



Making parks fair for everyone



How to make parks easier for disabled people and unpaid carers to use



About our parks

Bristol and Bath has lots of beautiful parks.



People can use parks for things like:

- sports and activities



- walking



- meeting other people



- playing



- picnics





Parks are really good for people's mental and physical health.



But lots of people in our area find it hard to use parks.



About our report

We are Your Park Bristol and Bath.



We have looked at what makes it hard for people to use our parks.



We found out disabled people and **unpaid carers** find it harder than others.



An **unpaid carer** is an adult or child who cares for someone else but it is not part of their job.

This could be a parent, friend or a family member.



We talked to lots of disabled people and unpaid carers.



They told us what problems they have when they visit the park. And what things need to change.



We have written a report about what we found out.

It gives some ideas about how organisations can make parks fair for everyone.

Some things that make it hard for people to use our parks:



- getting to the park



- getting around the park. Things like bumpy or muddy paths make it hard for people who use a wheelchair



- not enough play equipment. This includes things like swings or roundabouts for disabled people or board games for adults



- lots of people are scared of dogs jumping up. There can be lots of doo poo that people step in



- not enough cafes and seating. It is important for people to be able to have a rest and get something to eat and drink



- not enough toilets. Disabled toilets are often closed or not big enough for people's needs

Ideas about how to make parks better for everyone



We spoke to disabled people, adult unpaid carers and child unpaid carers.



Together we came up with some ideas about how to make parks easier to use.



We have 8 important ideas about what organisations can do when they plan and manage a park.

1. Everyone working together

Organisations should work together with:



- people who use parks

They can help us to understand what people need and how to make our parks better.



- other organisations who work with disabled people and unpaid carers

2. Work in the best way

Sometimes people are not treated fairly. This might be because they are:



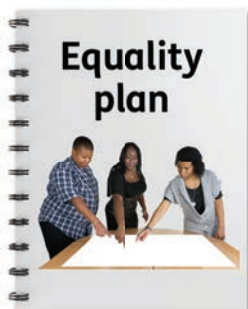
- from Black, ethnic minority and Asian communities



- disabled



- older people



All organisations have a plan to follow about making things fair for everyone.

The plan is called an **equality plan**.

We think organisations should look at 4 things in their equality plan:



- working together closely with lots of different people in their local communities



- making sure staff follow the equality plan



- when people tell an organisation something is not fair, the organisations should listen and do something about it



- making sure staff come from lots of different backgrounds and parts of our community

3. Making plans with local communities



The people we talked to told us about some changes that need to happen.



Some of these changes can be made straight away.



But some bigger changes need to be planned and talked about first.

4. Listen to as many people as possible

Organisations should:

- hold lots of events to talk to people and find out what they think



- most people find about these events on **social media**

Social media is things like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



We need to find other ways for people to have their say.



5. Keep websites up to date

People need information so they can plan a visit to the park.



Organisations should make sure their park websites are kept up to date. This means people will get the right information.

6. Make sure parks have activities for everyone

Organisations should make sure parks have things for everyone to do. This includes:

- disabled people

- children

- older people





Parks should:

- have pet and toy free areas



- have different areas of the playground for younger and older children



- have activities at different times of the day



- not ask people to pay to do activities



- have special play sessions for disabled children



The sessions will be run by a worker who will:



- make sure other people do not use the play equipment for disabled people

and



- make sure children don't leave the park without the adult they came in with

7. Make sure parks have better toilets



There are rules that say what has to happen to make toilets better for everyone.

This list is called the **Changing Places standard**.



All our parks need to make sure they meet this standard in the next 5 years.



Following these rules will mean parks will have:

- more toilets



- bigger toilets for disabled people and families



- places where people can change themselves in private



It will take time to make these changes.



Until this work is done, organisations should put where there are toilets in parks.

8. Checking parks work well for everyone



People with **lived experience** should check how well our parks are working.

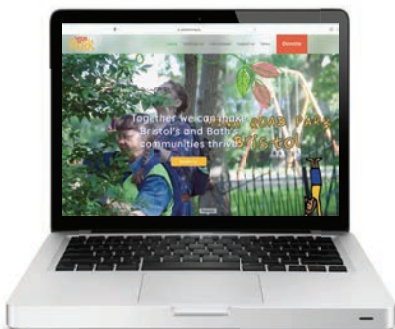
This means people who know what it is like to use our parks.



This will help us to find out what problems people are having.

Contact us

Email:
info@yourpark.org.uk



Website:
www.yourpark.org.uk/