



## Mayoral and London Assembly Elections 2016

# Disabled People's Challenge to the next Mayor of London

The combined asks of Transport for All, Inclusion London and the Alliance for Inclusive Education

**Inclusion  
London**

Supporting London's Deaf and  
Disabled People's Organisations

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Accessible transport is our right

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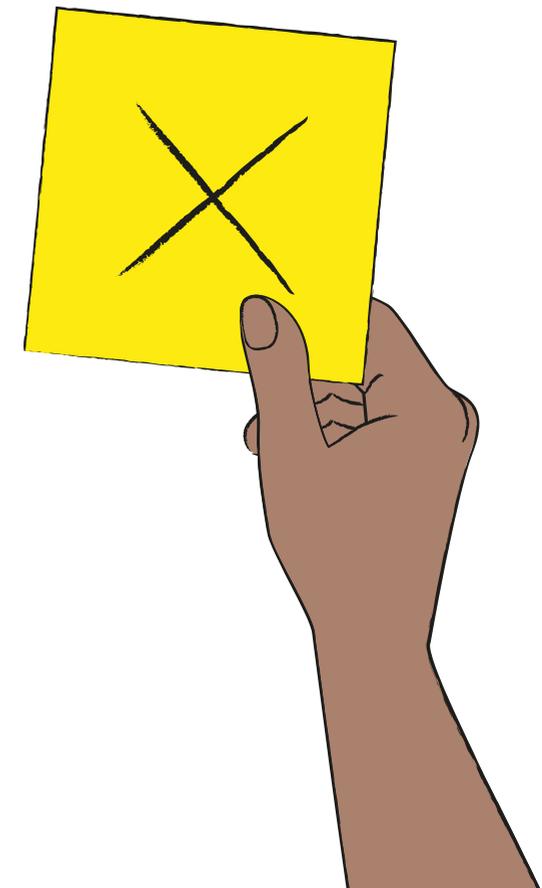
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# Introduction

There are 1.2 million Disabled people in London<sup>1</sup>, making up over 14% of the population<sup>2</sup>, yet we remain one of the most marginalised and excluded groups in society.

Too often politicians and policy-makers overlook our needs and the issues that matter most to us.

In the current climate when, for the first time in the history of social policy, things are getting worse for Disabled people<sup>3</sup>, it is more important than ever that our voices are heard.

The incomes of Disabled Londoners fell by 29% over the five years from 2007/8 to 2012/13 – double the equivalent figure for non-Disabled Londoners. Meanwhile Disabled Londoners experience inequality in every area of our lives such as housing, education and transport.

The Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly have significant powers that can address disadvantage and enable Disabled Londoners to participate as active citizens in the life of the capital city.

This Manifesto brings together the key commitments London Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) are

asking all Mayoral candidates to sign up to. It has been put together by Inclusion London, Transport for All and the Alliance for Inclusive Education in consultation with our members.

DPOs, which are organisations fully run and controlled by Disabled people, are uniquely placed to understand the barriers that Disabled Londoners face and the solutions to overcome them.

We welcome the opportunity of the London Elections 2016 to put issues affecting Disabled Londoners firmly on the agenda and look forward to working with the next Mayor and newly elected GLA members to build a city that is equal and inclusive for all.

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1. We use the term 'Disabled people' to include those with physical and sensory impairment, people with learning difficulties, people who are neurodiverse, people who are Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing, mental health system users and survivors, people living with long-term health conditions and others.

2. Family Resources survey United Kingdom 2012/13: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/325491/family-resources-survey-statistics-2012-2013.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/325491/family-resources-survey-statistics-2012-2013.pdf)

3. <http://jennymorrisnet.blogspot.co.uk/2014/07/there-was-lot-of-political-consensus-on.html>

# Equality and Independent Living



## 1. Commit to the principle and practice of Nothing About Us Without Us

- Establish a post of **disability equality policy adviser** employed within the Greater London Authority with sufficient authority to truly embed a social model approach to disability across the GLA.
- Establish a **regular forum** for London DPOs co-facilitated between Inclusion London and the GLA to **feed into GLA and Mayoral policy development**. Membership should include Assembly Members and the Mayor / Deputy Mayor with attendance from key policy makers within the GLA appropriate to the agenda items.
- Ensure Deaf and Disabled Londoners are able to **input in accessible ways** to the development of the next London Plan.





## 2. Reduce the disability inequality gap in London

- Develop, in co-production with DPOs and wider voluntary sector, an advice and advocacy strategy for London to ensure **adequate access to information, advice and advocacy** for Londoners including Disabled people.
- Work with London employers to **promote the employment of Deaf and Disabled people** and raise awareness and take up of the Access To Work scheme amongst employers.
- Ensure the London Health Inequalities Strategy and the London Health Improvement Board **addresses the specific health needs and health inequalities** experienced by Deaf/Disabled people.



## 3. Address the housing crisis for Disabled Londoners

- Build more **truly affordable social housing** in order to provide low cost secure tenancies for Disabled Londoners.
- Commit to retention of the **current London Plan targets** for all new build to meet Lifetime Homes standards and 10% of new build to be wheelchair accessible.
- Carry out a comprehensive **assessment of accessible and adapted housing** across London in order to influence planning and provision that is targeted at need.



#### 4. Effectively tackle disability hate crime in the capital

- DPO led **training in recognising and reporting disability hate crime** for frontline MPS staff.
- Promote and resource the development of **DPOs as third party reporting centres** and **specialist advocacy providers** for victims of disability hate crime working with MOPAC.
- Support from the Mayor to lobby national government for **equality of legislation** so there is parity with the law covering other hate crime strands.

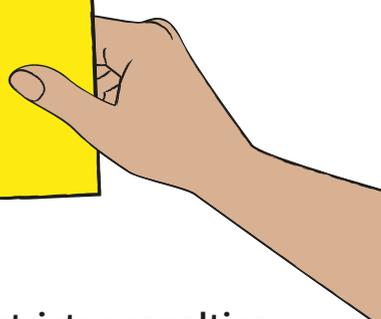


#### 5. Champion best practice access and inclusion

- Work with London DPOs to evaluate the interlinking social and economic factors that impact on the **participation of Deaf and Disabled Londoners in sport**.
- Ensure all commissioned and contracted providers, working on behalf of the Mayor and the GLA, fulfil **Equality Act duties** and demonstrate a proven track record and continuing commitment to **providing accessible and inclusive services and employing Deaf and Disabled people**.
- Fund the **London Access Forum** to provide specific expertise on strategic planning issues.
- Work with DPOs and the wider voluntary sector to ensure GLA commissioning and procurement is open and **accessible to community organisations**, and that the GLA in turn, benefit from the added-value community and user-led organisations like DPOs bring to **service delivery**.

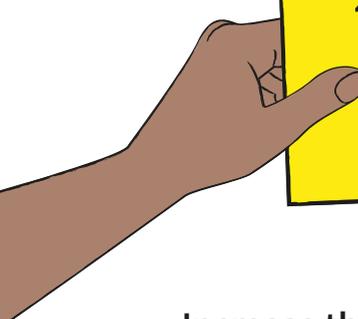


# Accessible Transport



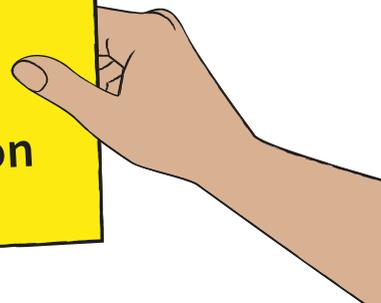
## 1. Improve the Bus user experience for Disabled and older Londoners

- Incentivise bus companies through **stricter penalties** to enforce wheelchair priority in the wheelchair bay, pull up to the stop; pull into the kerb and give people enough time to sit down.
- Work with passenger groups and invest in **more spacious buses** so that wheelchair users, assistance dog users, people with walkers and buggies etc, are not put into conflict when travelling.



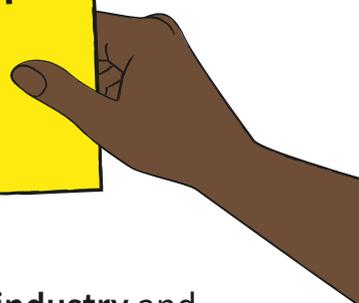
## 2. More investment into making the Tube and Rail stations fully accessible

- Increase the **pace** of making Tube and Rail stations accessible. Only a quarter of the Tube is stepfree to platform, and stepfree upgrades are happening too slowly.



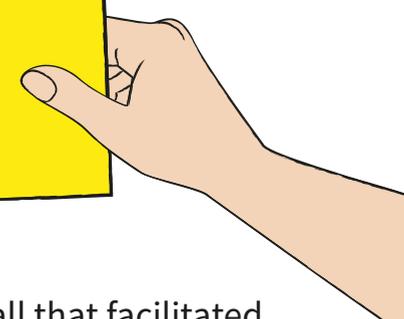
## 3. Door to Door transport services that meet the needs of London's growing older population

- We need a **reliable and affordable** door to door service that ends the postcode lottery of trips and allows Disabled and older Londoners to travel further than five miles.



## 4. Ensure that at least 25% of London's minicabs (PHVs) are wheelchair accessible

- The new Mayor must **incentivise the industry** and implement measures (already introduced in other UK cities) to tackle the dearth of accessible minicabs.



## 5. Nothing about us without us

- Re-instate the structures at City Hall that facilitated **genuine engagement and consultation**. Twice yearly meetings between Transport for All and the Deputy Mayor for Transport.

# Inclusive Education



1. Commit to education  
in London being  
Inclusive to All

- To bring together London Councils, LAs, Schools and Disabled People's Organisations to work together to identify barriers and solutions to promoting **access to mainstream education provision** across the capital for Disabled pupils and students.
- To **share good inclusive education practice** across London education providers.
- To continue developing the **London Curriculum content** that is accessible for and inclusive of Disabled people.

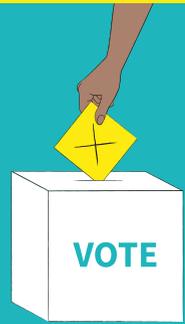


- To champion '**Continuing Professional Development**' training focused on inclusion and equality across the education sector.
- To ensure that GLA land sales and/or transfers for education purposes carry a requirement that free schools must abide by **inclusive building standards and inclusive education practice**.

A hand holding a yellow sign with black text. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. The text on the sign reads: "2. Champion inclusive apprenticeships opportunities for young Disabled Londoners".

## 2. Champion inclusive apprenticeships opportunities for young Disabled Londoners

- GLA sponsored Apprenticeships should **actively encourage applications from Disabled individuals** and monitor their success rate post completion of apprenticeship.
- GLA sponsored Apprenticeships to be designed to be **inclusive of Disabled learners**.
- GLA procurement should include a **requirement for contractors** to provide inclusive apprenticeships opportunities.



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