Disability Awareness/Technical Training

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Key Questions

• What is the first thing that you think about when I mention the word “Disability”?

• What key pieces of legislation must be considered in relation to accessibility of buildings and services?

• What are five key access considerations in the design of a leisure centre?

• What are five key access considerations in the design of a transport facility?
Presentation Overview

• Background and context
• Why do we need to consider access?
• What types of ‘access training’ is available?
• What should the training cover and include?
• Building Types – Examples
• Conclusion

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Disability – The Facts

• 10% of the world’s population have a disability – 650 million people – largest minority (UN)

• European Union 15-20%

• Eurostat disability rate is 16.5%

• Census figures identified 9.3%

• Old age pensioners is set to grow by 75%
  – 2006: 226,000 people over 65.
  – 2026: 990,000 people over 65.
Disability – The Facts

• % increasing due to population growth, medical advances and the ageing process (WHO)

• Only 17% of people with disabilities are born with a disability

• 1 in 4 people will be affected by mental health in the course of their life (MIND)

• In countries where life expectancy is over 70 years, individuals spend an average of 8 years (11.5%) of their life living with a disability (UN)
Why do we need to consider accessibility?

• Business Case

• Social Case

• Moral Case

• Legal Case

• Population Diversity
Population Diversity

- Wheelchair users make up 1% of the population
- People with visual impairments make up 1.4%
- People with hearing difficulties make up 14%
- Older people make up 10% of the population
CATARACTS

RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA – Tunnel Vision

LIMITED VISION

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY
Why do we need to consider accessibility? – Legal case

- Building Control Legislation
  - Part M being updated in 2010
  - Introduction of Disability Access Certificates

- Equality Legislation
  - The Equal Status Act 2000-2004 prohibits discrimination in the provision of goods and services.

- Disability Legislation
  - Disability Act 2005 – Part 3, Section 25 – 29
  - DEHLG Sectoral Plan
What types of access training are available?

• Disability Equality and Awareness Training
  – Legislation, Access to Services, Disability Awareness

• Access to the Built Environment
  – Legislation, Universal Design/Access criteria, Disability Access Certificates

• Access Auditing Training
  – Legislation, Universal Design/Access criteria, Disability Access Certificates, Design Appraisals, Specific building types; How to carry out an access audit?

• Course Specific
  – Access Officers; Libraries; Health and Safety; Heritage Sites.

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What should the training cover and include?

• Highlight barriers that people with disabilities face as they go about their daily lives using:
  – Examples and Images
  – Videos
  – Case studies

• Outline relevant legislation, standards and policy issues in relation to access.
What should the training cover and include?

- Identify key design requirements to ensure the built environment is accessible:
What should the training cover and include?

- Identify latest best practice design criteria and best practice resources:
  - Examples and Images
  - Videos
  - Case studies
  - Relevant texts
What should the training cover and include?

• Information to enable participants to disability proof the built environment:
  - Identifying barriers
  - Review and marking up plans
  - Design appraisals
  - Procurement requirements
  - Access Auditing
  - Disability Access Certificates
Building Types – Health Care

- Arrival and set down areas
- Reception and waiting areas
- Facilities
  - Consulting rooms
  - En-suites in wards
  - Living accommodation
  - Treatment Areas
  - Staff Changing facilities
- Wayfinding
- Interior Design

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Building Types – Leisure Facilities

• Approach and Entrances

• Circulation
  – Turnstiles
  – Floor surfaces

• Changing Facilities
  – Unisex accessible
  – Integrated changing facilities

• Access to Facilities
  – Gym
  – Swimming Pool
  – Sauna, Steam Room, Jacuzzi etc.
  – Audience and spectator areas
  – Playgrounds

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Building Types – Transport Facilities

- Information Provision
  - Wayfinding
  - Public Announcements

- Facilities
  - Ticket Counters
  - Waiting Areas
  - WCs
  - Ticket Machines
  - Cafes
  - Platforms

- Interior Design
  - Lighting
  - Surface Finish
  - Fixtures and fittings

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Practical Tips in Relation to DACs

- Identify User Needs.
- Consider all types of abilities.
- Identify journey sequence for users of the building/facility.
- Ensure all areas are considered (staff?).
- Ensure you keep up to date with changing legislation and best practice.
- Keep in contact with other Local Authorities

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Conclusion – Key Messages

• Legislation
  – Building Control
  – Equal Status Act
  – Disability Act
  – Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act

• Introduction of Disability Access Certificates and the requirements for training

• Importance of identifying user needs and key facilities within a building

• Proposed Part M and its implications?
Further Information

- www.nda.ie
- www.universaldesign.ie
- www.environ.ie
- www.accessconsultancy.ie/training
Thank you!

• Any questions?

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