



## A brief guide to inclusive design

*Achieving access for all*





## A brief guide to inclusive design.

There has been a shift in attitude, away from treating disabled people in only a medical way, towards an integrated approach that includes the design of buildings, public spaces, and more recently, products and services. Inclusive design compliments the social model of disability, and, if applied to a range of scenarios we will be in a better position to make sure services, spaces and buildings are accessible to everyone especially older people, disabled people as well as children and young people.

### The main principles.

- Inclusive design extends from inception, through the planning process, detailed design, construction, information, management and operation;
- Access is central to design not an afterthought;
- The inclusion of well informed disabled people and other disability community groups from inception is essential;
- Consultation is an ongoing process through the design and onto the operation of the service, building or other activity;
- Consultation should supplement technical and professional guidance;
- Disabled people are not an homogeneous group but have a range of diverse requirements.
- Inclusive design attempts to create services and environments which;
  - Can be used by as many people as possible without undue effort, special treatment or separation;
  - Offer people the freedom to choose how they access and use them;
  - Allow people to participate equally in all the activities they host;
- Ensure that a disabled person has the right to ask a question in the manner which is easiest for them, for example verbally, if the person can not produce the question in writing.