

## **Disability Strategy- Feedback from Disability Action**

In order to be effective, the Disability Strategy should address the following actions:

- Embed the UNCRPD within the strategy.
- Have “Nothing about us without us” at the heart of any agreed Disability Strategy – therefore d/Deaf and disabled people must be in agreement
- Be effectively resourced
- Have cross- Departmental buy-in
- Outline a programme of legislative change including a timetable for legislative change and implementation
- Commit to incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of d/Deaf and Disabled people into law
- Commit to ensuring that the human rights model of disability is protected by law and informs policies affecting d/Deaf and disabled people
- Commit to a full review laws and policies to bring them into line with the Convention
- Be measurable and have processes in place for monitoring and evaluation
- Bring about real and meaningful change, particularly regarding the reduction and eradication of ongoing inequality and discrimination, through removing barriers and prohibiting all forms of discrimination.
- Apply a Human rights based approach to provision of social security: Commence a transparent review, in partnership with Disabled Persons’ Organisations; the Independent Mechanism for Northern Ireland; and other relevant stakeholders, over the lifetime of the Disability Strategy, of the feasibility of introducing a principles based approach to social security based on the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 to Northern Ireland, including the creation of a Northern Ireland social security charter, which will lay down standards for the provision of social security.

- Advance Independent Living: ensure that people with disabilities can live independently, enjoying an adequate standard of living and social protection.
- Raise Awareness and Tackle Prejudice: through comprehensive and effective actions to raise awareness of rights, promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities, and tackle hate crime.
- Remove Access Barriers: to information, the physical environment, public services, housing, and transport.
- Address Key Inequalities: taking action to narrow key gaps and advance equality of opportunity in educational attainment, employment, and health outcomes for people with disabilities.
- Create a role of Children's Disability Champion, similar to the current Mental Health Champion Role to help drive the strategy forward.
- Commit to a regional Disability Forum with the ability to develop, oversee and monitor the implementation of the Disability Strategy inform legislation, policy, regulations, and implementation programmes
- Prioritise the views of d/Deaf and disabled people and their representative organisations
- Promote Participation in Public and Political Life: ensuring accessible information and outreach to encourage participation; removing access barriers; providing appropriate support services; and provide training and capacity building opportunities.
- Address gaps in disability data collection and analysis to better inform public decision making and evaluation.
- Fund and support the operation of DPOs to engage effectively in decision making and support the expansion of DPOs across Northern Ireland
- Ensure that every Minister and senior civil servant has a copy of General Comment No. 7 and considers every consultation and engagement with d/Deaf and disabled people against the CRPD Committee's recommendations set out in paragraph 94

The Expert Panel and Co-Design Group recommendations outline a programme of change which will benefit d/Deaf and Disabled people and wider society. The actions are clear and mapped out across key areas. These actions should be addressed within the strategy with a clear timescale for implementation.