

KIDS Young People's Inclusion Network

New Online Guidance

KIDS Briefing Paper



Introduction

This Briefing aims to promote and celebrate the achievements of the Young People's Inclusion Network (YPin), a three year KIDS project funded by the Big Lottery. The YP-in project worked with young disabled people aged 11-25 to help them explore and speak out about what they required to participate fully in youth and leisure activities. They examined the barriers that prevented their inclusion and looked at potential strategies to overcome them.

The project came to an end in December 2008 as planned, and has culminated in the production of new online guidance based on the young people's experiences. The online guidance is split into three sections and is designed to help youth and leisure organisations incorporate inclusive principles into all aspects of their work - in policy, management and service delivery.

The inclusion of disabled young people is currently high on the agenda with the launch of the government's Transition Support Programme - also in December 2008 - and it is hoped that the YP-in guidance will assist

local authorities in their work with disabled young people. The Transition Support Programme has emerged out of 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' which identified that "more work was needed to improve and co-ordinate services for disabled young people in transition to adult life".



"Give us more freedom to do what we want to do and live our lives how we want." (Young person from KIDS YP-in project)



The Transition Support Programme

To address this need, the government announced the Transition Support Programme, which aims to raise the standards of transition in all local areas. The programme consists of two main elements:

- **The national transition support team** which will coordinate the work with local authorities, PCTs and regional advisers and existing experts; and
- **Support for change at local level** through a combination of direct grants and regional adviser activity.

A special offer is available to Transition support workers of 50% off, available now at £500 please quote ref TRGB

About YP-in and the Online Guidance

What is the Young People's Inclusion Network (YP-in) project?

The YP-in project aimed to support the inclusion of disabled young people in youth and leisure services and was driven by the involvement and participation of young disabled people - on their own terms. A core group of over 70 young people across the UK (Hull, Bristol, Fareham, London and Birmingham) contributed to the project. Grounded in the Social Model of Disability, the YP-in project is based on the belief that all young disabled people have the right to be included in the activities of their choice - and that with the right resources, environment and attitude inclusion is not only achievable but a positive experience for all.

What is the Online Guidance?

The online guidance is a tool designed to challenge discrimination and help play, youth and leisure services become more inclusive. It is now available for trialling or licence purchase, and is aimed at:

- Policy makers at national and local level in local authorities, health, voluntary and private sectors
- Pathfinders and Play Builders and local authorities, managers of services in the play, youth and leisure sectors
- Practitioners working in the play, youth and leisure sectors
- Transition workers

The YP-in Approach: Our Key Principles

The YP-in project was based on the following key principles and attitudes:

- **Rights-based**

The project aligned its approach with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments.

- **Social Model of Disability**

The Social Model states that discrimination and lack of opportunity is caused by barriers created by society and not by people's impairments. It is attitudes and structures in society that disable people and limit their opportunities to live life to its fullest potential.

- **Young People led and centred**

Being 'young person-led' requires a service to offer all young people a range of ways to participate and make informed choices. As such, a more appropriate strategy to pursue may be making services 'young person-centred'.

● **Inclusive**

To ensure the project worked as inclusively as possible with those involved, it focused on how it could be designed and delivered around young disabled people's requirements as determined by young disabled people themselves rather than their impairments or 'special needs'.

● **Straight forward**

A core tenet was to work straight forwardly with young people, staff and partners. We worked from a simple message – young disabled people have the right to be included – and were as honest and transparent as possible.

What will I find inside the Guidance?



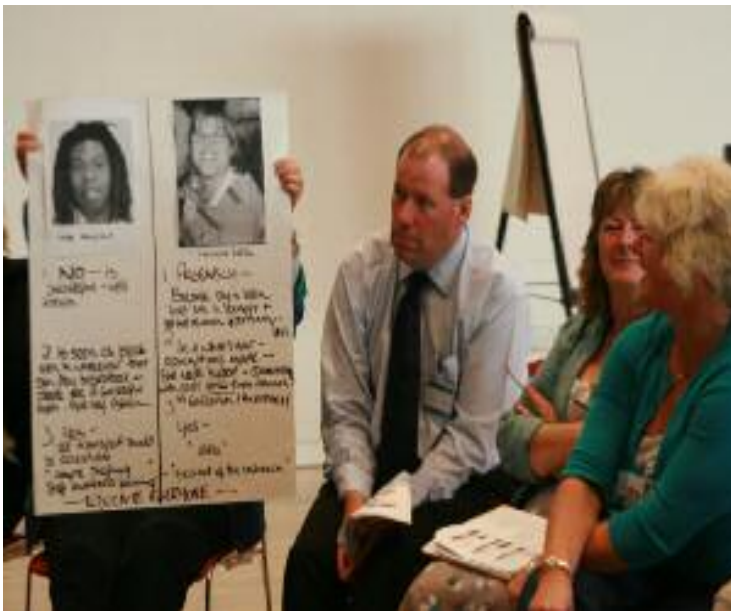
We did not want our guidance to be just traditional text based material, but a mixture of text, video and still photographs – both published and online.

Part one: Inclusion - Does it only exist in policies?

'Looking at the inclusion of young disabled people through policy ... and in reality'

Available online to download as part of the online guidance or to be purchased as a stand alone document.

The YP-in project spent three years listening to disabled young people and supporting them to explore their individual and collective experiences of engaging with mainstream provision. The guidelines and recommendations for inclusive practice given in this section are a direct result of the work undertaken by the young people themselves, and we hope you will embrace them with the spirit in which they were developed.



“Pressure to make services accessible and inclusive”

“More ‘real’ choice”

This document includes case studies, and the online format has additional audio and visual materials (see back page for details).

Part two: Working towards Inclusion (online only)



This is a set of tools and guidelines aimed at organisations and how they can become more inclusive in their day to day service delivery. The content reflects the principles or values that have underpinned the project's approach to date and how these can be applied within the organisational approach to inclusion.

Part two of the guidance addresses the following issues:

- What is inclusion?
- Auditing and planning
- Developing inclusive practice (removing physical and attitudinal barriers)
- Operating as an inclusive organisation (service delivery, the practice and attitudes of the staff at all levels)
- Tools and useful resources

Part three: Inclusion into Practice (online only)

This is a set of tools and guidelines aimed at service providers and those that manage them, including materials for those who have direct contact with service users.

It is split into three main chapters:

- Reaching Young People
- Access
- Support and Care

Within each chapter there are a number of subsections which will make it easy to navigate to specific topics as follows:

- Front Page - which outlines the issues and YP-in's key learning points
- In Management - provides key learning and ideas that are relevant to service managers
- In Practice - provides key learning and ideas that are relevant to practitioners and front line staff. The information in these sections only touches the surface of what the guidance has to offer.

Alongside video content, there are a vast number of PDF downloads which include activities, further research, evaluations, case studies and a number of templates that you can use for guidelines, policy and forms. These can be accessed by going to the relevant section or via the resources section.



"Sledge hockey is one of the best things I've ever done - I can't really play football but sledge hockey has made me stronger and a better team player... It's fun and it gets you fit"
Young Person

Key Learning Points

Inclusion is:

- a process – not a product. It's based on relationships, dialogue and respect
- offers a range of 'ordinary' opportunities to all
- involves 'ordinary' interaction of disabled and non-disabled young people
- works best when young people, families, and services participate
- is young person-centred
- must be modelled at the top in policies and 'plans'
- is more than 'access'

How can I access the material?

Initially a trial version of the guidance can be e-mailed to those who have expressed an interest. Please email: info@yp-in.biz. Those wishing to use the material may purchase a licence for an initial 18 month period. This licence will offer full access to the online guidance as well as the published document which can then be used within your organisation or setting.

The web pages are supported by up to 500 pages of resource materials: toolkits, example policies, exercises and case studies all of which can be freely used by the purchaser.

The fee will allow unlimited access and use of the material as long as the source is acknowledged.

The fee calculation will also be affected by the size of the organisation as follows:

- The standard fee for local authorities is £1,000 valid for up to 6 contacts in a department
- **Special offer - local authority transitions workers that are in contact with the Council for Disabled Children's Transition Support Programme are entitled to the discounted fee of £500 (50% off!)**
Please quote TRGB when ordering
- For smaller and voluntary organisations the fee is for an agreed number of contacts:
1 unique reference number to be used by 3 contacts: £600
1 unique reference number to be used by 1 contact: £250

For further information please telephone 020 7359 3073.



KIDS - the disabled children and young people's charity

KIDS is working towards a vision in which all disabled children and young people realise their aspirations, and their right to an inclusive community which supports them and their families. KIDS provides a wide range of services in five English regions, and promotes inclusive play and leisure nationally across the children and young people's sectors.

The YP-in project was managed by KIDS National Development Department (NDD) which also runs the **Playwork Inclusion Project** (PIP) funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The PIP project provides workforce development and support, training, publications and guidance on the inclusion of disabled children and young people in universal play and childcare across England.

KIDS NDD is also working with Play England as part of the contract with the DCSF to support and challenge local authorities receiving funding under the National Play Strategy- the **Challenge and Support contract**.

KIDS Publications - The PIP Guidelines Series

- **Inclusion by Design - a guide to creating accessible play and childcare environments** (Clare Goodridge 2008 Ed. Philip Douch)
- **Pick & Mix - a selection of inclusive games and activities** (Di Murray, 3rd Edition 2008)
- **It doesn't just happen - inclusive management for inclusive play and childcare** (Philip Douch, 2nd Edition 2006)

PIP Briefings & other useful resources

- **PIP Briefings** – To view/download our briefings go to: www.kids.org.uk/publications
- **KIDS DVD: Kids just gotta have fun! (2008)** Featuring KIDS Hayward inclusive Adventure Playground.
- **National Inclusive Play (NIP) Network E-bulletin**: A FREE bi-monthly e-bulletin containing policy updates news, listings and events on inclusive play.

Useful websites

Play England: www.playengland.org.uk

Together for Disabled Children:

www.togetherfdc.org

Council for Disabled Children:

www.ncb.org.uk/cdc

Every Disabled Child Matters:

www.edcm.org.uk

Contacting us: To find out more about KIDS please go to our website www.kids.org.uk
To book training or to order publications, please contact: pip@kids.org.uk

If you would like a copy of this Briefing in large print or an alternative format, please contact the PIP Team.



The image contains three logos: the Big Lottery Fund logo (a blue hand holding a coin), the Kids NDD logo (a yellow circle with the word 'Kids' in black), and the Big Lottery Fund logo (a blue circle with the text 'BIG LOTTERY FUND').

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