

Learning Disability Week 2009

Changing Places, Changing Lives

22-28 June Northern Ireland



What we are fighting for during Learning Disability Week

Learning Disability Week is a national awareness week run by Mencap every year. This year, together with the Changing Places Consortium, we are campaigning for fully accessible Changing Places toilets to be installed in all big public places across the UK.

- **We want the Northern Ireland Assembly** to change building and planning regulations so that all new big public places have to include a Changing Places toilet.
- **And we want local councils and other public bodies** to install Changing Places toilets in public places in their local area.

There are currently only 70 Changing Places toilets in the UK, only 2 of which are in Northern Ireland. Without them, family carers have to change their disabled family member on dirty toilet floors, limit outings or stay at home. This means many people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) are denied the right to do normal things many of us take for granted – like going shopping or visiting the cinema – because of the lack of appropriate toilet facilities.

To find your nearest Changing Places toilet go to www.changing-places.org/where.asp



What is a Changing Places toilet?

Changing Places toilets include a hoist, changing bench and plenty of space. They are designed to meet the needs of people with PMLD, and people with other disabilities, who need support to use the toilet or have their continence pad changed.

How you can get involved now

- **Send us your real-life stories of life with and without Changing Places toilets.**
How has the lack of Changing Places toilets affected you and your family? How has a Changing Places toilet changed your life? Or how have you successfully campaigned for a Changing Places toilet? You could also become a media spokesperson and work with Mencap to tell the press about ***Changing Places, Changing Lives***.
- **Place your order now for a Learning Disability Week pack.** Our campaigns pack includes all the materials you'll need to take part, including postcards, petitions, 'how to' guides, a template press release and lots more. Packs will be available at the beginning of May.
- **Plan a local event** to run during Learning Disability Week. Remember to tell us about it – we can send you our 'how to' guide to organising an event and advertise it on our website.

To send in your event details and real life stories, find out about becoming a spokesperson and to order your pack, email ldw@mencap.org.uk or telephone **020 7696 6952**.

How you can get involved during Learning Disability Week

Here are just a few ways you will be able to make a life-changing difference by supporting the ***Changing Places, Changing Lives*** campaign during Learning Disability Week.

1. **Email your MLA through our website or send them one of our postcards.**
Ask them to call on the Northern Ireland Assembly to change building and planning regulations so that new big public places have to include a Changing Places toilet.
2. **Call for more Changing Places toilets by signing our online petition or running your own.**
You can send the petition to your local council and send a copy to Mencap. Let's show the Northern Ireland Assembly that people across the UK want more Changing Places toilets.
3. **Email our new Changing Places short film to your friends and colleagues.**
Ask them to take our online actions.
4. **Hold an event in your area to tell people about *Changing Places, Changing Lives*.**
Invite local councillors and the local press to an event during Learning Disability Week.
5. **Ask venues in your local area to install a Changing Places toilet.**
Send leaflets, email them or call them. Do whatever you can to get their attention.

Further information

For regular updates on Learning Disability Week, or to find local contact details for Mencap staff in your area, visit www.mencap.org.uk/ldw

To find out more about *Changing Places, Changing Lives* visit www.changing-places.org

