

## EQUALITY FORUM Q&A

**Can more disabled parking bays be made outside the Town Hall, that are wider than the standard disabled parking bay which would be useful for wheelchair.**

Awaiting update.

**What provision is being made by Chorley Borough Council to make all holiday play provision accessible and an option for Children with disabilities even sever and autistic, ADHD etc in line with aiming high?**

All the venues used for activities are assessed for accessibility and adaptability and, where possible, venues are suitable for people with a disability. Several Council staff who regularly assist with activities are trained and experienced in working with children and young people with disabilities. Staff who have worked with us over the last two years have had equality training and we are currently promoting an Equality and Diversity in Sport workshop to assist professional and partner agencies.

The Council's aim is to offer as much as possible to all members of the community and, although the Council are limited due to capacity to deliver specialist activities, we are always happy to promote other providers.

The Council have launched what is believed to be one of the first disability Rugby League projects in the North West, working in MLD and SLD schools, to assist Lancashire County Council to develop the game for those with a disability.

The Council have also been delivering Multi Skills Development aimed at children with severe learning difficulty. This has been documented in a joint project with UCLAN and a local school, to demonstrate the benefit of developing skills, such as agility, balance and co-ordination.

The Council's work with Chorley Wildcats over a number of years, has enabled them to improve their infrastructure and develop as a club. They are now close to achieving Clubmark, which will help them provide a better service and improve the skills of their volunteers.

**Why was a young person who is a wheelchair user denied the possibility of doing her work experience with the Council due to her mobility problems as they said they were unable to accommodate her needs? The Arts Partnership accommodated her instead?**

The request for a work placement with the Council was not denied but redirected to The Arts Partnership based solely on the young person's interests, as they were based around music, drama and film studies. It was the officer's opinion that compared to the Council, The Art Partnership would provide a more interesting, meaningful and enjoyable work experience in an area in which the young person was interested in.

**Please could the Council inform all members of the public that smaller bins and assisted collections are available to all?**

Smaller bins and assisted collections are advertised on the Council web site as well as the bin leaflet which has been circulated to all residents.

To request a smaller bin and/or assisted collection contact Jo Oliver, Team Leader – Waste and Contaminated Land on 01257 515737.

**Does Travelcare cover Chorley?**

Travelcare has a large presence in Chorley but their vehicles cannot be accessed by the general public. In the New Year Travelcare are to start a review of accessible transport in Lancashire to see how they can integrate various Lancashire County Council transport functions and use resources to provide a better service for Lancashire people.

Andrew Gill to give a presentation on the Accessible Transport Review at the Equality Forum at a future meeting.

**Does Lancashire County Council regularly assess the accessibility of pavements / footpaths e.g. review the needs for dropped curbs for wheel chair users – particularly in**

**public spaces. What is the process for this? Are there standards we have to meet? How should people report issues which they come across?**

Lancashire County Council has developed a Vulnerable Road User Audit to ensure that any adaptations to the existing highway or areas of new build are designed to improve access for vulnerable road users. Each scheme has to be audited to improve facilities where possible. This includes the provision of dropped kerbs and adequate crossing facilities.

With regard to maintenance of existing facilities, Highway Inspectors monitor footpaths for defects eg cracked pavement flagging and they are corrected from a separate maintenance budget.

Lancashire County Council design to the standards included in the Department for Transport (DfT) document called 'Inclusive Mobility' that can be accessed from the DfT website

To request a dropped curb members of the public can contact the Lancashire County Council call centre on 0845 005311. Traffic engineers in the area offices are responsible for investigating such issues.

**Estelle Brown from Chorley Pensioners Association raised the issue about the lack of dropped curbs in Devonshire Road (near Post Office) and Carrington Road.**

Sarah Palmer, District Partnership Officer contacted Estelle Brown with Lancashire County Council Highways number 0845 005311, and said that if she experienced any problems to contact Sarah.

At the time the agenda was published no further contact had been made to Sarah Palmer on this issue.

**Does Chorley Library have a loop system? If it does how can people who need it ensure that it is available?**

Lancashire County Council confirmed that induction loops were in place at:

- Chorley - Lending library counter and meeting room,
- Adlington library,
- Ecclestone library
- Coppull Library.

Euxton library is currently being refurbished and due to open later in the summer. This should have an induction loop included.

Clayton Green was refurbished last autumn. Lancashire County Council Officers are arranging for the induction loop to be re-instated.

The induction loops are available at all times and the hearing aid user just needs to switch their hearing aid to "t" to ensure that they can use the system.

**The traffic lights on Park Road and Union Street near the Town Hall do not indicate when it is safe to cross. Could an indicator be added? The changes to the lights have disrupted the routes used by many visually impaired people in the town centre.**

Lancashire County Council's Assistant Area Manager for Highways advised the proposed addition would require additional ducting and cables as well as the visible alterations including dropped kerbs, tactile paving and the push buttons on the signal poles. Such an improvement is prohibitively expensive and there are no allocations for this scheme at the present time.

**What role does Lancashire County Council play in encouraging schools to provide support to LGBT pupils in schools? What is the policy for reporting inappropriate behaviour aimed at LGBT pupils? There was a concern that these sorts of incidents are not treated in the same way as racist offences. Will this change with the introduction of the Single Equality Framework?**

Lancashire County Council's Children and Young People's Education Standards and Inclusion Group have advised that the incoming Single Equality Framework had now been updated by the

Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to encompass the needs of the LGBT children and young people and members of staff.

The DCSF has produced guidance for schools and school leadership around homophobic bullying and this information is available to view or download from the Government's TeacherNet website (see links below)

- Guidance on dealing with Homophobic Bullying  
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/doc/11911/HOMOPHOBIC%20BULLYING.pdf>
- Single Equality Framework Update 2009-2010  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/des/docs/SES%20UPDATE%202009-10.pdf>

**The LGBT group raised concerns about the absence of any late trains stopping at Chorley, and could the Council influence train providers to improve this?**

Train times back from Manchester Victoria at 23:03 arriving into Chorley at 00:01 and 23:16 on a Saturday night. As this is a commercial service, if members of the public feel that they wish to contact Northern Rail to request later trains they are advised to do so directly with evidence of a demand for later trains.

**Why has Stagecoach Service 125/126 from Preston to Bolton changed from an accessible bus for disabled and push chairs to one with steps?**

This service is operated by Stagecoach on a commercial basis and Lancashire County Council has no jurisdiction over the type of vehicles used.

However, Stagecoach do try to provide low floor easy access buses on the 125/126 services at all times. However, if a low floor bus is unavailable due to breakdown or not having a low floor

vehicle available, Stagecoach would substitute it with a step-entry vehicle, rather than not operate the journey at all.

Stagecoach are expecting a brand new fleet of buses for the 125/126 services in the next two to three months, which will help them achieve a better low floor spare vehicle availability ratio, than they have now.

**Why does Stagecoach no longer operated its number 16 bus service round Greenside due to it being a narrow road but continued to operate its service down Cedar Avenue which has an equally narrow road.**

Stagecoach stopped the number 16 bus servicing Greenside in May 2007. Stagecoach took the decision to stop the service operating on Greenside due to some residents parking their cars badly preventing the bus from operating on time. On a number of occasions drivers of Stagecoach's vehicles have had to ask residents to move their cars as the vehicle had been unable to pass.

If residents wanted the service reinstate they should contact Stagecoach direct. If the service is reinstated it would be on a trial basis.

**Can you consider offering free swimming for people with long term health conditions/disability?**

At the moment in line with Council's nationally Chorley provides free swimming to anyone aged 60 and over or 16 years and under. The Council will have to review the offer of free swimming shortly and this proposal will be considered as part of the review.

The Council may be able to arrange 6 free swimming session on request for groups of 6 or more for groups represented on the Equality Forum including those with disabilities. More information can be found on the Council's web site [www.chorley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3185](http://www.chorley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3185)