We are delighted that over 200 local authorities in England sent in their Expressions of Interest for the government’s £30m fund to plan, design and build Changing Places toilets in their communities.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is currently finalising these applications and we are hoping to have further updates to share in the coming weeks about successful funding applications. These were initially hoped to be shared in the autumn but owing to the volume of applications and level of detail provided, Local Authorities will now hear of their funding outcomes at a later date, soon to be announced.

Keep watch on our social media channels and website for further updates!

**News Roundup**

**DLUHC’s £30m investment for Changing Places toilets in England**

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Keep watch on our social media channels and website for further updates!

**Scotland Updates**

There are now 12 Changing Places toilets in travel hubs across Scotland, including major railway stations, airports, and motorway services. Scotland is also proud to have a new network of Changing Places toilets on board NorthLink Ferries which sail to Orkney and Shetland, providing vital lifeline services for residents but also fantastic inclusive tourism opportunities for those wanting to visit these beautiful islands.

Improving CPT access across transport hubs remains a high priority for PAMIS as well as other members of Scotland’s Accessible Transport Steering Group including Transport Scotland.

**Welsh Government Consultation**

The Welsh government is currently reviewing responses to its consultation seeking views on increasing provision of Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) and Baby Nappy Changing Facilities (BNCFs) in certain types of buildings. The government is proposing revising the Approved Document M guidance on compliance with Building Regulation and allowing local planning authorities to enhance the provision of CPTs over and above the minimum required. We look forward to hearing the outcome in due course.

**Northern Ireland**

Ballyronan Community Building in Londonderry was recently added to the ten Changing Places toilets that are currently registered in Northern Ireland. We’re always delighted to be adding new venues to our list and this addition in a community building will help ensure that the whole community’s toileting requirements are met with a great inclusivity.

Congratulations Ballyronan Community Centre!

Please take note of their opening times in the link below: Changing Places Toilets (changing-places.org)
25th November saw Carer’s Rights Day being marked. Caring for a loved one is a great privilege and a great shared journey of information and support. This year as we all emerge from the pandemic, we feel it’s vital for carers to know how to empower themselves with information and how to feel confident to challenge decisions when their rights are not being fully met.

If you are a care giver or know someone who would benefit from further information, please see the links below:

- Carers Rights Day - Carers UK

You can keep in touch with Carers UK via their regional offices:

- Carers UK
- Carers N. Ireland
- Carers Scotland
- Carers Wales

**World Toilet Day**

Congrats to you all for making World Toilet Day such a great success! Even in a time when in-person meet-ups are still off the table for many of us, we saw loads of activity - all taking place on social media!

As part of the celebrations, we introduced two new platforms to the Changing Places conversation. You can now connect with us via LinkedIn and Instagram and we look forward to sharing all our Changing Places Toilets news with you moving forwards. Keep sending in your favourite venue photos and we’ll give them a shout out!

**Purple Tuesday**

We gave a huge ‘thumbs-up’ to Purple Tuesday on 3rd November! It was fantastic to see everyone so involved and, as well as asking some of our campaigners to share their favourite CPT venues, we marked the day with the launch of Engaged, the monthly Changing Places toilets newsletter!

**Marsham Court Hotel**

We were delighted to attend the opening of the new Changing Places toilet at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. This installation makes them the first hotel in the UK to boast a CPT! This is the first project in what is set to be a much wider programme for the venue, with the aim to improve accessibility throughout the hotel. The work, completed by Astor Bannerman, has been made possible by a match funded grant from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council.

**Carer's Rights Day**

25th November saw Carer’s Rights Day being marked. Caring for a loved one is a great privilege and a great shared journey of information and support. This year as we all emerge from the pandemic, we feel it’s vital for carers to know how to empower themselves with information and how to feel confident to challenge decisions when their rights are not being fully met. If you are a care giver or know someone who would benefit from further information, please see the links below:

Carers Rights Day - Carers UK

You can keep in touch with Carers UK via their regional offices:

- Carers UK
- Carers N. Ireland
- Carers Scotland
- Carers Wales

**November’s Registration round-up**

Details of all registered CPTs can be found on the official Changing Places toilets map

- Asda Worksop
- Pentagon Shopping Centre, Kent
- Ballyronan Community Building, Londonderry
- Pentire Headland Park
- Burnley Football Club, Lancashire
- John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxfordshire
- RSPB Loch Leven, Kinross
- Asda Southshields
- Sterts Theatre
- Matlock Farm Park DE4 5LH
- King’s Walk Shopping Centre Gloucester
- Marsham Court Hotel
- Sainsbury’s Aylesbury Gatehouse HP19 8ED
- Sainsbury’s Colwick Notts.
- The Critchon, Dumfries
- The Montrose Playhouse
- Lappa Valley, Cornwall
- Tesco Mablethorpe Superstore

**Marshall Court Hotel**

We were delighted to attend the opening of the new Changing Places toilet at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. This installation makes them the first hotel in the UK to boast a CPT! This is the first project in what is set to be a much wider programme for the venue, with the aim to improve accessibility throughout the hotel. The work, completed by Astor Bannerman, has been made possible by a match funded grant from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council.
This month Emily Naismith, who was instrumental in the campaign to get a Changing Places toilet installed in the Marks and Spencer at Shires Retail Park, shares her experience of Christmas shopping when access to a Changing Places toilet is essential.

For some, the last couple of Christmases have been a bit odd, and we are by no means anyway out of the woods, but what people have had to do the last year or so has been what families like ours have had to do pretty much most of the time, and that's shop online.

Many a time I've ordered something online and it's been nothing like expected, expecting a baby grow and it turns out to be for a dolly! Now I hear you all saying 'well that's in part your fault, you should've read the description', well alas this is true, however it's not always clear and people will be frantically trying to Christmas shop online while suctioning a child, or when their loved one has fallen from their wheelchair.

We've not had the option to go to actual shops for a decent amount of time, we've not had the 'let's go out shopping for the day Christmas shopping, let's have lunch and shop till we drop!' - and that's got nothing to do with not wanting to, it's about not being included.

That was, until our local shopping centre installed a Changing Places toilet allowing our daughter to be hoisted onto the toilet and allowing countless others the same possibility. Our child, you see, can use a toilet. However, some children - and indeed adults - cannot physically use a toilet and wear pads, hence why changing places also have an adult-sized changing bench that people can be hoisted to and changed.

Recently, the Marks and Spencer at Shires Retail Park installed a fantastic Changing Places toilet and just walking around the store, not feeling the pressure that we would need to be back home soon, the absolute realisation came over me - while looking at all of the wonderful things - that this Christmas could be different for us, we had finally been included!

So although this Christmas may still be a little bit odd for everyone, if you see a mum pushing a little girl around in a wheelchair and we both have huge smiles - and shopping bags - it's because, for once, instead of there being barriers to everything we can do, someone has said: 'Yes, we will do the right thing. You are part of our community. You matter.'
Heading out for some festive fun? Take a look at where our friends at Pamiloo and Mobiloo will be this holiday season!

Find out more about Pamiloo and Mobiloo

FESTIVE PAMILOO LOCATIONS

Christmas in Dundee
Pamiloo Location
High Street, near City Square
DD1 1SA

Sunday 5th Dec 12:30pm - 6:30pm
Sunday 12th Dec 10:30am - 6pm
Sunday 19th Dec 10:30am - 6pm

Elfingrove
Kelvingrove Museum
Argyle Street
Glasgow G3 8AG

Monday 6th Dec to Saturday 11th Dec
10am - 10pm

Beauty & The Beast
Pantomime
Falkirk Town Hall Theatre
West Bridge Street, FK1 5RS
Tuesday 14th Dec - 6pm
Public Performance
Campaigners' Corner

Kerry Thompson

"Every now and then I get asked to do something pretty fantastic and being asked to be in conversation with Michael McGrath someone I admire, for the muscle help foundation is one of those times. It goes out to a live audience on several different media platforms, we spoke about different subjects from my favourite movies to my real passions, Changing Places Toilets, accessible housing, and the importance of the purple Pound. If you missed it you can watch it on YouTube.

Michael McGrath shared the following with us:

"When thinking economic power, think purple! The conversation continues to progress which is great news, right? It’s clear that many more organisations now understand what the ‘purple pound’ means – in itself, that’s progress. However, so much more needs to be done to not only amplify the colossal spending power of disabled people and their families - worth an estimated £274 billion - but also, putting it bluntly, the realisation that if brands are serious about leveraging difference and by default making more money, they need to think purple and innovate.

Following the recent ‘Purple Tuesday’ initiative, I was shocked to learn that a staggering 90% of organisations in the UK don’t have a plan to tap into the disability market – either they’re not seeing the opportunity or they don’t yet get it! Whilst the ‘purple movement’ continues to expand, a significant step-change is I believe required if businesses want to profit from this market. Living with a disability for nearly 40yrs, I can say hand-on-heart that the dial is slowly turning – in engaging hearts and minds, the business case speaks for itself; my hope today is that the 90% ‘get it’ tomorrow and take action. At that point, the purple dial will be redundant and the headlines will tell the story of how a colour changed the business landscape forever."

Do you have news to share with us?
To appear in the newsletter, get in touch and let us know:

England, Wales and Northern Ireland
email: changingplaces@musculardystrophyuk.org
phone: 020 7803 4814

Scotland
email: PamisChangingPlaces@dundee.ac.uk
phone: 01382 385 15

Question: Why does a Changing Places toilet have to include a peninsular toilet?
Answer: It’s vital for the toilet to be peninsular so that there is at least 1 metre away from the wall on either side - left and right - ensuring the CPT user and their care givers can be comfortable in their toilet needs. It’s also part of the CPT registration process, so if it’s not peninsular, unfortunately, it won’t pass!

Jill Clark

PAMIS volunteer and Changing Places toilet campaigner Jill Clark (aka ‘The Toilet Woman’) will be appearing on BBC Scotland’s ‘Inside Central Station’ on Sunday, 12th December at 9pm. Jill will be talking about the life-changing Changing Places toilet at Glasgow Central Station, the first Changing Places toilet installed in a Scottish railway station.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from everyone at the Changing Places Consortium