ work experience and raising the standard of living for disabled people and their families. Work with BCC Employment Team
- Working with the Sutton Coldfield Police Tasking Group to tackle crime against people with disabilities

5. Six Work Streams under development:

Work stream	Objectives	Actions
<p>1. Awareness: Raising Awareness in Sutton Coldfield of the Town Councils support for the improvement of equal opportunities for people with disabilities</p> <p>Access Denied Wheelchair Activity: Awareness raising activity</p>	<p>Raise awareness of disability issues in Sutton Coldfield and foster greater knowledge among people with disabilities of help and support available in Sutton Coldfield</p> <p>A practical exercise to engage SCTC in an awareness activity whereby Councillors and non-disabled members of the Disability User Group will experience the barriers to everyday services experienced by wheelchair users</p>	<p>Link to the Volunteers and Groups objective for SCTC</p> <p>We recognise that people with disabilities still face discrimination and barriers that prevent them from participating fully in all aspects of society and we will continue to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and to tackle the issues that affect them to ensure that everyone in Sutton Coldfield is respected and valued.</p> <p>Wheelchair exercise in Sutton Town Centre in Summer 2017 in a series of events across all of the existing four Wards commencing in Trinity ward in Gracechurch Centre January 2018</p>

<p>2. Accessibility: Accessibility in Shops and Restaurants and public areas</p> <p>Langley and Pedimore Development (Birmingham City Council)</p>	<p>Raise awareness with local providers of goods and services in Sutton Coldfield to improve access with assistive devices for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Work with Birmingham City Council to influence appropriate access and opportunity for Wheelchair users in the development of 6,000 new homes and 71ha of commercial development on Langley and Pedimore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling • Employment 	<p>Start with local Traders Forums in Sutton Coldfield to influence local traders to review premises access and positioning of goods</p> <p>Propose a task and finish group to work with Birmingham City Council to ensure the voice of the wheelchair user is heard in this Sutton Coldfield development due for completion in 2031</p>
<p>3. Public Toilets: Access to Public Toilets in shopping areas and High Streets</p>	<p>It is very helpful if a Disabled person has the information to hand for all of the public toilets that have disabled access in their area so that it can assist them when they are planning their journeys and activities in Sutton Coldfield</p>	<p>Map out Accessible Toilets in Sutton Coldfield Create a map for circulation in shopping areas</p>
<p>4. Access to Healthcare: Better access to healthcare</p>	<p>Support awareness for Healthcare provision in Sutton Coldfield to ensure better physical access to health services and related facilities for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Link through Friends of Good Hope and the HEFT Governing Body</p>

<p>5. Carers: Care for the Carers</p>	<p>Carers are often overlooked and the strain of the care of a disabled person whether it be a loved family member or as a career is often unnoticed. Carers often do not complain but will share their anxieties with their GP.</p> <p>Support the plight of young carers in Sutton Coldfield who are often unable to take an active role in the leisure and social activities that their peers undertake because of the commitment of their caring duty for a family member. We will link to the Sutton Coldfield YMCA Project manager for Young Carers</p>	<p>Work with Carers United to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Tool Kit for Carers • GP Register of all Carers • Packs of information for Carers • Access to Carers United Staff • Access to Carers United events <p>Link to SCTC Social Inclusion Agenda to support a “Young Carers Social Event” late summer 2017</p> <p>Identify ways in which SCTC can support leisure and social activities for young carers and to enable young carers to have a support network around them</p>
<p>6. Work Experience: Paid and unpaid employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Sutton Coldfield</p>	<p>Promote economic and individual independence and equal access to the labour market in Sutton Coldfield</p> <p>The right to work is a fundamental human right that is inseparable from human dignity</p>	<p>Work with local traders to eliminate barriers to employment opportunities</p> <p>Enrol the assistance of local Traders Forums</p>

	<p>Many workplaces continue to be inaccessible for wheelchair users in terms of physical access that creates barriers to equal participation. Efforts to promote employment of persons with disabilities often focus on creating jobs in separate settings which creates further isolation and does not adhere to the principle of inclusion</p> <p>Work carries no less meaning to people who consider themselves to be disabled. There continues to be millions of disabled people around the world, who continue to be denied their right to work and therefore, remain excluded from the opportunity to realise themselves and to make a meaningful contribution to the economic, social and cultural development of their community.</p>	
<p>7. Formulation of a Community Incorporated Organisation:</p> <p>Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group</p>	<p>Following the success of the group in SCTC create a long standing group for Sutton Coldfield. Mission Statement:</p> <p><i>“Promoting the wellbeing and opportunities for disabled people and their carers/families in Sutton Coldfield living, working and visiting. To lobby to improve facilities and share our experiences and success”.</i></p>	<p>Work with BVSP to create a stand alone group</p>

6. Planned Activity for 2017/18:

Planned Activity for 2017/18:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To deliver the activities for the Seven Work streams and create a strategy linking the SCTC Social Inclusion agenda• To review further opportunities to attract external funding for the development of schemes for the inclusion of wheelchair users in Sutton Coldfield: CIO, Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group• To develop the Disability User Group to ensure proportional representation across Sutton Coldfield and to engage all support groups that may assist in improving the quality of lifestyle access for disabled people in Sutton Coldfield• To promote opportunities for work experience, paid and unpaid work for local people with physical and/or mental disability with local traders in Sutton Coldfield and in Sutton Coldfield Town Centre• To create a Disability User Group that will challenge Birmingham City Council in all aspects of daily living and represent Sutton Coldfield• To make the links for local young people in Sutton Coldfield to become advocates for young people with additional needs and to create connections to the emerging SCTC Youth Engagement Group and Local Youth Clubs (K Kats)• Engaging with Sutton Coldfield residents, workers and visitors to promote awareness of the barriers to independence that people with physical and mental disabilities manage daily in our Royal Town• To plan for the further development phases of the DS 2018 onward and to include it in the SCTC Five Year strategy
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Disability User Group Members and Contacts

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Tools to be generated by April 2018:

- **Advertising, Literature and wheelchair hire for Access Denied Wheelchair awareness project**
- **Sutton Coldfield accessible Public Toilets map**
- **Sutton Coldfield accessible Leisure and eatery Directory**
- **Myth Busting Employment Tool Kit for Adults with additional needs seeking employment and work experience**
- **Local data analysis for wheelchair users**

For general/further information please contact:

Town Councillor Janet Cairns,

- **Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Disability Champion**
- **Chair: Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Disability User Group**
- **Chair: SCTC Social Inclusion Group**

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