



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Disability Strategy for Jersey was published on 26 May 2017.

Over the past year, the Disability Strategy Delivery Group has been working alongside the wider community to deliver the strategy, striving to ensure that people living with disability enjoy a good quality of life.

A lot has been achieved in this time, but there is still much more to be done.

This document provides a summary of the Disability Strategy's aims. It then gives an overview of activity carried out over the past year. Finally, it goes on to outline the next steps for the strategy, and the challenges ahead as we move into the second year of delivering the strategy.

## 2. A DISABILITY STRATEGY IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR DISABLED ISLANDERS

The key outcome of the disability strategy is to ensure people living with disability in Jersey enjoy a good quality of life.

In order to achieve this, the strategy is grouped into five priorities:

### **Priority 1**

**Have support to communicate and access information**

### **Priority 2**

**Have greater access to the Island**

### **Priority 3**

**Have good health and wellbeing**

### **Priority 4**

**Have access to education, employment and enriching activities**

### **Priority 5**

**Have equal rights and experience equality**

For each priority, there is an action plan which outlines activities aimed to improve the quality of life for disabled islanders in that particular area. These actions are divided into short-term (up to 2019), medium-term (2020 to 2023) and long-term (2024 onwards). This is the timeframe in which work on the action will commence.

The Disability Strategy Delivery Group brings together representatives of disabled Islanders, the business, voluntary and community sectors and key Jersey government departments. The group oversees the

delivery of the actions proposed within the Disability Strategy.

A review of the strategy will be undertaken after five years. By reviewing the strategy we can ensure that it is delivering its outcomes. Where progress is not being made, or is not happening as quickly as it should, the strategy can look to evolve and improve.

See the [full strategy](#) for further information:  
<https://bit.ly/2ms6EAP>

### 3. A YEAR OF PROGRESS

This section focuses on community activity over the past year, as well as the completed strategy actions. It highlights achievements which help promote a good quality of life for disabled Islanders in Jersey.

#### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- An updated version of the **Special Educational Needs Code of Practice** was published on Gov.je in February 2018.
  - The code clearly sets out the duties of the Island's schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs.

- **Access to Work**, a pilot scheme for grants which support disabled people in the workplace, was launched in January 2018.
  - The scheme helps to fund essential workplace aids or equipment by providing grants of up to £5,000 to Islanders with sensory, mobility or other physical disabilities.
- **Disability awareness training** is now provided by a range of organisations – JET, Libertybus and Liberate offer general awareness training, while JACS and Citizens Advice Jersey provide support to prepare for the introduction of disability discrimination legislation.
  - In addition, other voluntary and community organisations provide disability or impairment-specific awareness training – including Autism Jersey, EYECAN, Headway Jersey and Jersey dDeaf Society.
- **Beresford Street Kitchen** is a social enterprise that provides training and employment for 45 people with learning disabilities and autism.
  - BSK opened its café in August 2017 and now includes outside catering and a printing workshop.



## SPORT, CULTURE AND LEISURE

- A **Culture disability working group** was set up in April 2018. The group consists of representatives from ArtHouse Jersey, Jersey Arts Centre, Jersey Heritage and Jersey Opera House.
  - The aim of the group is to improve access to cultural activities for disabled people in Jersey through shared working.
- A number of **Autism-friendly initiatives** have been set up in partnership with Autism Jersey. These sessions feature changes to businesses including dimming lights, turning off music and avoiding tannoy announcements.
  - Initiatives include an autism-friendly swimming session at Les Quennevais sports centre and a 'quiet hour' at The Entertainer toyshop and Co-op Grand Marché stores.
- Jersey Heritage has developed **visual stories** for all their visitor attractions, available on their website.
  - These stories support autistic and other disabled visitors by giving advance understanding of the attraction and what to expect on a visit.
- **Mentor and buddy-support** for disabled Islanders has been developed by Island sports clubs over the past year

- **Jersey Parkrun** and **Jersey Triathlon Club** now both offer support, including buddies for visually-impaired participants.



- **Sportability Family Morning**, hosted by Jersey Sport, was held in July 2018 to support children with disabilities or complex needs (and their families) to experience new sports including athletics, frame football and martial arts.
- **Healing waves** began operating in August 2017, enabling individuals living with disabilities to partake in water sports, so that they can experience the therapeutic benefits the ocean holds.



## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

- Visit Jersey have published an **Accessible Tourism Toolkit** to support hospitality organisations to develop services that meet the needs of disabled visitors and Islanders.
  - In addition, Accessible Tourism workshops will support industry professionals.
- **AvanchiAccess bus pass** pilot scheme completed its first year of operation. The scheme provides free travel for Jersey residents who have a long-term disability which prevents them from being able to drive.
  - By the end of April 2018, 385 passes had been issued, with 63,433 journeys being recorded in the first months of the scheme.



- More taxi drivers have undertaken **disability awareness training**.
  - In addition, by 2019 all taxi-cabs will have accessible features, such as high-visibility door handles, grab handles and swivel seats.
- **Shared Space campaign** was launched in June 2018, raising awareness of visually impaired and other disabled road users in shared spaces.



- The campaign is a joint initiative by Jersey Road Safety, States of Jersey Police, Headway Jersey, LibertyBus and EYECAN.
- **LOVE Jersey** introduced dedicated 'disability access' reporting in June 2018.
  - The website and app now allow easy reporting of accessibility issues in the Island, for example the need for a dropped curb.

## EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

- The States Assembly approved **disability discrimination legislation** which came into effect on 1 September 2018.
- Citizens Advice Jersey and JACS have jointly created a **Practical guide to disability discrimination** for both employers and service providers.
- A range of **awareness events** are supporting the introduction of discrimination legislation.
  - Events have been hosted by Jersey Retail Association, Voisins Law and Law At Work, among others.

- A **review of access to social housing** was completed in July 2018, the findings will be used to put measures in place to help disabled Islanders access accommodation.
  - This includes accessible advice and guidance on housing options.
- A disabled Islander – **Ant Lewis – stood as a Senatorial candidate** in the 2018 States Assembly elections, receiving 10,709 votes.
  - His campaign helped raise the profile of diversity and equality issues in Jersey and promoted the voice of disabled islanders.

## 4. MOVING FORWARD WITH THE SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

The table on the following page outlines the progress of the short-term actions in the strategy.

**Priority 1:** Have support to communicate and access information

**Action**

**Progress**

**1.1b**

Enhance online information about tourism and hospitality facilities

**Complete**

Initial update complete, ongoing work to ensure businesses provide up-to-date information

**1.2a**

Develop and promote diversity training for customer-facing staff

**In progress:**

Due for completion autumn 2019

**1.2d**

Develop communication plan to raise awareness of individual appointments for disabled Islanders at customer-facing departments

**On hold:**

Individual appointments currently available, but communications will be rolled into wider plan around changes to government customer and local services

<b>1.3a</b>	Establish group to examine the communication support needs of disabled Islanders when accessing healthcare	<p><b>Scheduled:</b></p> <p>Working group currently being scoped, initial meeting planned for autumn 2018</p>
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**Priority 2:** Have greater access to the Island

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>2.1a</b> Review availability of disabled parking spaces (quantity, location & size)	<p><b>In progress:</b></p> <p>Due for completion 2020</p>

<b>2.2a</b>	Ensure that appropriate policies are in place to help disabled Islanders access accommodation	<b>In progress:</b> Due for completion summer 2019
<b>2.2b</b>	Strategic Housing Unit to review barriers to accessing accommodation in the private sector	<b>Scheduled:</b> Work scheduled to commence early 2019
<b>2.3b</b>	Establish process for identifying (and dealing with) accessibility 'hot spots'. For example, inaccessible road crossings	<b>Complete:</b> LOVE Jersey app now contains a 'Disability access' reporting category

### Priority 3: Have good health and wellbeing

Action	Progress
<b>3.1a</b> Ensure that services and organisations which offer support, including counselling, are on the Jersey Online Directory	<b>Complete (+ ongoing):</b> Initial update complete, ongoing work to ensure information on JOD remains up-to-date
<b>3.3a</b> Identify accessibility of sports clubs in Jersey for disabled Islanders (NB covering both physical access as well as inclusivity of clubs)	<b>Scheduled</b> Work scheduled to commence by January 2019

**3.3c** Promote accessibility of current sports facilities

**In progress:**

Active Jersey app updated to include accessibility of venues. Website updates due for completion by end of 2018

**3.3e** Set up a working group with key organisations to maximise accessibility to cultural experiences (NB covering both physical access as well as inclusivity)

**Complete:**

First working group meeting met in April 2018

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**Priority 4:** Have access to education, employment and enriching activities

**Action**

**Progress**

**4.1a** Review Special Educational Needs Code of Practice

**Complete:**  
Published February 2018

**4.1c** Establish a 'disability champion' within all schools

**Scheduled:**  
Work due to commence autumn 2018

**Priority 5:** Have equal rights and experience equality

**Action**

**Progress**

**5.1a** Develop and implement disability discrimination legislation.

**Complete:**

Legislation came into effect 1 September 2018

**5.3c** Encourage young people with disabilities to participate in the annual Youth Assembly

**Scheduled:**

Work due to commence autumn 2018

## 5. LOOKING AHEAD

Together with progressing the short-term actions, work is being carried out to develop a set of indicators to measure progress on each of the strategy's five priorities. These will be finalised in early 2019 and will sit alongside the overall outcome strategy measure of personal wellbeing for disabled Islanders.

Subject to funding approval, the medium and long-term actions within the strategy will be progressed from 2020 onwards. Key medium-term priorities include to:

- Introduce an island-wide volunteer driver scheme
- Develop the respite and short break services available to individuals and carers
- Audit post-16 education opportunities for individuals with a disability or special educational need
- Review and address the factors that contribute towards workplace discrimination.

The next annual progress report will be published in autumn 2019.

END OF REPORT.