



ENGAGED

*Your monthly
Changing Places toilets newsletter*

*Photo: The Iron Duke
Wetherspoons
- Wellington*

News Roundup

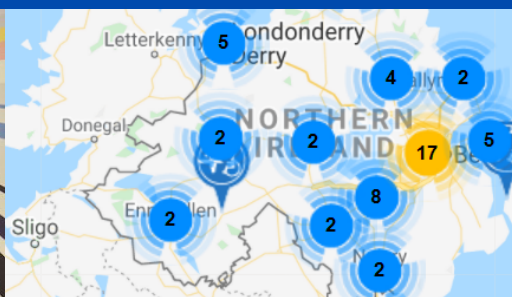
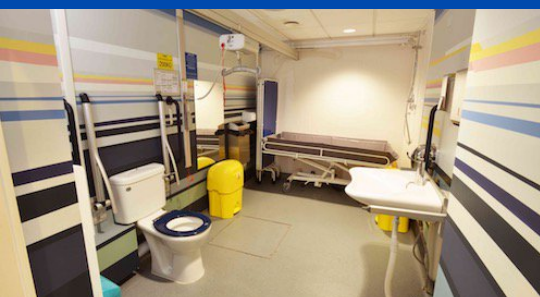
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

The Scottish Government has committed 10 million pounds in their Fairer, Greener Scotland Programme for Government 2021-22, following up on their manifesto commitment:

"...a new Disability Equality Plan, which we will publish in 2022... we will invest £10m to increase the number of Changing Places toilets across the country and support mobile Changing Places toilets to allow disabled people easier access to events and outdoor venues."

PAMIS as the Scottish lead for the changing places toilet consortium look forward to discussions regarding this funding soon, building on the cross-party commitment to support people who need this facility to engage within their communities.

Family carer Jenny Whinnett, one of the first campaigners for this facility, told us that she was absolutely delighted to see this commitment, a real legacy to the work she and her son had started some 20 years ago.



Applications are in for a share of £30m for Changing Places toilets in England

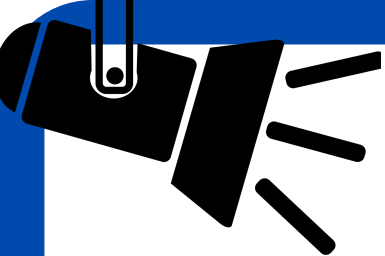
Councils in England were invited to apply by 26th September for a share of the government's £30m fund to install Changing Places toilets in public spaces. Muscular Dystrophy UK and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) are in the process of moderating the applications. LUHC plans to share outcomes of the bids in November 2021

Northern Ireland holds public consultation on CPT provision

Northern Ireland's Department of Finance has recently closed its consultation regarding the installation of Changing Places toilets in specific buildings. Views were requested by 20th October 2021 and outcome is pending.

Barry Island installs its first Changing Places toilet

Well-loved Welsh town, Barry, has installed its first Changing Places toilet at the Barry Island Resort. There are also all-terrain beach wheelchairs available for loan - a great move towards inclusivity for beach lovers and Gavin and Stacey fans alike! There are also ongoing campaigns for CPTs to be installed in hospitals across the country - if you're part of Team CPT Wales, get in touch and keep us updated!



Spotlight on... Campaigning



This month Lorna Fillingham, a long standing campaigner with Changing Places, shares her inspiring story and insights.



It's 2015. I physically lift my disabled 5 year old daughter out of her wheelchair and place her on the baby change so I can sort her toileting needs. I look at her, my growing child and wonder

how it can be that I didn't realise that disabled toilets weren't fit for so many disabled people. I resolve to try and change the world, because if I don't do something then my daughter's world will shrink.

I do research, I find the Changing Places campaign, then I step off a proverbial cliff and set up a petition calling for Changing Places toilets, with an adult changing bench, loo and hoist to be made mandatory in the larger public buildings that I would expect, as a non-disabled person, that toilets would be provided for me.

I spend my evenings sharing the petition on social media, emailing businesses, hospitals & local authorities, spreading awareness. My petition gets noticed by my local news and I make my first TV appearance, this gets picked up by my council and an investment in providing more Changing Places toilets is made.

I join up with other campaigners, all around the UK, we amplify each other's voices. All are in the same boat, not enough Changing Places toilets in their local areas. The campaign gathers pace, we begin to make the national news.

My petition gathers more and more signatures, more and more comments. Disabled children having to lie on public toilet floors, disabled teenagers having to sit in their own body fluids, disabled women opting for supra-pubic catheters because of a lack of usable toilets in their communities, disabled people isolating themselves in their own homes, or dehydrating themselves in order to not need the toilet when they're out and about.

Parents physically lifting kids. Teachers, PAs and community nurses struggling to toilet the people that they are entrusted to look after, with dignity and respect. These voices are added onto the petition.

2018, I deliver my petition to Downing Street, accompanied by both my MP and Paralympian Anne Wafula Strike, we are interviewed by the BBC, Sky News, Channel 5 and more. Later that year, I meet with Health minister Caroline Dinenage and the then Minister for Communities, Housing & Local Government Rishi Sunak. Before both meetings, I get all the comments printed out from the petition, carry the weight of them from my hometown to London as I jump from one train to the next. I know that I can make the case, but my voice alone is a whisper, the voices I carry with me are the evidence behind what I say, and these voices are crying out for change.

We get the building regulations changed in England, Scotland have already changed theirs. Then, here in England, we get funding for both hospitals and local authorities. It is a good feeling, we are winning battles, but we have not yet won the war. I truly hope that the consultations in Wales and Northern Ireland will result in a similar outcome, I contribute the petition to all such consultations.

The battle here in England now, to get existing businesses and tourist attractions to provide Changing Places toilets too. We still face inequalities due to the lack of Changing Places toilets in many towns and cities. It's the 21st century. No-one should have to lie on a toilet floor.

We need to carry on and get the job done



Thank you, Lorna, for your outstanding work and boundless efforts for the Changing Places campaign.

For more stories from our campaigners, take a look at our [Real Life Stories web page](#)



Campaigners' Corner

Friday 17th September saw the postponed celebration of the National Diversity Awards 2020 at the stunning Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Over 64,000 nominations were received in 2020 and among the 120 shortlisted individuals and organisations on the night, was our own, formidable, Changing Places Toilets campaigner, Zack Kerr!

Many supporters will know Zack from his successful campaign to see CPTs installed at motorway service areas. Zack's online petition attracted over 140,000 signatures in under 4 months and he delivered it to Downing Street in November 2017. Zack then visited Parliament where he spoke with Paul Maynard MP (then the Under Secretary of State for Transport) and met politicians from across the House. The following summer the Department for Transport announced a £2m grant for MSA's to apply to install Changing Places toilets across England's motorway network.

In a video recorded for the awards night, Changing Places Consortium co-founder, Martin Jackaman had this message for Zack: "We just want to congratulate you, but also thank you for all the work that you've done campaigning for Changing Places Toilets, locally in the North West and also nationally through your campaign for motorway services. You and I both know that without CPTs in motorway service stations, families just would not be able to travel and visit family, friends or go on holiday because there is no toilet that is suitable. Thanks to your efforts, that's now changed. You've changed lives, literally, so thanks for all you've done. Have a great evening."

Paul Maynard MP also sent a video message saying: "Well done Zack! It was a pleasure to work with you on your Changing Places campaign as a minister. Your campaign has changed government policy and changed government guidance. I wish you well!"

From all of us at Changing Places, congratulations again Zack!

For more about the National Diversity awards, take a look at their website: www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk

Question: What should I do if I find a Changing Places toilet is out of action?

Answer: Please let us know so that we can update the map and reach out to the venue to offer them support in reopening!
You can email us, DM us on social media or send feedback via the venue's listing on our [map](#).

We're here to support you and really appreciate your feedback!

**Your questions
answered**

**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@muscular dystrophyuk.org
phone: 020 7803 4814

Scotland

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

Stay engaged:

Follow us on social media for all the latest updates!



October's Registration round-up

- Ulster Folk Museum
- Keighley Leisure Centre
- Kingsbury Country Park
- Crystal Leisure Centre
- Porchester Leisure Centre
- YMCA Redhill
- Peoples Park, County Antrim
- Barry Island Public Toilet
- C4Di Northallerton
- RAF Museum Cosford
- The Range Supermarket, Beds
- Tameside & Glossop ICFT Hospital
- Fareham Leisure Centre
- Derby Arena
- The Glass Works Barnsley
- JD Wetherspoon – The Prior John
- Extra MSA Leeds Ltd (Skelton Lake)
- Lincoln Cathedral Visitor Centre
- Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre

Details of all registrations can be found on the official
[Changing Places toilets map](#)