Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant!

Whilst the Changing Places Consortium is UK based, we do collaborate with colleagues around the globe and are always happy to hear of progress in the word of Changing Places toilets!

Already this year we've seen Australia reach the 200 Changing Places mark (with many more to come), The Republic of Ireland are holding a consultation on the provision of CPTs (we hope they're soon to follow in the footsteps of Northern Ireland with a change to building regulations!), and we can't wait to see what happens next for France following the installations of their first ever Salles de Change at the end of last year!

Research has highlighted that CPT users would like to see more facilities in outdoor spaces and in rural areas. More CPTs in these areas would allow families to access the countryside around them and enjoy the benefits that this brings socially as well as physically. Highlighting the success of Changing Places toilets in outdoor areas in Scotland is the popular CPT at St Cyrus in Aberdeenshire, which allows users to go to the beach and have access to fabulous beach wheelchairs. PAMIS is pleased to hear that work has started to include a Changing Places toilet at Aden Country Park in Aberdeenshire, following a successful funding application to Visit Scotland's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF).

Landmark day for Northern Ireland

9th March saw a landmark day for Northern Ireland as the Department of Finance announced changes to the building regulations, making Changing Places toilets compulsory in certain public buildings.

The changes, which come into effect on 30th June 2022, will mean that at least one Changing Places toilet must be provided in venues over a certain capacity at sites such as entertainment buildings, theme parks and zoos, shopping centres, sports and leisure buildings, hospitals, and more.

This statutory guidance will apply in new buildings or existing buildings where there is a change of use.

In further good news, the amendments aren't over yet! The Department plans to carry out research for a further mandate on extending the provision of Changing Places Toilets. This would include requiring Changing Places Toilets in specified buildings where work is carried out to extend or alter an existing building.

This is a huge win and a testament to campaigners in Northern Ireland who have been working tirelessly to reach this point - a huge round of applause to everyone involved!

Further details on the amendments can be found on the Northern Ireland Department of Finance’s web page.

Scotland

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Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant!

We hope our Engaged readers in Wales had a Happy St David's Day!

With so many beautiful daffodils popping up in our gardens over the warmer days, share your amazing photos with us via: changingplaces@musculardystrophyuk.org

And if you're aware of any new Changing Places Toilets that have recently sprung into action locally, we'd love to hear about them too!

Once a Changing Places toilet is registered with us, it's added to the official map and everyone can share its location with friends and family, plus their local community.

Global Update

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The facility, installed by RISE Adaptations, is custom finished in sweet chestnut cladding and is a welcome addition to previous efforts at the park to enhance accessibility, as Cllr Mike Hill explains:

We have installed over two miles of easy access routes, plus visitors can also hire Tramper vehicles to explore the park. Our CP facility is another step towards full inclusivity, and we look forward to welcoming even more people to the park now.

Having CPTs in outside locations is something that we feel really motivated about. More CPTs in these areas would allow families to access the countryside around them and enjoy the benefits that this brings socially as well as physically.

You may be aware that there are suppliers of modular Changing Places Toilets which help to support people with their toileting requirements in all settings and remote locations. These include modular unit specialists Rise Adaptations Limited, who produce modular units including facilities for parks and rural settings including Shorne Woods Country Park, Kent and Kingsbury Water Park in Warwickshire.

As we start to consider venturing out now that spring is in the air and restrictions are easing, you can find outdoors venues with Changing Places toilets by using the 'venue type' filter on our map.

We’d also love you to share with us your best go-to outdoors venue with a Changing Places toilet and let us know why it has made a positive impression on you!

Email us on: changingplaces@musculardystrophyuk.org

Spotlight on...
The great outdoors

Last spring, Changing Places Consortium co-chairs MDUK worked alongside the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers (RiDC) on an insight survey looking at where Changing Places Toilets users and their care givers would like to see more provision of Changing Places Toilets.

What we heard loud and clear was that people want more CPTs in places that would support people to enjoy a day out.

The top three locations chosen were:
- Beaches and the seaside
- Motorway services (allowing people to travel to their day out)
- Parks and gardens

1 in 5 respondents (21%) said that not having a CPT available made it impossible to have a day out at all.

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*Read the full insight report

Supplier's Comment
RISE Adaptations

Shorne Woods Country Park in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was selected as the ideal location for the county’s first modular Changing Places toilet.

The facility, installed by RISE Adaptations, is custom finished in sweet chestnut cladding and is a welcome addition to previous efforts at the park to enhance accessibility, as Cllr Mike Hill explains:

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The Changing Places toilet at Kingsbury Water Park
Question: How important is it to arrange a maintenance contract for your Changing Places Toilet (CPT)?

Answer: It’s essential! Efficient management and maintenance of a CPT is essential to the day-to-day operation and ongoing viability. Good management involves the provision of relevant staff training and effective and appropriate communications. Regular cleaning and servicing is also essential. And good maintenance practice can also safeguard the providers of CPTs by demonstrating risks are well managed. Most Changing Places Toilets’ suppliers offer maintenance packages, so each venue can be managed and maintained to the highest standards.

Campaigners' Corner

With this month’s theme of getting out and about to enjoy days in the lovely Spring weather, we spoke to Jane Cooper from Accessible Derbyshire about their leaflet helping Changing Places toilets users to do just that...

Changing Places toilets really do change lives. These special facilities give users the freedom to get out and about for a full day, often for the first time.

In fact, Changing Places are so important to those who need them that they are often the deciding factor when planning a day out. Recognising this, the Derbyshire County Council Changing Places Working Group (of which I was a member) decided to do something to help.

A few years ago the group put together a Days Out With Changing Paces In Derbyshire leaflet providing information on each of the county’s Changing Places, along with suggested places to visit in the vicinity.

The leaflet, which showcased lots of suggested itineraries, was distributed around the area through Special Educational Needs Schools, user groups, carers’ groups, hospitals, GP surgeries and the local continence delivery service to name a few, as well as being published on the Council’s website.

Not only has this generated fantastic publicity for Derbyshire’s Changing Places, but also provided a boost to the local economy by giving Changing Places users and those who support them the information, inspiration and encouragement to venture out and explore all that Derbyshire has to offer.

Why not do the same - and help Changing Places change lives where you live?

www.accessiblederbyshire.org

February's Registration round-up

- Atlantic Racquet Centre - Devon
- The Bridge Between Community Centre and Barry Uniting Church - Barry
- Stourton Park & Ride - Leeds
- Teeside Park - Stockton on Tees
- Southport Market

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