Case Study: Manx Museum

Aveso increase access for all with the first Changing Places installation on the Isle of Man!

The Manx Museum is a tourist attraction located in Douglas, the capital and largest town on the Isle of Man. Showcasing the island’s 10,000 year history through galleries, film and interactive display, it is a very popular destination for tourists and residents alike.

In July 2018, the Manx Museum launched its Changing Places toilet, with equipment designed and installed by the Aveso team — the finishing touches added by the museum, including a maritime mural and dark blue colour scheme.

A collaboration between the Manx Lottery Trust, Manx Museum and National Trust, the Changing Places room was installed to reduce barriers to access at the museum and across Douglas.
**What does it include?**

The Changing Places facility includes:
- Nirvano (CTE) Changing Table
- OT200 Compact Ceiling Hoist
- ABW6sp Height Adjustable Wash Basin
- Centrally Placed Toilet
- Portable Privacy Screen

**Why was it installed?**

Manx National Heritage recognised the value of having fully accessible facilities and not just the standard disabled toilets which were already in place. ‘It’s estimated that over 300 residents and up to 1,000 visitors could directly benefit from the Changing Places facility every year’.

The museum staff suggested the fully-accessible toilet when Manx National Heritage made the decision to invest in their WC services. Steve Blackford, Head of Properties Management at Manx National Heritage, said:

> ‘The suggestion from the museum staff was at a time when I had recently seen a presentation on Changing Places and how much support they provide for people with complex disabilities. It felt like the right thing to do, knowing that we could provide a safe, fully equipped bathroom which would hugely benefit Douglas and the Island.’

A ‘Quiet Room’ has also been fitted in the museum to cater for visitors who may experience sensory overload or anxiety. This acts as a quiet space where guests can sit and contemplate or relax if the sights and sounds become a little too overwhelming.

**What has the feedback been like?**

Steve Blackford says that feedback since the installation of the Changing Places facility has been very positive and they have already had a visit from another organisation interested in providing a facility:

> ‘I would encourage other tourist attractions to get involved, we have seen a really positive response to the museum’s Changing Places facility. We are delighted to have the first Changing Places on the Island and we don’t think it will be the last!’
Feedback on the ‘Changing Places’ facility

**Pascale Despringre** - Excellent news, a step in the right direction for the Isle of Man. The island needs such facilities in all main town. Well done to Manx National Heritage for taking the lead.

**Irene Edwards** - Have been up to the Manx Museum today, this is an excellent facility would like to see one in Ramsey and Peel so we can take my niece out for a lovely day

**Liz Duke** - This is fantastic I wish other places would follow as it’s very hard to change a 3 year old on a baby changing table with a disability.

**Nicola Gillon** - Wonderful news! Well done to all involved & hoping that this will pave the way for more Changing Places on IoM!

**Emma Honey** – Well done! A much needed facility :)

What are Changing Places?

Changing Places provide additional support to people who aren’t able to use standard accessible toilets. Many thousands of people have profound disabilities and require a space where they can change and go to the toilet with dignity. It is also important that carers have the right equipment to assist the user and make sure that they are both safe and comfortable.

It seems simple enough that everybody should have accessible toilets, but for many of us it is something we take for granted.

As Sponsors of the Changing Places campaign, Aveso have supplied equipment to numerous Changing Places facilities across the UK; including: Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Sheffield Hospital, Tesco Supermarket and Arsenal FC.

Driven by passionate campaigners, the Changing Places campaign is growing and strengthening—many tourist attractions recognising the need for more accessible toilets.

Who are Aveso?

Aveso is a partnership formed between two companies, Astor-Bannerman and OpeMed, both with specialist expertise of Changing Places. We manufacture and install all transfer and care equipment for our Changing Places projects. Find out more about us: [http://aveso.co.uk/about-us/why-aveso/](http://aveso.co.uk/about-us/why-aveso/)