**You said we did: Initial feedback on Physical Disability Consultation**

The Physical Disability Strategy on line consultation was completed by 42 people either as an individual (30) or on behalf of an organisation (12). The 12 organisational responses are formed from direct input from 45 individuals and informed by input from 24 families and 14 members of those organisations.

There was a clear message that people with physical disabilities wished to be more involved in planning and more importantly holding organisation to account if they didn’t deliver on their plans. As a result of this clear message council officers engaged with people with a physical disability (PD) and supported a PD reference group to amend the strategy to reflect their priorities and set out a three year plan to deliver the strategy.

This approach, although more time consuming, has ensured we delivered on that message to involve people with a Physical Disability in amending the strategy and developing a delivery plan.

There are identifiable themes emerging from the Physical Disability Strategy consultation summarised in appendix 1 (**bold & underlined** when they appear in the text). The PD reference group have met 5 times for in depth discussion on actions to deliver around these themes. The reference group have suggested a three year plan with a clear approach to deliver around these issues.

The underpinning approach, based on peoples wish to be **consulted and involved**, is to empower the physical disability community to engage in areas of public services and communities that impact on their life, they intend to:

1. Advise and support services and communities to be more physically disability aware and better placed to respond positively to people who have a physical disability.
2. Engage in relevant **planning and development** groups to advise planners and strategists on what a would make a positive impact on people with physical disabilities.
3. Identify those issues that will not be changed without national involvement or structural change and investment.

The group believe that through involving the correct managers in a Physical Disability Strategy delivery team and being involved in other planning forums they will be able to hold organisations and managers **accountable** for improvements meaningful to people with a physical disability. Notwithstanding the need to developed the correct delivery and governance structure that fully involves the correct people the reference group believe that they require a level of support and resource to be engaged effectively this will be best delivered through their own organisation **Ability Borders**. They do not believe that this should be funded solely through Local Authority and NHS funds but make use of other grants and monies when they are available. However they believe that local public bodies should play a part. With these principles applied the reference group and Ability Borders would like to propose the following plan:

**Year One** People with a Physical Disability are supported to get involved and assess door to door **transport** arrangements and feedback on three levels (This resources required to do this has been applied for via Transport Scotland from the accessible transport fund)

1. Through advice and recommendations to providers Introduce low level actions which can be undertaken quickly and easily (passenger transport department will be a conduit for this information
2. Supporting people with a Physical Disability to take these experiences to relevant planning groups to ensure that issues can be planned and changed over a planning and delivery cycle to i.e. Drive forward more complexed cultural/strategic solutions through current strategies and initiatives, both locally and nationally
3. Identify structural issue that local and national bodies should be informed about local issues will be addressed and discuss with relevant bodies the creation of a capital fund.

**Year Two** People with a Physical Disability are supported to carry out a in-depth assessment of how **service/communities/activities** make themselves **accessible** and reduce **social isolation**. Real peoples experience will captured and fed back to the correct forum in the following ways:

1. Advise and feedback to providers/communities on how accessible their service is and offer low cost/no cost solutions to improve accessibility.
2. Deliver a planning/gap analysis around services, communities and activities to be fed back into the relevant planning and discussion groups
3. Identify structural issues and submit ideas to be considered under the requested capital fund and engaging with national organisations on issues that require a national response/solution

**Year Two & Three** develop an option appraisal process Identifying high impact key structural changes to ensure that that **communities and services are accessible** i.e. those elements that good planning & advice would not address and reasonable adjustments have not created accessible services and buildings.

1. Describe and scope the best use of a potential capital fund
2. Identify additional funding sources to address structural issues
3. Ensure that if a capital fund is created that it is planned and delivered

There will be other specific tasks and actions i.e. adopt a **Transitions** approach for people with a physical disability leaving school so they can attain a positive destination in either **Education or Employment**. Engage with housing to ensure that sufficient **Accessible Housing** is available.

The reference group undertake to deliver an updated strategy and a more detailed plan to deliver the 8 ambitions. the updated strategy will have additional ambitions around transport and housing as a direct result of people with a Physical disabilities involvement.

The process of reviewing the consultation feedback, amending the strategy and developing a plan has taken longer but has resulted in a considered approach with a physical disability central to process. The next steps will be the reference group presenting their proposal to the Physical disability strategy group and then onto other management groups such as the integrated joint board and the strategy development group for approval.

Appendix 1

