Accessible Travel in Scotland

Consortium co-chairs PAMIS are part of Scotland’s Accessible Travel Steering Group, working to make transport more accessible. A priority for the group is to make ferry travel easier and we’re delighted that NorthLink ferries, who operate three ships which sail to Orkney and Shetland, have installed Changing Places toilets on board all of their vessels. With Changing Places toilets also available at the ports and nearby, this makes journeys to the beautiful Northern Isles possible for everyone and helps those who live on the island travel to the mainland for hospital appointments or to visit relatives.

CalMac ferries, provide a lifeline service to 23 islands, with 33 ships that sail from 27 ports across the West coast of Scotland. They will also be including Changing Places toilets on board their new ferries.

PAMIS recently invited families, community groups, venues and businesses to participate in a series of workshops to find out more about where people would like to see Changing Places toilets and how we can ensure there are more of these facilities at key ports and on the islands.

We will shortly be publishing a report of our findings and recommendations.

DfT programme back in business

Following disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, and subsequent lockdowns, work on the Department for Transport MSA programme is back in earnest this year. The programme, managed by consortium co-chairs MDUK, saw £2m in matched funding grants awarded to motorway service areas across England for the installation of Changing Places toilets. The remaining sites will complete their installations by the end of March 2023 - so watch this space for those new registrations!

HalleLOOjah!

Barry church becomes first in Wales to install a CPT

Barry Uniting Church has become the first church in Wales to boast a registered Changing Places toilet. The church shares the building which houses the Changing Places toilet with The Bridge Between Community Centre and both organisations have worked to increase inclusion with this installation.

You can find the toilet on our official map: The Bridge Between Community Centre and Barry Uniting Church.

Have your say!

A reminder to keep an eye on our social media channels for any surveys, planning applications and local campaigns to make sure that you don’t miss out on sharing your thoughts and adding your voice to calls to action.

We share the calls that we see, but if we’ve missed one, or if you have a local campaign that you’d like us to shout about then please get in touch and let us know!

Contact: England, Wales, Northern Ireland Scotland
In 2022, restaurants should be installing changing places toilets so that disabled people can go out for dinner without worrying about whether they will need the toilet.

One of our favourite and most challenging Changing Places installations is the Odeon Cinema in Milton Keynes! To minimise disruption, all work was carried out at night between 11pm and 5am, ensuring the customer’s cinema experience wasn’t affected by noise. By installing height-adjustable changing benches and overhead hoist systems, it has been fantastic to see the difference a Changing Place has made in making the cinema a more inclusive venue.

It's no secret that hospitality venues are severely underrepresented when it comes to finding Changing Places toilets! You'd be hard pressed to visit any larger town centre and not see an abundance of pubs, bars, eateries and at least one cinema. However, across the whole of the UK, there are only 18 pubs/restaurants with a registered Changing Places toilet and just 15 out of approximately 840 cinemas are catering for our community's needs.

Theatres and concert venues are similarly lacking, with only 26 boasting a Changing Places toilet out of an estimated 1,100 theatres and hundreds more concert venues in the UK.

It can be a concern for hospitality venues that scheduling works will prove difficult- with many venues open all day, disruption from building works can make things tricky. But that doesn't mean it can't be done! Changing Places toilets supplier, Innova, spoke to us about one such installation...

Supplier's Comment

With the Purple Pound valued at over £249 billion and disabled consumers informing Purple that ‘unusable locations ... and lack of understanding about disabilities' were the main reasons that they struggled to spend their money, not only are venues failing to do the right thing, they're failing to do the commercially sensible thing!

With that in mind, we're asking everybody to reach out to hospitality venues in their local communities and encourage them to install a Changing Places toilet. Signpost them to our website for installation Q&As and real-life stories that show the difference they'll be making, join our campaign and make sure that the UK hospitality industry considers a Changing Places Toilet as an intrinsic part of every café, pub and restaurant.

This February, let's create a world where everyone to be able to enjoy a night out, on Valentine's Day and every day.

"Kudos to Odeon Cinemas Group Milton Keynes for having a Changing Places facility"

Accessibility Manager – Ross Hovey

Jill Clark - Changing Places campaigner

One of our favourite and most challenging Changing Places installations is the Odeon Cinema in Milton Keynes! To minimise disruption, all work was carried out at night between 11pm and 5am, ensuring the customer’s cinema experience wasn’t affected by noise. By installing height-adjustable changing benches and overhead hoist systems, it has been fantastic to see the difference a Changing Place has made in making the cinema a more inclusive venue.
**Question:** Who can use Changing Places toilets?

**Answer:** It's important to remember that all disabilities aren't always visible. That's why Changing Places toilets meet the needs of many people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. By having access to a changing place facility these needs are met enabling everyone regardless of their disability visible or non-visible to be able to go to the shops, attend hospital appointments, enjoy life, and socialise all while being part of their community.

---

**Campaigners’ Corner**

Given our spotlight on hospitality this month, we asked campaigner Sam Buck to share her recent experience of a family trip to London with son Alfie:

"Well, it had to be done, Alf's waited a long time to go back to London for a show! We went to see Operation Ouch Live, it's one of his favourite TV programmes (actually, we all love it in this house).

Alf also loves travel and transport but as it happened the train journey was different this time because they'd closed the line from our home-town in Horsham to London Victoria. This is a bit of a pain as Alf is a creature of habit and we know there is a Changing Places Loo at Victoria station! As it was, we had to go to London Bridge instead – luckily they also have a Changing Places toilet.

When we booked the theatre tickets for the Lyric Apollo via telephone 6 months previously I'd explained about Alf's wheelchair and WE GOT A BOX! I hadn't asked for one, but they said it would be an easy transition from the front door and they were right. There was a massive queue when we arrived but, they saw us coming, parted the queue and we walked through the side access door, straight into the corridor of BOX doors... VOILA!

After the show, we decided to walk back to the station through China Town to take in the abandoned London (thanks to Covid times). We got as far as Holborn and Alf needed the loo. We were now half-way between Charing Cross station and London Bridge station (the two nearest Changing Places toilets), so we ploughed on to London Bridge, the Changing Places toilet there saved the day!

One reason we usually have similar patterns on the routes we take is that, if Victoria station was open and we were going home on the train from there, we'd have walked to the embankment Changing Places (15 minutes walk) and then headed to Victoria in no rush at all, able to enjoy the sights of Big Ben, the London Eye etc.along the way.

There really needs to be a Changing Places toilet in the theatre district so that the people who use them can enjoy shows without being preoccupied by the worry of where we're going to find the nearest useable toilet."

---

**Changing Places Campaigners Award wins!**

Consortium co-chairs MDUK recently announced the winners of their President's Awards 2021 and we're delighted to share that TWO of our amazing campaigners were recognised! Huge congratulations to Shelley Simmonds, who won the Valerie and Alexander Patrick Award for Carer of the Year award, and Lorna Fillingham, winner of the Peter and Nancy Andrews Community Achievement award.

Find the full list of winners and watch the awards video on the [MDUK website](#).