

Community Climate Action Plan

Bristol Disability Equality Forum
2021



Jargon Buster

In this plan we have put some words in bold to let you know that we have explained what they mean in the Jargon buster on these two pages.

Ableist: Acting in a way that puts **not yet Disabled** people's needs first. Often people don't even recognise they are doing it.

Climate Change: The planet is getting dangerously hot because of how people are using **dirty fuels**. This is leading to lots of problems locally and around the world.

Community fridges: Places where people can go to share food that would go to waste with people who can't afford to buy fresh food.

Co-production: Ordinary people working together with experts to create something.

Dirty fuels: Fuels like oil and gas that cause a lot of damage to the planet.

Disablist: Acting in a way that treats Disabled people poorly. People who are disablist discriminate against Disabled people and ignore their rights.

Library of Things: Where a group allows people to borrow tools and other useful things like a library lends out books.

'Inside the box': Thinking like everyone does and in ways that aren't creative.

Not yet Disabled: We use this term to talk about people who are not Disabled to make it clear that most people become Disabled in their lifetime.

Retrofit: Changing homes so that they lose less heat in winter and stay cool in summer.

Pay-it forward schemes: People with money choose to pay extra to help people without much money to access a service.

Pedestrians: People who get around on foot or by wheelchair.

One Stop Shops: Places where people can get energy advice.

Visitable housing: Housing where there is a level entrance, a wide enough hallway for wheelchairs to be able to turn into the main living room and a downstairs toilet and basin.

Introduction

Big changes are coming to Bristol to help stop climate change. We need to make sure that these changes are good for the planet and Disabled people. In the summer and autumn of 2021 Disabled people in Bristol shared their ideas for how to do this. These ideas were used to create this plan. Let's make Bristol better for everyone.

Bristol has promised to stop the use of dirty fuels in the city by 2030. We need to make changes so that our homes, travel and how we make food and products stop creating the gases that are making the planet dangerously hot and our air unsafe to breathe.

This means big changes to things that are important to Disabled people. If carried out poorly, this could create new barriers for Disabled people. If done well it could make our lives better and our city fairer. This plan shows how these changes need to be made so that they are good for Disabled people.

The plan is made by the Bristol Disability Equality Forum (the Forum) and is part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project. This project aims to help communities in Bristol to lower their use of dirty fuels and



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead



to make life better. It was created through **co-production**. This means that Disabled people in Bristol were invited to work together with experts to create the plan.

Other communities making their own plans are: Ashley Community and Housing LTD, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Eastside Community Trust, Heart of BS13 and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust. These groups all act for communities who experience many barriers and who are often excluded from **climate change** discussions. We will be working with them to get the changes we want to see.

We are also supported by the Bristol Green Capital Partnership, the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council.

We will now start to carry out the plans. What this will look like will be decided by what support we get. We will need your help to make this plan happen. Please read this plan and if you like it get in touch. **Email: cca.bristoldef@gmail.com or call 0117 914 0528.**

**“Disabled people must be included in climate change action. We have a lot to lose but also a lot to gain. We can bring great skills and leadership to the issue. Please join us to be part of making Bristol better.” -
Emma Geen, Project Lead**



Climate

We are facing a climate change emergency. The planet is getting dangerously hot and this is leading to lots of problems. In Bristol some of the worst-off areas will be the most at risk of climate change.

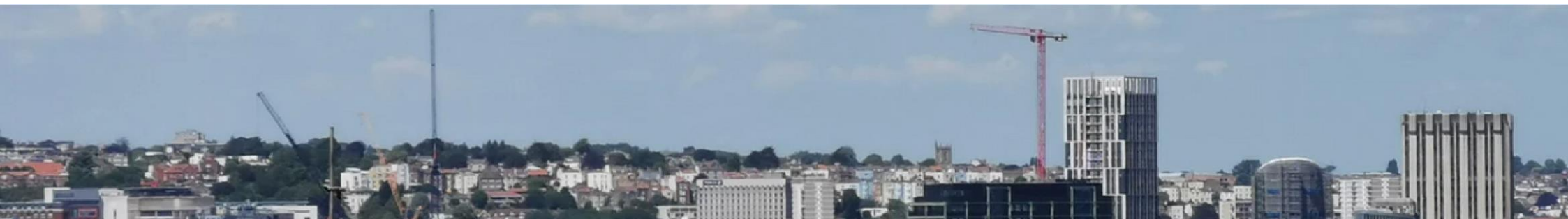
We need to quickly lower our use of dirty fuel to keep people in Bristol safe and stop the warming of our planet. We also need to be ready for changes in weather and change how we live so that we are safer and happier when climate change does make problems.

What Climate Change will do to Bristol

Some of the problems climate change will make in Bristol are likely to be:

1. Bristol's water levels to rise by +72cm. This will lead to a lot of bad flooding of homes and businesses.
3. Summers to get hotter by over +9°C. This will lead to more heatwaves and make big health problems.
4. Summer rainfall to drop by 68%. This will mean that we won't have much water at some points in summer.

Weather changes and disasters will be bad for our food, health, homes, businesses, schools, communities and services. We must act now to make sure that we can stop these changes becoming really bad.





Our Ambition

Greta Thunberg is an Autistic woman who shows how Disabled people can be great climate change leaders. In Greta's words, our impairments allow us to **'think outside the box'**. If Bristol wants to meet its climate change promises then the city will have to not only think outside the box but re-imagine it.

Disabled people have a lot to gain as the city changes. Transport changes can make travel more accessible. Energy changes can help get us affordable electricity. Changes to food can help us access good and affordable food. Our health can be better if we help nature and make changes so that we can access it more easily.

However, Bristol's Disabled people are also at risk of climate change. Poverty, inaccessible information and unfairness mean that many Disabled people will find it hard to understand and cope with climate change. The changes that are made to slow climate change can also make new barriers if made without thinking about Disabled people.

Our plan will help our community to act on climate change in a way that stops new barriers and makes our lives better. Changes made for Disabled people are good for everyone. So our plan should make Bristol better for everyone.

Climate hero: Zac Jones

Zac Jones is a 30 year old Disabled person and lives in Sea Mills.

He decided to keep the city clean after seeing mess in the streets and knowing that he could change that.

Now he carries out lots of litter picks and runs workshops showing people how to recycle.

He's also talked to beer companies to get them to stop using plastic in their cans.

He was asked to help lead the march with Greta Thunberg when she visited Bristol in 2020.

“Litter picking means that people can be out in their local environment enjoying it and being safe.” - Zac Jones



Who We Talked To

The ideas for this plan were collected in 2021.

It was made by:

1. Disabled people who live or work in Bristol.
2. The project steering group volunteers. These people have different impairments and are of different ages and backgrounds.
3. The Forum staff.

The ideas that went into this plan were gathered by:

1. A project survey: A video was made to support it.
2. Stalls: People chatted about the issue over tea.
3. Workshops: Disabled people and subject experts made ideas together.
4. Presentations: These were made to the Forum's members and other disability groups.

Everyone's ideas were then turned into this plan by the steering group and Forum staff.

The draft was shared online and with disability groups for feedback to make the plan even better.





The Plan

Climate Hero: Beth Richards

Beth Richards is a 37 year old Disabled person and lives in Cotham.

She wants to be part of helping people to change what they do so that nature can survive.

She works hard to make less waste by buying things that are packaged in less plastic. She also works to teach people about climate change and has made an animation about plastic use, a window display for Window Wonderland, and is an activist for Extinction Rebellion.

She needs easy read information, so some climate change information is not accessible to her. This can be a challenge.

If she could encourage people in Bristol to do one thing it would be to use their cars less.

"If people use their cars less, the air would be cleaner and it would be less scary for me to ride my trike." - Beth Richards



Introduction to our Aims

The big changes coming to Bristol for 2030 could be really good for Disabled people or make new barriers for us. This is why many of our aims are about:

1. Stopping new barriers.
2. Getting rid of barriers that are already a problem.

This is a big job that will need a lot of money and work. Disabled people can't do a lot of this work. But that does not mean that we can't make important changes. So we have written our aims as 'City Owned Aims' and 'Community Owned Aims'.

The 'City Owned Aims' are the changes that we are asking businesses, communities, politicians and other people with power in Bristol and across the UK to make. We will support these changes but do not have the money or power to make them.

'Community Owned Aims' are the projects that we want to run as Bristol's community of Disabled people.

Disabled people can take the lead in making a better future for our community and the planet. However, we will need support from everyone in the city to do this. Please read on to find out how we can make a Bristol that is better for everyone.

“Listen to Disabled people when planning changes. Don't assume accessibility is too expensive - often it isn't AND accessibility benefits everyone.” - Anonymous respondent

Transport

City Owned

Aim: Enable Disabled people who have to drive to do so in a way that is as good for the planet as possible.



1. Grants for Disabled people to buy vehicles that use fuels that are good for the planet.
2. All Motability vehicles to use fuel that is good for the planet. (The government and Motability need to make this happen.)
3. More Disabled parking bays are created in the city centre and the council and police make sure that **not yet Disabled** people don't use them.
4. Allow Blue Badge holders to use the lanes on our roads that are for buses and taxis.
5. Roads closed to traffic do not limit Disabled people's access. This means making sure that wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc are the only vehicles that can use these roads. Have parking for Disabled people who can't walk very far nearby that is within 50m.

Aim: Make public transport more accessible.

1. Have at least two wheelchair spaces on all buses and priority seating for other Disabled, older and pregnant people.
2. Make sure that Bristol's buses have technology that clamps wheelchairs in place so they are safe and don't move around.
3. Make Disabled people's bus passes valid 24/7.
4. Better accessibility training for public transport staff.
5. Easier ways for reporting **ableist** and **disablist** behaviour by public transport staff.
6. Better training for, and action against, staff who discriminate.
7. More bus routes and buses that run more often.

8. More accessible bus stops and railway stations.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to travel more by walking and wheelchair by making pavements better.

1. Make pavements less bumpy and ban other things that could cause trips.
2. Make sure that there are enough dropped kerbs.
3. Make sure that tree planting in streets doesn't make pavements bumpy by planting trees further down.
4. Make sure that rules about keeping scooters, cyclists, vans and cars off pavements and dropped kerbs are followed and that people have to pay fines if they break the rules.
5. Stop businesses from putting tables and chairs on pavements where there is not enough room for wheelchairs to pass (3 metres). Separate the seating area from the area for **pedestrians** by using solid objects like railings.
6. Get rid of shared pathways and make separate cycle paths that are safe for cyclists so they don't use pavements.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to drive less by making sure affordable mobility equipment-hire is available for those who need it (e.g. by supporting Bristol Shopmobility).

Aim: Enable Disabled people to drive less by providing enough public Disabled toilets and Changing Spaces across the city and its parks.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to hire accessible and affordable bikes.

1. Make sure bike hire places have accessible bikes for different impairments.
2. Make bike lanes wide and smooth enough for trikes and less confident cyclists to use them.
3. Offer bike grants to Disabled people who need to buy or adapt an accessible bike.

Community Owned

Aim: Hire a Disabled transport champion. They will:

1. Talk to the general public so that they don't do things that make transport inaccessible for Disabled people.
2. Talk to the people who own public transport, businesses and councils to get them to support these aims.
3. Offer accessibility training for public transport staff.
4. Work with councils and researchers to work out how Disabled people who have to drive can do so in ways that are good for the planet.
5. Record cases of ableist and disablist activity by public transport staff so that these can be used to push for change.

Aim: Map paths and roads used by cyclists and people who walk and work out which are wheelchair and electric scooter friendly. This map can be used by people with power to make changes.

Aim: Print leaflets that can be left on parked cars that are blocking pavements.



Housing

City Owned

Aim: Make sure all new homes are at least partly accessible. 10% ~(or more) of all new homes are wheelchair accessible and all others are 'visitable'. Build them in ways that lower the cost of adapting them and so that less waste is made by doing so.

Aim: Retrofit the homes of Disabled people, this means that they lose less heat and stay cool in summer.

1. Grants for this work to be given first to Disabled people on a low income.
2. Make sure that news of these grants is given out in an accessible way so Disabled people learn about them. (Also see Disabled Energy champion.)
3. Create an example home that is fully accessible and has energy that is good for the planet. Use it to inspire other people to do the same.

Community Owned

Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.



Energy

City Owned

Aim: Disabled people can use the energy they need for their medical and access needs without harming the planet.

1. Grants given to Disabled people to help them access energy in their homes that is good for the planet.
2. **One Stop Shops** to be trained in meeting people's access needs.
3. Make all sources of electricity in the UK good for the planet.

Community Owned

Hire an Energy Champion. They will:

1. Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.
2. Give Disabled people information about how to access energy that is good for the planet.
3. Research the energy needs of Disabled people.
4. Support Disabled people to access grants for things like solar panels (. e.g., help with paperwork if needed).
5. Support Disabled people to switch to an energy provider that is good for the planet (. e.g., help with paperwork if needed).
6. Run events and workshops educating Disabled people on energy.



Food

City Owned

Aim: Enable Disabled people to grow their own food.

1. Every allotment site to make at least 10% of their allotments accessible.
2. Give window boxes/planters to Disabled people who don't have a garden.

Aim: Allow Disabled people to access food and packaging that will not make difficulties for their medical or mobility needs, such as ready-peeled or chopped goods. Take action so that these options are as good for the planet as possible, such as making it possible to access these items in reusable packaging.

1. Make sure that food options remain open, allowing people with dietary needs to find food that meets their needs.
2. Raise public awareness around access needs so that Disabled people aren't punished for using options that some people might think of as wasteful, such as plastic straws and ready-peeled food items.
3. Work with local businesses to provide low or no cost home delivery of local and easy-to-open food without plastic or wasteful packaging.

Aim: Help Disabled people access affordable food that is good for the planet.

1. **Pay-it forward schemes** so that people with money can choose to pay extra to help Disabled people without much money access food that is good for the planet.
2. Share food that would go to waste.
3. **Community fridges**, where people can share food that would go to waste.
4. Support networks and groups in the city that work on food poverty.



Community Owned

Aim: Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.

Aim: Make an accessible community allotment in a space that Disabled people can easily access, such as a health centre or supermarket. This will inspire other people to see what an accessible allotment looks like and make their own.

Aim: Run cookery lessons for Disabled people with food that is good for the planet.



Waste

City Owned

Aim: Make it cheaper to fix disability aids.

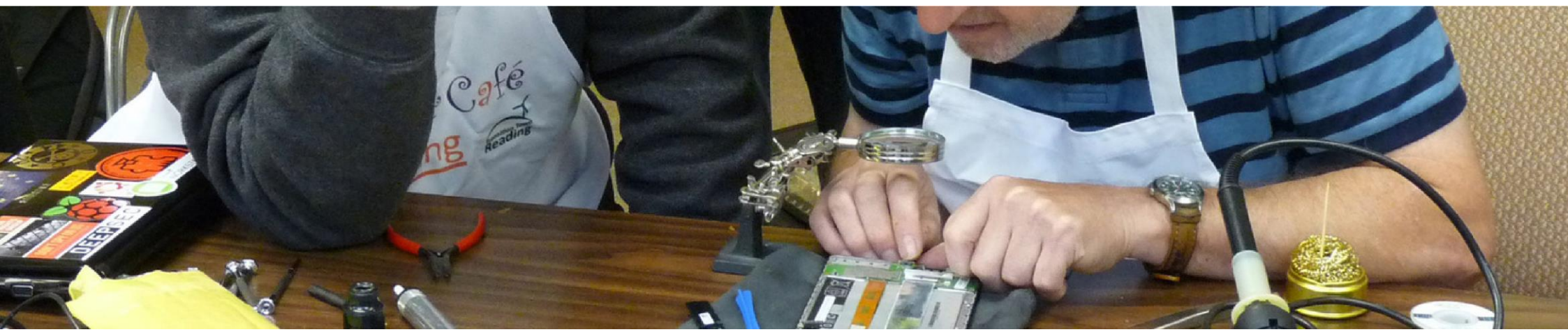
Community Owned

Aim: Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.

Aim: Raise awareness of disability issues so that Disabled people aren't punished for using things they have to use.

Aim: Help Disabled people to fix their equipment instead of having to buy new.

1. Create a Disabled person run community business that fixes and sells affordable mobility equipment.
2. Create a **Library of Things** with equipment Disabled people need. This will allow Disabled people to borrow mobility equipment like a library lends out books.



Nature

City Owned



Aim: Help Disabled people to access parks and other places with nature.

1. Get rid of barriers to parks or let people access them with a key or keycard.
2. When the city says it aims to make parks within a '10-minute walk of everyone in the city', make sure that this includes Disabled people, including those with mobility difficulties.

Aim: Enable Disabled people to access nature in spaces that they own or already visit, such as health centres and supermarket car parks.

Aim: Clean Bristol's air to meet World Health Organization (WHO) rules to help the health of those with breathing impairments and stop more people becoming Disabled.

1. Ban wood burning stoves.
2. Bring in the Clean Air Zone but make sure Disabled people don't have to pay if driving is an access need.
3. Support groups asking the Government to make better rules on air pollution and to give more money to fix the issue.

Community Owned

Aim: Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.

Aim: Create a green spaces accessibility audit group to identify areas for action by councils and owners of green spaces. Create a map that Disabled people can add problems to.

Economy, Business, Jobs and Education

City Owned

Aim: Make sure that Disabled people are part of making all the city's plans on climate change action.

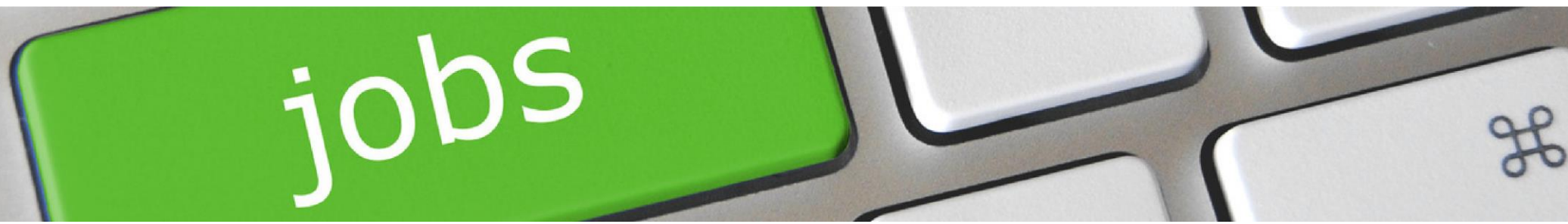
1. Make a Disabled people's Climate Action Plan Reference Group who the councils talk to when making their plans.

Aim: Make sure that Disabled people can get some of the jobs that are made to act on climate change.

1. Work with interviewers, job creators and communities to help Disabled people to access jobs that are created around climate change. Make these jobs accessible.
2. Stop unfair treatment of Disabled people in jobs and workplaces in this area.
3. Make and share resources with examples of best practice in job creation and hiring.
4. Offer help for Disabled people to run businesses that are good for the planet.

Community Owned

Aim: Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.



Other

City Owned

Aim: Make sure that emergency services, like the fire brigade, are aware of the needs of Disabled people in disasters. Make sure that Disabled people are one of the communities first helped when rescuing people.

Aim: Create accessible resources, information and training to support Disabled people in understanding, being involved in and not hurt by climate action in the city

1. Screen-reader friendly documents and websites.
2. A BSL (and subtitled) video by a Deaf presenter.
3. Easy Read versions.

Community Owned

Aim: Talk to people with power about our needs and get them to support us and be inclusive.

Aim: Make sure that our needs and learning inspire people to make change outside of Bristol.

1. Get this plan and the needs of Disabled people in news across the UK.
2. Work with other Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) and climate change groups outside of Bristol to make sure that they are working with Disabled people in their communities.



Final comments

Working on this project has shown how important it is to listen to Disabled people on climate change. We have a lot to gain and a lot to lose when it comes to action to protect the planet. Whether the changes coming to Bristol are good or bad will be decided by how they are made. We ask everyone acting on climate change in Bristol to use this plan to make sure that the changes are good and accessible.

We want to finish by saying that many Disabled people we talked to have very little trust in those with power. One of the comments we were told most often was “you’re dreamers”.

We understand this view. But is being a dreamer bad? To dream is to look at ‘what is’ and see ‘what could be’. The ‘what is’ we now have is bad both for Disabled people and the planet. If we want a future that Disabled people can be safe and happy then Bristol has to dream and make that dream real.

Our plan then is two asks:

To people with power in Bristol, please show us that we can trust you to make the changes needed. Show us that our aims are yours. We will need allies with time, access to money and who can make things happen. We really want to work with you.

To Disabled people, we can make Bristol better if lots of us come together to push for it. We need your help to do this. Be part of the change.



The Bristol Disability Equality Forum

The Bristol Disability Equality Forum is an organization of Deaf and Disabled people, working for Deaf and Disabled people.

We want a society where Disabled people are respected and valued, where they have Independence, Choice and Control of their own lives, and where they are fully included in their communities and the country as a whole.

We have been carrying out Disabled people's voice and influence in the city since 1994. This means we talk to 'Disabled people about their needs and to people with power to get them to make things better for Disabled people.

Get in touch. Email: cca.bristoldef@gmail.com or call

0117 914 0528

Acknowledgements



The Forum would like to thank the following people and organisations for helping make this plan:

1. The members of the community of Disabled people who took the time to share their ideas.
2. The project steering group, (including: Beth Richards, Hilary Smart, Maud Brown, Lacey Trebilcock, Valerie Stanfield, Amanda Somers, and George Hooton.) The Forum's Disabled trustees and staff.
3. All the local community groups and organisations that have supported or contributed (including: Paul's Place, We The Curious, Friends of the Earth, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Energy Network, Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), Feeding Bristol, Going For Gold, The Galleries, Clifton Down Shopping Centre, Cabot Circus, Lawrence Hill Health Centre).
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