



MUM DEMANDS APOLOGY AFTER DISABLED SON TRIPS OVER PLYMOUTH POTHOLE

Josh Morfey, aged 23, tumbled over a hole in the paving where 11 bricks were missing in Old Town Street. Josh has cerebral palsy, epilepsy, fluid on the brain and curvature of the spine and uses a wheelchair or a walking stick. Josh was walking in Old Town Street with his pa and his brother when he tripped over the hole.

His mother said in the Plymouth Herald: "He was left with a bruised leg but it shook him up a bit." She contacted the council and spoke to highways but was told it had "nothing to do with them". Mrs Morfey left a message and this was followed with a visit by the pa to the council offices where he left her phone number, but nobody contacted her. She rang the council again, but did not get an apology, only a pledge that the hole would be fixed.

The council confirmed that the message got through and the hole was filled on Monday. A Plymouth City Council spokesperson said: "We received a call on Saturday reporting missing brick work in Old Town Street. This was added to the works priority list and we can confirm it was fixed on Monday afternoon".

Read more:

www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Mum-demands-apology-disabled-son-trips-Plymouth/story-29328274-detail/story.html#ixzz4AssRYdbY

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PADAN Notices

Next Access Group Meeting

**Frobisher Room,
The Council House**

10.30 am for 11am - 1 pm

Friday 22nd July

**The Access Group is an open meeting
- all members are welcome**

It helps us to know if you are coming

Email: info@padan.org.uk

From the Editor

Our AGM was held on Friday 17th July in the Warspite Room at the Council House. Our guest speaker, Nick Dilworth of Plymouth CAB gave an interesting talk about the future changes to benefits. Look out for the Autumn newsletter when we will be including a full report.

I hope you all enjoy the Summer Newsletter and thank you to Susan Clark who has sent in several items for inclusion. Please send in any items you spot that may be useful, or of interest, to other members for our next newsletter.

The Council House lift – good news and bad news

A new lift is part of the Council's plans for upgrading facilities at the Council House. The 1950's Council House lift has always been too small for some wheelchair users but before the Civic Centre closed there was an alternative overhead route to the first floor area and the all-important Council Chamber.

Alterations to listed buildings are not easy, but PADAN was very unhappy with the Council's first proposal which was to install a new lift that was not much larger than the existing lift and smaller than the Building Regulations minimum - an outcome that would be expensive but at the same time inadequate for disabled people's access to such an important civic building.

The good news is that we understand this is being reviewed and the Council will engage in discussions with English Heritage regarding the design and installation of a larger lift for which there does appear to be space. The bad news is that this will result in some delay until the lift is replaced, but the wait should be worthwhile.

Armada shopping centre inaccessible to disabled people - For up to 3 months

The Armada Centre in Mayflower Street Centre has been labelled out-of-bounds for disabled people for up to 3 months after both the lift and traveller broke. Mr Leskin, who has a chronic cardiac condition, said in the Plymouth Herald that he is worried that other disabled and elderly customers will be facing the same problem as him and said "I came away yesterday having to use my cardiac spray. I can't use the stairs because I suffer from severe angina pain. The centre is no longer disabled friendly."

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said the traveller and lift are the property of the Armada Centre. The sign outside the shopping centre says: **'Refurbishment of the lift will commence June 13 and will last for a period of 12 weeks, during which it will be regrettably out of action. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience during this period of essential work.'**

Read more: www.plymouthherald.co.uk/plymouth-shopping-centre-bounds-disabled-lift/story-29405832-detail/story.html#bE8hPxjQqhoCMPki.99

Note The Armada Centre does have a website but there is no information about disabled access apart from parking and no news about this issue.

<http://www.armadacentre.co.uk/>

Plymouth's newest public toilets close within weeks of opening

From Plymouth Herald, 6th June 2016

Plymouth's newest public toilets have closed within weeks of opening, after they were vandalised. The toilet block at Devils Point opened for six weeks, before being locked and covered in red and white tape over the weekend of May 28 and 29.



A Plymouth City Council spokeswoman said:

"Unfortunately the new toilets at Devils Point have been vandalised and are currently out of action while repairs are taking place. We installed the portaloos as a temporary measure as we knew half term was approaching but as the weather was sunnier, it is fair to say it was used more than expected. We would like to apologise to those who had a rather unpleasant experience. As the toilets are new we are talking to the suppliers to get suitable replacement doors that are more vandal resistant as soon as possible. The Barbican toilets were also targeted recently. Two men were arrested in connection with vandalising the toilets."

Read more: www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Plymouth-s-newest-public-toilets-close-weeks/story-29366527-detail/story.html#ixzz4B24aEeGh

Access issues at Plymouth's MTV Crashes

David Johnson bought a ticket for his 16-year-old daughter Kerry, who has Down's Syndrome, to attend this festival on the Hoe in July but is concerned that his family will be sent away if they do not arrive early enough and has accused the council of discrimination. Plymouth City Council's policy on access to the disabled platform is "first-come, first-served". They used a reservation system in 2014 but received complaints - mainly about people not arriving until later in the evening and other wheelchair users not being able to use the platform, even though there was space. PCC stress that carers receive free entry to the event.

Mr Johnson said in the Herald "Should wheelchair users be able to register for the raised platform at MTV Crashes? Anyone who is disabled or has a disabled child will know you usually have an opportunity to register that fact with the promoter or the venue. In this case they are not keeping a list at all. They say there will be a steward on the entrance to the disabled platform and once it's full, it's full." When he asked what would happen if it's full he was told, 'There's a family viewing area, you can go there.' When Mr Johnson asked what would happen if this was full; PCC couldn't answer.

Read more: www.plymouthherald.co.uk/wheelchair-users-able-register-raised-platform/story-29317145-detail/story.html#gWhjYukGWMDC8Lh6.99

Measures introduced to tackle problem parking around Life Centre

From Plymouth City Council's Newsroom, 10th May 2016 and update

Measures to tackle inconsiderate and dangerous parking around the Plymouth Life Centre were introduced on Monday 6 June, following public consultation earlier in the year. To help tackle the problem the Council introduced the off-street order covering the car park and a Traffic Regulation Order covering the road between the Life Centre and Home Park. These measures should address ongoing problems with vehicles being left around the edge of the Life Centre car park, outside the marked bays and on kerbs, obstructing access for other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Vehicles were often found parked along the side of the building (near Home Park), blocking access for emergency vehicles and restricting access to the disabled parking bays. These new traffic orders complement improvements being made following a road safety audit.

Anyone who doesn't park in a designated bay now risks incurring a penalty charge notice.

Blue Badge users can park in all bays except in designated spaces in a new permit holder area for staff. There have been complaints that the signage to this area is not sufficiently obvious, and even regular users of the Life Centre found themselves with unexpected penalty charges when the changes were made. However, the Council says that the signage conforms to regulations.

Read more: <http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/measures-introduced-tackle-problem-parking-around-life-centre/>

Access for All cut by 50% - Protest against Hendy Review

Access for All funding is targeted at providing infrastructure improvements at railway stations to increase and improve disabled access. This funding is a key part of the government's strategy to improve the accessibility of Britain's railway enabling more disabled people to access the rail network.

The Hendy Review - "Replanning Network Rail's investment programme" report from Sir Peter Hendy to the Transport Secretary recommends deferring 50% of vital Access for All projects to 2019-24.

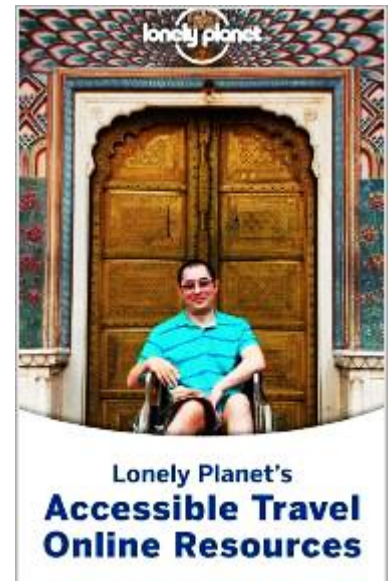
Transport for All, together with Inclusion London, Disabled People against Cuts, Disability Rights UK, RNIB, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign UK and Campaign for Better Transport oppose these proposals and have written to the Secretary of State for Transport to protest about this proposed cut.

The full letter can be read at this link:-

www.transportforall.org.uk/news/we-oppose-the-hendy-review-proposals-to-defer-50-of-vital-access-for-all-rail-projects

Free Accessible Travel Guide – digital only

- The world's largest list of online resources for accessible travel
- Country-by-country resources from national and local government and tourism bodies, as well as disabled peoples' organisations
- Experience of travelling with an impairment from 50 personal travel blogs
- Dozens of specialised accessible travel from 40 countries
- Top travel tips for travelling with access issues
- Leads and links to impairment-specific advice and support
- Websites dedicated to the promotion of accessible travel
- Updated biannually
- Easy-to-read text



Available to download from:

<http://shop.lonelyplanet.com/world/accessible-travel-online-resources-2016/#ixzz4B5Vp3h60>

Wheelchair access to National Express coaches



National Express provides wheelchair access to their new fleet of coaches. There are a number of restrictions which you will need to think about and plan for before making your trip.

More information can be found at this link: www.nationalexpress.com/help-and-advice/about-us/disabled-travellers.aspx#3

Alternatively contact their Assisted Travel Team on 0371 781 8181.
Lines are open 7 days a week from 8am to 10pm

Please note that the on coach toilets are not accessible!

Free Guide – ‘Get back to where you do belong’ available as a download from Disability Rights UK

Disability Rights UK has published a new guide, endorsed by Professor Dame Carol Black, for people who acquire an impairment or health condition and are exploring their education, training and employment options.

Read more:

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2016/april/our-new-guide-education-training-and-employment-options-disabled-people



Supreme Court to hear 'wheelchair vs buggy' bus case



Doug Paulley, a wheelchair user who says bus firms should make non-disabled people move from buses' disabled spaces has been granted permission to take the case to the Supreme Court because it raises issues of public importance. Mr Paulley was told he could not get on a bus to Leeds in 2012 when a mother with a pushchair refused to move. He says FirstGroup's

"requesting, not requiring" policy is discriminatory, but the bus operator says it is the most feasible that can be employed.

Judgement will be delivered in the coming months. Mr Paulley won an initial case against FirstGroup, declaring its policy of "requesting, not requiring" non-disabled passengers to move to be unlawful disability discrimination. FirstGroup appealed successfully to the Court of Appeal in 2014.

This case has resulted in a four-year legal battle that has now reached the highest court in the land. Speaking exclusively to the BBC, Mr Paulley said: "I appreciate it is difficult with kids and luggage and everything else, to fold a pushchair, or to move it, but ultimately unless she did that she is effectively stopping me from being able to use that bus. It's about the reasonable adjustments that organisations have to make so that disabled people can have access to the things that other people in society take for granted."

Under the Equality Act 2010, companies providing services must make reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled people. Mr Paulley was awarded £5,500 in compensation and FirstGroup was given six months to change its policy of asking - but not making – non disabled passengers vacate the wheelchair space. The judgement in Mr Paulley's favour was reversed by the Court of Appeal in 2014 which ruled that although wheelchair users have priority to occupy the wheelchair space, there is no legal requirement for bus drivers to move other passengers from it.

Mr Paulley appealed against that ruling and the "battle between the wheelchair and the buggy" has reached the highest court in the land. His solicitor said: "A panel of seven Supreme Court judges is unusual, and a reflection of the significance of the case." He hopes the court will "finally make the correct legal and moral decision" in support of social inclusion for disabled people.

Mr Paulley's case is being funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The case is the first disability discrimination case involving service providers to be heard by the Supreme Court.

The judgment will have wide-ranging implications for transport companies and service providers. A date has not yet been set for the Supreme Court hearing.

Read More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36534907>

Me Before You; the film that's caused an angry backlash from disabled people



The film 'Me Before You', based on the romantic novel by Jojo Moyes, has caused anger within a large majority of the international disability community.

Why? Because it reinforces the stereotypical belief that disabled people are a burden on their families and carers and better off dead than disabled.

The book and film show the journey of Will, a former banker, who is paralysed as a result of a motorcycle accident and his relationship with his carer (or Personal Assistant), Louisa. Will, who cannot deal with the pain and

suffering caused by his impairment has given his parents 6 months before they take him to Dignitas in Switzerland for euthanasia. Romance blossoms between the two but ultimately, Will still decides to end his life and Louisa inherits a large amount of money in his will.

Thea Sharrock, Director, hopes her film will represent part of an experience that has been largely ignored in film. "My nephew is in a wheelchair and I hope he will be pleased to see this shown in a way that does not make audiences too uncomfortable. If we had shown Will being taken in and out of his chair, or put in a hoist over a bath, the impression we would give is of difficulty. I wanted to make it more normal."

Actor and activist Liz Carr, who participated in the protest, said "We have so few opportunities in the media to explore disability, but there are a disproportionate number of stories which relate to the 'problem' of disability being solved by death. Television and film seem to love those individuals who want to die. They're less keen to cover the rest of us who might want to live but are struggling to get the health and social care resources to do so."

Liz goes on to say, "When non-disabled people talk of suicide, they're discouraged and offered prevention, even though it's legal, it's not seen as desirable. When a disabled person talks about it suddenly the conversation is overtaken with words like 'choice' and 'autonomy' and people are rushing to uphold these prized principles whilst talk of prevention and mental health support are rare. Will is not offered any psychiatric support. What kind of message is this that we're giving disabled people and the non-disabled audiences?"

Read more: <http://disabilityarts.online/magazine/opinion/film-directed-thea-sharrock/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/28/readers-editor-attitudes-changing-to-disability>

Carers Strategy: Call for Evidence

Views are being sought on a new strategy for carers that will set out how more can be done to support them. **The closing date for the Open Consultation has been extended until 31 July 2016.**

To help develop the strategy the Department of Health want to hear from carers, those who have someone care for them, business, social workers, NHS staff and other professionals that support carers.

Caring for others should not be to the detriment of carers' health and wellbeing.

It's a simple question but it can have a lot of different answers – **how can support for carers be improved?**

Read more: <https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/carers/how-can-we-improve-support-for-carers>

Billions of pounds of welfare cuts on the way despite PIP U-turn

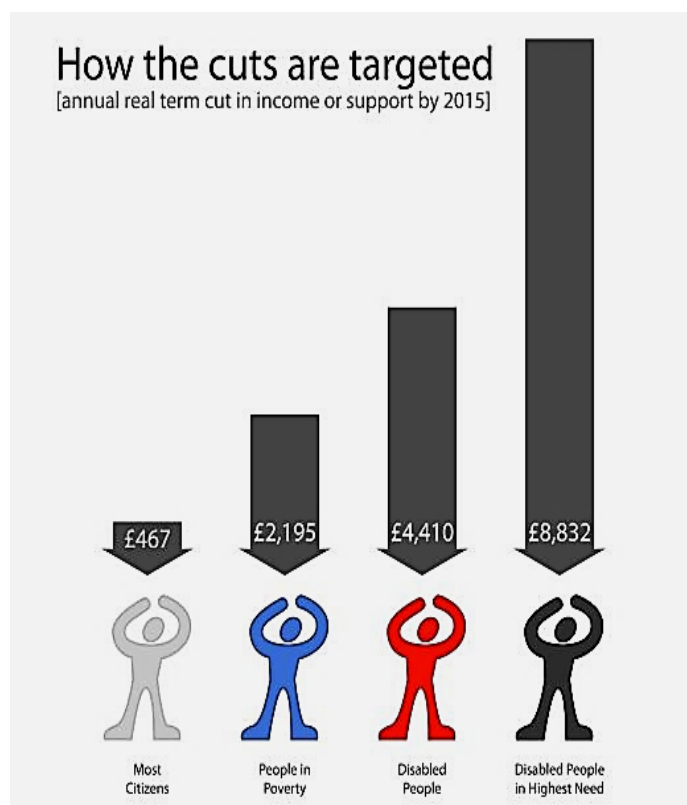
Ministers have approved a huge package of savings for this parliament already.

The government dropped its controversial Personal Independent Payment (PIP) cuts and the Treasury confirmed that there are no plans to fill the PIP-shaped £4.6bn hole in the budget through further welfare changes. But despite ministers' conciliatory noises, plenty of other social security cuts remain in place for this parliament, amounting to billions of pounds of savings.

- Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Age Benefits Freeze
- Housing Benefit Freeze
- Household Benefit Cap
- Local Housing Allowance Cap
- Tax Credit & Universal Credit Reforms
- Housing Benefit for 18 to 21 year olds (unless they have a child or are vulnerable)

Read more:

www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/mar/23/pi-p-u-turn-billions-of-pounds-welfare-cuts



Cancelled inspections by care watchdog rise 360% in a year

Taken from John Pring's article, Disability News Service, June 2nd 2016

The number of inspections by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) cancelled or rescheduled has risen by more than 360% in a year.

The figures – revealed by the CQC following a freedom of information request by Disability News Service (DNS) – show that 25 inspections of adult social care services were cancelled in April 2015 which increased to 103 in April 2016. The figures also show the number of inspections that had to be rescheduled rose from 25 in April 2015 to 130 in April 2016.

The freedom of information request was submitted by Disability News Service (DNS) in an attempt to discover the impact of changes to the CQC's troubled Experts by Experience (EbE) programme, in which people with experience of using services accompany CQC inspectors on inspection visits of health and care services.

The EbE programme was hit by criticism after 3 of 4 new contracts to run the programme were awarded to Remploy, now mostly owned Maximus.

In February, DNS reported that the decision to hand the three contracts to Remploy/Maximus had led to confusion, chaos and a stream of resignations, with some Experts even being told to print their own ID badges.

Experts were paid more than £17 an hour to take part in CQC inspections, but many were furious when they discovered Remploy planned to cut this to £8.25 per hour (£9.40 in London). CQC later agreed to subsidise these wages for existing Experts for the first six months of the Remploy contracts.

One Expert said the figures were “embarrassing”, but did not surprise him - he was currently having more inspections cancelled by Remploy than those that went ahead. “Quite a lot of this I suspect is because of Remploy’s chaotic handling of the contract.” He said he had real concerns about the impact of so many cancelled inspections on CQC’s ability to root out abuse and poor practice in care homes, social care services and home care agencies. He believed that the inspection programme was “woefully and dangerously underfunded”, while inspectors were “dropping like flies because they are way too over-worked”.

A CQC spokesman refused to say if the increase was due to “insufficient non-CQC resources” and is connected with the decision to contract with Remploy/Maximus. He also refused to explain why the number of cancellations and rescheduled inspections had risen by more than 360% in a year.

Read more: www.disabilitynewsservice.com/cancelled-inspections-by-care-watchdog-rise-360-per-cent-in-one-year/

Useful Organisations

<p>Disability Now Tel: 020 7619 7760 www.disabilitynow.org.uk</p>	<p>Disability News Service Email: john@disabilitynewsservice.com www.disabilitynewsservice.com</p>
<p>Disability Law Service Tel: 0207 791 9800 http://www.dls.org.uk/</p>	<p>DisabledGo Tel: 01438 842 710 www.disabledgo.com</p>
<p>Disabled People Against Cuts http://dpac.uk.net/</p>	<p>Disability Horizons www.disabilityhorizons.com</p>
<p>Plymouth Advocacy Free & Independent Advocacy service for adults & young people Highbury House, 207, Outland Road, Plymouth PL2 3PF Tel: 0300 343 5719 SMS: SEAP followed by your message to 80800 Email: info@seap.org.uk</p>	<p>Advice Plymouth Ernest English House, Buckwell Street, Plymouth PL1 2DA Drop in service Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm Telephone Lines Open: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am - 6.30pm Tuesday and Thursday 9am - 8pm Saturday 9am - 1pm Tel: 03444 111 444 (local rate) www.adviceplymouth.org.uk</p>
<p>Care or Not Ltd Sharon Lamerton, Plym Legal Services Tel: 01752 905031 SMS: 07922065761 Email: info@plymlegalservices.co.uk www.plymlegalservices.co.uk</p>	<p>Access Plymouth Mayflower East Car Park PL1 1QJ Tel: 01752 600633 Fax: 01752 229286 Email: accessplymouth@gmail.com www.accessplymouth.co.uk</p>

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Although every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of going to publication, PADAN will accept no responsibility for the accuracy of text. Views expressed in articles in the newsletter are not necessarily those held by PADAN.



Plymouth Guild
Helping people since 1907

The Clare Milne Trust
Supporting Disability in Devon and Cornwall

The Lynn Foundation

**The David Gibbons
Foundation**