



# Changing Places

Campaigns pack- easy read guide



This guide has been created to help people campaign locally.



You may want to ask someone to help you to read this guide.



If you need any information, help or advice then please contact the Changing Places Consortium.



[www.changing-places.org.uk](http://www.changing-places.org.uk)

[changingplaces@mencap.org.uk](mailto:changingplaces@mencap.org.uk)



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@CP\_Consortium

# An easy read guide



This guide tells you how you can take part in the Changing Places campaign. The campaign is run by the Changing Places Consortium.

The Changing Places Consortium is made up of a group of organisations.



This guide will give you information about:

- The Changing Places campaign
- Changing Places toilets
- How to get a campaign group together
- What you need to decide



- What you need to find out
- The people you need to talk to
- How to get Changing Places toilets put in
- Some good ways to celebrate
- Quick and easy ways to campaign

# The Changing Places campaign



Public buildings like hospitals, shops and cinemas usually have toilets for disabled people.

But these toilets are not right for all disabled people and their carers.



They are too small and do not have the special equipment that people with profound and multiple learning disabilities need.



We call toilets that are big enough to have this special equipment **Changing Places toilets.**

They are needed by anyone who wears a continence pad or who needs support from a carer to get on and off the toilet.



There are not a lot of Changing Places toilets in the UK.

This means that a lot of families cannot go out to public places at all.

If they do, they have to change the disabled person on a toilet floor.

This can be dangerous and unpleasant.

These are some of the places we would like to see Changing Places toilets:



- Shopping centres
- Art centres
- Hospitals
- Motorway services
- Leisure centres
- Big railway stations
- Airports
- Sports stadiums
- Music venues



This campaign pack will help you to campaign for Changing Places toilets in your local area.

# Changing Places toilets



Changing Places toilets have:

- **A changing bench**– this is where a carer can change someone’s continence pad. The changing bench moves up and down.



- **A toilet with room at both sides**– for a carer.

- **A hoist**- this is a piece of equipment to lift someone from their wheelchair to the toilet or changing bench.

- **Enough space**– for the disabled person and 2 carers.



- **A screen or curtain**– to allow the disabled person and carer to use the toilet in private.

- **Big rolls of paper**– to cover the bench.



- **A big bin**– to put the paper in when you have used the bench. The big bin is used to put continence pads in too.

# How to get a campaign group together



You could get together a group of people who want to campaign for Changing Places toilets. This might make it easier for you to campaign.



You can share the tasks out so that everyone can play a part.

Your campaign group could be the local charity or group you are part of.



If you are not part of a group you might know some people that you could make a group with.

You could also ask other charities or groups to join your group.

## What you need to decide



If you are running a campaign group you need to make a plan.

The group will have to agree some things together.



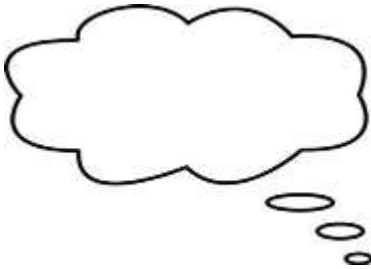
You need to agree:

- What each person in your group is going to do.
- Where you are going to try and get Changing Places

toilets put in.



When your group have agreed you should write down what everyone will do. This will be your campaign plan.



Remember, the Changing Places Consortium can help you with ideas and support you with your campaign.



# What you need to find out



Most people will not know about Changing Places toilets or how many people need them.

Finding out local information and facts will help with your campaign.



Everyone has a right to live, move around and access all facilities in their community.



The government is trying to make this happen by making rules that organisations must follow.



You should find out how many people in your area would use Changing Places toilets.

These places might be able to help you find out the facts:



- Councils
- Schools
- Day centres
- Local charities
- Disability or carers' groups



You could use case studies of local people who need Changing Places toilets.

Case studies are real-life stories.

The stories are a good way of showing people what a big difference a Changing Places toilet could make.



You need to tell organisations exactly what a Changing Places toilet is– what equipment it has and how big it should be.

You can get all of this information by contacting the Changing Places Consortium.



You could show organisations that adding a Changing Places toilet is the right thing to do.

This is because it will be giving people with disabilities the same opportunities as everyone else.

People with a disability, their families and carers have money to spend when they go out.



If they want to visit somewhere there needs to be a Changing Places toilet. If there is not one they might go somewhere else to spend their money.

So places without a Changing Places toilet are missing out on money.



Make sure you share the information you find out with the Changing Places Consortium.

## The people you need to talk to

There are lots of different types of people you can talk to about Changing Places toilets. You need to think about who can help in your local area.



Some of the people you might find useful are:

- NHS Boards and trusts
- Council officers
- Councillors
- People who are planning new buildings
- Your local representative in parliament
- Your local media (newspaper, radio and tv)
- Local people
- Local businesses





You can phone them and tell them, about your campaign. You can send them information about your campaign too.

Then you can ask if you can have a meeting with them.

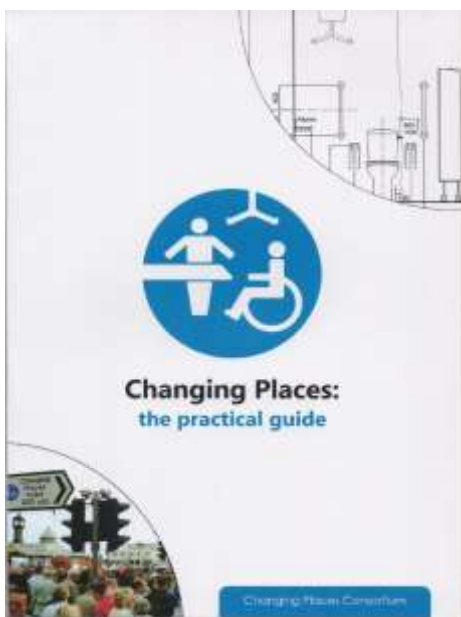
## **Getting a Changing Places toilet put in**



You have told people about the Changing Places toilets and why they are important.

It is time to make sure that the people who you have spoken to take action.

Here are some things you can do:



Make sure organisations know how to put in a Changing Places toilet.

You can also give them the contact details of companies that sell the equipment.

The Changing Places Consortium will be able to help you with this.

Ask organisations often how things are going.



Offer to help with testing Changing Places toilets.



If people need help you could tell them to contact the Changing Places Consortium for help and advice.

# Some good ways to celebrate



When organisations put in new Changing Places toilets, you can celebrate!

It is a good idea to tell as many people as possible about the new toilet.

Here are some things you can do:



- Tell the Changing Places Consortium about what you have done. Your new toilet can be added to the map on the Changing Places website.

- Tell your local media (newspaper, radio and TV)



- Thank the organisation for putting the Changing Places toilet in.



- Make sure everyone involved in your campaign knows what has happened and thank them for their help.
- Be proud of your group for making a big difference to the lives of disabled people, their families and carers.

## Quick and easy ways to campaign



Tell as many people as you can about the Changing Places campaign.



Send Changing Places leaflets.



Write to your local councillor or member of Parliament.





Tell your local campaigns group about someone who needs a Changing Places toilet.



Visit the **Changing Places** website.



Become a Changing Places toilet spotter.



Write an article about the campaign.



For more information about the Changing Places campaign and to order copies of the leaflets, contact us:

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