



Disability and Aging

Disability Rights are
Human Rights

Who we are

- York Disability Rights Forum - we use a rights based approach in our work to make York a better place for disabled people
- Who am I?
 - Disabled
 - No children and no plans for children

Overview:

- Quick look at data
- Human Rights
- Care Crisis
- Reverse the Ban; what's going on with the footstreets ban on Blue Badge holders

Almost everyone, if they live long enough will become impaired in some way. It could be reduced hearing, sight loss, impaired mobility

Whether someone identifies as disabled or not varies, but the result is the same - a person is dis-abled by the environment around them. Whether it's not being able to walk from a car park to the shops, needing large print etc.

But regardless of whether someone defines as a disabled person or a person who has age related impairments, the barriers are generally the same, and often so are the issues eg a venue without a ramp or reduced funding for social care.

There are 14.6 million disabled people in the UK.

- 9% of children are disabled
- 21% of working age adults are disabled
- 42% of pension age adults are disabled

And the number of people over 65 without adult children is set to rise from over 1.2 million to 2 million by 2030.

Which will mean more disabled people, over 65 without adult children.

A quick glance at the data...

- It's not just wheelchair users...
 - Less than 8% of disabled people use a wheelchair
- Know more than 4 people?
 - 1 in 4 people has a mental health impairment
- According to the Government, in the UK, about 4% of the population over 65 have dementia

...visually impaired, d/Deaf, sensory impairment, mobility impairment, mental health conditions...

Some impairments are more apparent than others and there is no single way of “looking disabled”.

And in York...

In 2011:

- About 1 in 8 of York's population were disabled;
- And about 1 in 7 said they had some limitation in their day-to-day activities;
- 1 in 13 were carers
- 16.9% were 65 and over, and 2.5% were 85 and over

And there are approx. 7,500 Blue Badge holders living in the city - a lot to be excluded from the city centre... a topic we will get onto!

Human Rights

- Disabled people, and older people, are people
- In addition to the same human rights as everyone, disabled people and older people have specific protections
- We deserve fairness, equality, dignity and respect like everyone else

A human rights approach starts with the idea that we are equal and this in turn exposes the inequalities.

It turns a fight for equality into a **fight for our rights**. It assumes we are already entitled to our rights and makes discrimination into a legal, human rights, issue.

Social Care Crisis

- There are about 2.6 million people over 50 and Age UK have found people over 50 who need social care are not having their needs met.
- This includes washing, toileting, and eating.
- Age UK have called for huge investment in the care sector
- Local authorities are facing financial pressure
- The number of people wanting to work in care has dropped due to Covid and low pay

- Whilst older people tend to get the spotlight in news stories about care, many younger disabled people need care too.
- Disabled people between the ages of 18-65 represent one third of social care users.
- Shameless plug: If you want to read about what care looks like for disabled adults, read my [article](#)!

Unpaid Carers

- Where social care is not meeting the needs of people, informal care or unpaid care tends to come into play.
- Often there's an expectation that family will take on that role
 - But family aren't always the best people to deliver care
 - Or your family aren't able to because they are disabled, live too far away or are no longer in your life...
 - And what if you don't have family...
- The way the health and social care sector is set up assumes everyone has family who can support them, whether that's being a full time carer, or just making sure you have food in the freezer.

Other topics

There are many other ways in which our needs and concerns overlap:

- Many of the housing needs that older people have, younger disabled people have too.
- The rising cost of living is going to hit us hard.
- We need environments that have accessibility built in from the start
- And then there's the city centre Blue Badge issue...

Reverse The Ban

“a coalition of charities, associations, action groups and other organisations who aim to reverse the ban on Blue Badge holders’ access to York’s pedestrian streets”

- June 2020, the footstreets area (or pedestrianised area) was temporarily extended to allow for better social distancing
- This meant that streets that had previously allowed Blue Badge holders access were now closed to Blue Badge holders
- The temporary decision was made permanent in November 2021 by members of the Council Executive – made up of Liberal Democrats and Green Party councillors – despite extensive objections from disabled people and organisations, including York Disability Rights Forum

“We believe people with a Blue Badge should be able to access York’s city centre in 2022 and thereafter, as they could in 2019. We call on the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police to enter into meaningful discussions with disabled people; to agree access to the foot streets with sufficient parking spaces, designed in a way that addresses legitimate security concerns.”

TIPS

JAR & CAN OPENERS

<https://www.dycem.co.uk/dycemshop/product/jar-openers/>- cheaper on other places probably
<https://www.lakeland.co.uk/72989/culinaire-magican-ato2-can-opener>- culinaire is a good brand

KEYSAFE

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Semme-Assistance-Osteoarthritis-Arthritis-Disabled/dp/B07JB1SBFJ/ref=asc_df_B07JB1SBFJ/
<https://www.dunelm.com/product/status-remote-control-socket-100032365>

NON SMART but very simple and accessible mobile phone- Doro

MY COOKING TIPS- <https://unlockingwords.wordpress.com/chronic-pain-cookbook/>

TAXI PASSES: it doesn't look like York does them but other areas might- <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Travel-costs-People-with-disabilities-and-carers/Taxi-Schemes>

This covers lots of things and links to a few other posts-

<https://unlockingwords.wordpress.com/2019/10/28/things-that-improve-my-life/>