

Report of the Disability Working Group: Recommendations

Employment

The Scottish Executive should investigate the effectiveness of regional resources for sign posting disabled people and employers to information, advice and advocacy on disability.

Work should be undertaken to encourage positive attitudes to disability through a Scottish wide advertising campaign, which includes addressing attitudes to disabled people in employment.

Public sector duty to promote disability equality; mainstreaming disability equality; corporate responsibility; engaging public authorities

There should be guidance for public authorities on consulting and engaging disabled people.

Work should be undertaken to build the capacity of disabled people and support their involvement in the implementation of the disability equality duty.

The Scottish Executive should promote shared or joint approaches by public authorities to local or regional engagement and involvement of disabled people.

Consultation and communication; education and training; citizenship and public attitudes

The 'Fair for All' project should continue to ensure that its work on the access needs of disabled people in relation to the NHS includes communication support needs of all types.

Disabled people should be encouraged to become disability equality trainers.

All disabled people should receive appropriate and adequate support and equipment throughout school, further and higher education and at all points of transition such as the transition from school to post school.

Disabled people should be encouraged to take up careers in the educational sector and retention of disabled employees should be encouraged.

The Scottish Executive should lead by example and makes a clear statement of commitment to equality of opportunity for disabled people.

A campaign should be undertaken by the Scottish Executive to challenge negative attitudes towards disabled people and promote equality of opportunity.

The Scottish Executive should review and promote the use of materials used in schools on disability and citizenship; including reviewing the availability of, and access to, advice and guidance for young disabled people on what to do if they experience discrimination.

Targets for disabled people in public appointments should be reviewed and the Scottish Executive should lead by example in promoting the public appointment of disabled people.

Social inclusion; poverty; independent living; direct payments; care and support services

.The Scottish Executive should consult disabled people to ascertain the best way to support independent living nationwide.

Research on care and support services for disabled people should be reviewed and where gaps are identified further research should be commissioned, including participatory action research if appropriate.

In order to ensure effective delivery of the public sector disability equality duty, disabled people should be engaged both proactively and effectively in the design and implementation of care and support services.

The disabled person should be a full partner in the decision-making processes of her/his care management. An independent and trained advocacy service should be available if required by the disabled person in order to facilitate this process.

The Scottish Executive should support independent advocacy services for disabled people nationwide, including independent peer advocacy.

The participation by disabled people at all levels of public life should be promoted and resourced.

The Scottish Executive should undertake research to examine the information and advice needs of disabled people, the range of existing information provided and how access to information and advice might be improved. (suggest to committee)