



Department for Work & Pensions

Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Disability 20th March 2014

The Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Disability met for the first time on 13th March. The Group aims to encourage and stimulate progress to ensure disabled people are included in society and have opportunities to realise their aspirations.

The Group is chaired by Mike Penning the Minister of State for Disabled People and was set up with support from the Prime Minister David Cameron.

Last July Government's disability strategy, Fulfilling Potential¹, set out a wide ranging cross-Government action plan. A lot of progress has already been made, and we want to do more.

Mike Penning, Minister of State for Disabled People explained:

"The first Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Disability shows how seriously this Government takes improving the lives of disabled people. I am personally committed to cutting through bureaucracy to deliver the life changing improvements to make our great country accessible to all".

The Interdepartmental Ministerial Group is working together to help coordinate support for disabled people and to identify what further actions can be taken.

¹ Fulfilling Potential – Making it Happen and Fulfilling Potential: Making it Happen Action Plan, July 2013, www.odi.dwp.gov.uk

We are keen to identify how Government can lead by example, identifying improvements in how we deliver services for disabled people, our employment of disabled people and the procurement of our goods and services.

Everyone has a role to play in helping ensure disabled people, including those with hidden impairments, can fulfil their potential. This is why we want to encourage and support local communities to become inclusive and accessible for disabled people.

Enabling disabled people to participate in their communities, whether through employment, education, local services or social activities has wide ranging benefits for society.

We plan to promote the development of inclusive and accessible communities starting with a day of activity on Thursday 4th September 2014.

On this day, we plan to launch a challenge to local communities to come forward to demonstrate what they are doing to make their area inclusive and accessible. This will be designed to enable us to disseminate and celebrate good ideas and actions.

We also recognise the potential opportunities from supporting and encouraging innovation in the development and production of assistive products and technology for disabled people. We are keen to identify opportunities to support British businesses, which are at the forefront of developing this crucial new technology.

The Minister of State for Disabled People and Minister of State for Care and Support have established a Fulfilling Potential Forum of around 40 organisations from a broad cross-section of disability organisations. The Forum meets for the first time on 3rd April and will be asked to input their ideas on building inclusive and accessible communities and encouraging innovation.

The next formal meeting of the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group will be in June and discussions between departments will continue in the meantime.

We hope that a range of organisations will work with us to support this activity and bring forward their ideas and contributions.

How others can get involved in building inclusive and accessible communities:

- Please send your ideas for further action to fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
- We would like communities across the country to get involved in the day of activity on September 4th by
 - showcasing positive schemes that make their local area inclusive and accessible for disabled people, and
 - engaging their local community to identify further ideas for action.

Membership of the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Disability

Mike Penning	Minister of State for Disabled People (Chair)
David Willetts	Minister of State for Universities and Science
Kris Hopkins	Parliamentary Under Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Helen Grant	Minister of State for Sport and Equalities
Edward Timpson	Parliamentary Under Secretary for Children and Families
Baroness Kramer	Minister of State for Transport
Norman Lamb	Minister of State for Care and Support
Norman Baker	Minister of State for Crime Prevention
Anna Soubry	Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans
Simon Hughes	Minster of State for Justice and Civil Liberties
Lynne Featherstone	Parliamentary Under Secretary for International Development
Nick Hurd	Minister of State for Civil Society
Nicky Morgan	Economic Secretary to the Treasury