

# Equality 2025 Work Plan 2009-2010

## **Welcome to Equality 2025's work plan for 2009-2010.**

We have taken into consideration the views of disabled people collected at our regional and national engagement events around the UK in this work plan. It has been developed in partnership with various Government Departments\*.

The work plan sets out the key themes that Equality 2025 envisages will form the basis of its work over the coming year (1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010); recognising the need to be flexible to new developments in the Government's policy agenda.

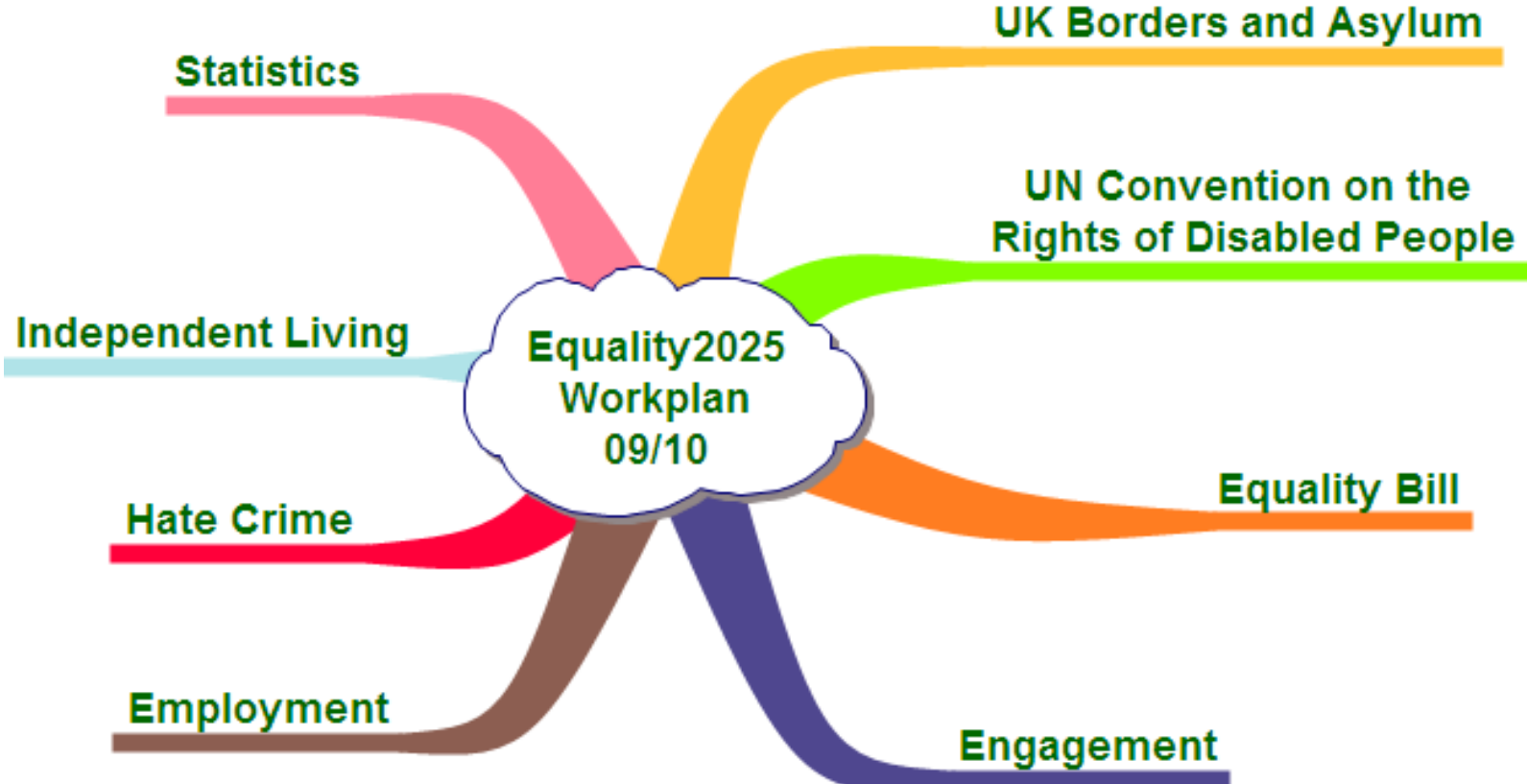
We believe that this work plan fits with our strategic aims, is manageable and will support the work of Government in its aim of achieving equality between disabled and non-disabled people by 2025.

Throughout the year we will continue to fulfill our role as conduit between disabled people and the Westminster Government, working alongside government to involve disabled people in policy making to improve the lives of disabled people.

Rowen Jade  
Chair  
Equality 2025

\*Government Departments who have agreed this work plan with us are: Office for Disability Issues, Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office, UK Border Agency, Office for National Statistics, and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

**Work plan Outline**



## Index

	Page
Implementation of the UN convention	4
Employment	5
Independent Living	6
Statistics and Data	7
Hate crime	8
UK Borders and Asylum	9
Equalities Bill	10
Engagement with disabled people	11
Contact us	12

# **Implementation of the UN Convention**

## **Our Aim**

To engage and advise Government on appropriate and effective ways through which disabled people and disabled people's organisations will be involved with, and participate fully in, the monitoring and reporting process in line with Article 33.

## **How we will do this?**

1) We will advise the Office for Disability Issues and the Minister for Disabled People on the setting up of appropriate processes and structures for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Convention.

2) Wherever appropriate our written advice will include a section about compatibility with relevant articles of the Convention.

## **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- We will have helped the Office for Disability Issues and the Minister for Disabled People to identify appropriate, effective and inclusive processes and structures for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Convention.
- Disabled people and disabled people's organisations to be engaged in the monitoring of the UN Convention.

## **Employment**

### **Our Aim**

To continue to work with Government to ensure new policies and services take into account the current needs, views and experiences of disabled people.

### **How we will do this?**

1) We will continue to work with the advisory body on “Right to Control” by providing advice on the setting up and monitoring of Choice and Control trailblazer sites.

2) We will continue to provide strategic and timely advice to Government during the development and implementation of initiatives that will impact on the potential employability of disabled people, by working in partnership with the Disability Employment Advisory Committee.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- We will have engaged with disabled people in a variety of ways, to provide appropriate and timely advice on the establishment, monitoring and evaluation of trailblazer projects, in a way that supports the advisory body to identify key outcomes.
- We will have worked effectively in partnership with DEAC to advise to Government.

## **Independent Living**

### **Our Aim**

To continue to work with Government to ensure the development of new policies and services take into account the needs, views and experiences of disabled people.

### **How we will do this?**

- 1) We will continue to advise the Department of Health on recommendation 4.3 of the Life Chances Report (User Led Organisations in every locality);
- 2) We will continue advising the Office for Disability Issues on the implementation and monitoring of the Independent Living Strategy with specific focus on:
  - a) considering how we can use and develop existing structures to form an effective “network of networks”, and
  - b) actively participating in the Independent Living Strategy Scrutiny Group.
- 3) We will advise the Department of Health as appropriate during the progression of the Social Care Reform proposals.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- We will be in the process of establishing a network of engagement.
- Members of Equality 2025 will have taken part in initial meetings of the Independent Living Strategy Scrutiny Group and advised on the future formation and role of the Group.

## **Statistics and Data**

### **Our Aim**

To advise Government on effective accessible ways to collect statistics from disabled people, and on how to extract relevant and appropriate data from pre-existing statistics.

### **How we will do this?**

- 1) We will advise the Office for National Statistics and other Government Departments on the accessibility of current methods of engagement with and for disabled respondents (both actual and potential).
- 2) We will advise Government in a relevant and appropriate way on the extraction of strategic data from pre-existing sources of national statistics.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- Disabled people through our engagement work will have a greater understanding of the importance of completing the census and other statistical returns.
- We will have advised Government on more effective ways to extract and analyse data relating to equality for disabled people.

## **Hate crime**

### **Our Aims**

To improve disabled people's understanding of what disability hate crime is, and encourages them to report this.

To work with Government (Office for Disability Issues, Home Office, Criminal Justice System) to ensure that reporting and recording increases, and therefore prosecution rates against people who commit disability hate crimes.

To work with Government to encourage society, and the media to improve its attitude to disabled people.

### **How we will do this?**

1) We will use our programme of public engagement events around the UK this year to raise awareness of the issues, collect views/experiences, and emphasise the need to report crimes of this type.

2) We will advise the Office for Disability Issues/Home Office (Violent Crime Unit) on the draft Hate Crime Strategy report they are compiling to ensure Government is able to monitoring these crimes effectively and encourage a higher rate of prosecutions against people who commit disability hate crimes. We will continue to advise at strategic points on its development and implementation.

3) We will work with Government to change culture by encouraging the media to portray disabled people in a positive way.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 we would like:

- A greater understanding of disability hate crime amongst disabled people at our engagement events;
- An increase in the number of reported disability hate crimes;
- A higher rate of prosecutions against people who commit hate crimes against disabled people; and
- Start to change media attitudes towards disabled people.

## **UK Borders and Asylum**

### **Our Aims**

- 1) To advise the UK Border Agency (Home Office) on ways to improve the services they provide to disabled people.
- 2) To advise the UK Border Agency (Home Office) on how disability equality can be improved throughout the current asylum seeking process.

### **How we will do this?**

1. We will provide advice to the UK Border Agency on the removal of barriers that might result in an avoidable disadvantage to disabled people.
2. We will engage with disabled people who have been granted asylum in the UK in order to provide advice on the agency's procedures and how disadvantage for disabled people can be minimised throughout the asylum seeking process.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- We will have provided advice to the UK Border Agency (Home Office) on improvements to the services they provide to disabled people.
- We will have advised on the UK Border Agency (Home Office) Disability Equality Scheme.
- We will have provided advice on ways to improve the asylum seeking process for disabled people.

## **The Equality Bill**

### **Our Aim**

To work with Government to ensure that the Equality Bill maintain current levels of equality for disabled people, and where possible further reduce discrimination.

### **How we will do this?**

1) To continue to monitor the progress of the Equality Bill, and provide advice to Government on measures to maintain current levels of equality for disabled people, and where possible further reduce discrimination.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- We will have provided timely and relevant advice to Government that will have helped Parliament adopt an Equality Act which maintains current levels of protection for disabled people, and where possible further reduces discrimination

## **Engagement with disabled people and Government**

### **Our Aim**

To meet the aims in this work plan, we will continue to engage with a wide and diverse range of disabled people, in a variety of ways, throughout the United Kingdom to inform the advice we give Government.

### **How we will do this?**

1) To continue establishing an effective network through which we can maintain contact with disabled people, and build on our engagement and communication mechanisms.

2) In engaging with disabled people across the United Kingdom we will endeavor to reach:

- young disabled people;
- older disabled people; and
- other disabled people that are currently hard to reach.

3) To explore using additional means of technology and media, to engage and gather the views of disabled people.

4) We will continue to establish relationships across Government to ensure we can offer advice at an early stage of design and implementation of policies and initiatives, which will enable equality between disabled and non disabled people to become a reality by 2025.

### **How will we measure success?**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

- Meet the objectives in our Communications strategy.
- Have successfully arranged the events outlined on our 2009/10 programme of public engagement events.
- Have made significant progress in the developing of a network that will enable continuing and effective engagement with disabled people.
- Further developed our website and electronic communications to engage effectively with disabled people.
- Attended key meetings and conferences to promote Equality 2025 across Government.

## **Contact us**

This work plan has been developed to give Equality 2025 some flexibility within the year to respond to urgent requests for advice from Government to new policy developments at short notice. We hope to be able to respond to most request for advice, however, these will have to be considered in conjunction with our work plan and immediate priorities.

If you would like to contact us to see if we can work with you, please do so through our Secretariat. Contact details are below:

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