

# Our Plan 2008 – 2012

## Easy Read Guide

Working to make  
life better for  
disabled people  
in Essex and  
beyond



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## Who we are

We are the **Essex Coalition of Disabled People**.

We are a group run by disabled people who want to make things better for disabled people. We listen to what disabled people want and work to make life better for them.



We wrote a plan about this work. We call this plan our **strategy**.

Our plan says what we will do to make things better for disabled people in Essex and in other places too.

Our plan says what we will be doing for the next four years from 2008 until 2012.



## Our vision and mission



### **Our vision** – what we want to see happen

We want to make life better for disabled people both now and in the future. We work across Essex. We think our plans to make life better will work in other places too.

### **Our mission** – how we will make things happen

Our group is run by disabled people who want to make things better for disabled people. We want disabled people to be able to make their own choices. We want disabled people to have control over their lives and to be more **independent**. Being independent means being able to do more things on your own.

We will make life better for disabled people by

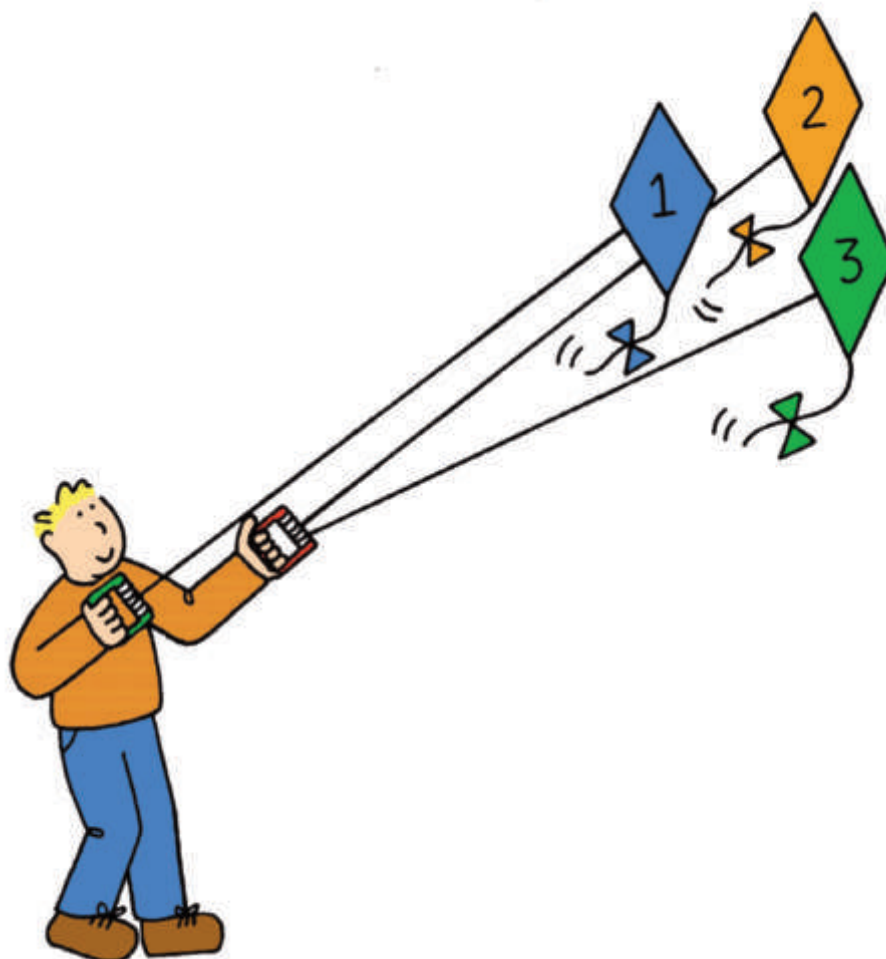
- Making sure disabled people work with us.
- Run projects and offer good services.
- Ask different groups of people, of all different types, to work with us.
- Write plans then make sure that what we say in the plan happens.
- Make sure we are a good place to work and do what we say we will.

## How we will do this

**We will be doing three big things in the next four years.**

We will be

- 1** Working to make sure that disabled people get the support they need every day.
- 2** Working to make life better for disabled people, both now and in the future.
- 3** Making sure we do things in the best way we can. This is so we can support disabled people and make things better for them.



## Our values – the things we believe in

Our **values** are the things we believe in. They are part of everything we do and help us in our work. We use these values every day at work and as people.

Here are some of the things we believe in



### **We believe in being inclusive**

Being **inclusive** means including all types of disabled people in everything we do. Disabled people have rights under the Disability Discrimination Act. This is a law which says that disabled people have to be treated the same as everybody else.

### **We believe in being expert**

Being **expert** means knowing more about something than anyone else does. We know a lot about disabled people because lots of people who work for us are disabled people themselves.

We have also worked for disabled people a long time, so we understand the things that disabled people in Essex need. We want to use what we know to make sure that things change for disabled people, now and in the future.

## **We believe in being innovative**

Being **innovative** means doing things in new ways. We try to work in different ways and always want to know if we are doing a good job. We will change how we do things if that makes them better. This means we are flexible and listen to what disabled people tell us.



## **We believe in being responsive**

Being **responsive** means listening to what people tell us and making changes. We listen to what disabled people and other groups want.

**It is very important to us that everyone we work with is treated fairly.**

### **This includes**

- **disabled people**
- **people from different backgrounds**
- **people from different religions or faiths**
- **people from different genders – this means men, women and people who have changed their sex, for example transsexuals.**



Treating people fairly is very important to us and is part of everything we do.

# 1. Getting support every day

We are working for disabled people to get the support they need.

We will

- Make sure disabled people are supported to get **self-directed support**. Self-directed support means having more choice and control over the care and support you get.
- Make sure our support services are of a high quality. We can support disabled people to get self-directed support. We can also support disabled people if they need a personal assistant. Personal assistants help disabled people who need extra support with some things in their lives.
- Support disabled people to use their Personal Budget to do what they want to meet their needs.
- Make sure disabled people get the best advice and information if they live in Essex or in other places.



## 2. Making life better for disabled people now and in the future

We are working to make life better for disabled people.

We will

- Support disabled people to make the most of what they can do in life. We want to support young disabled people be able to do what they want in their lives.
- Get disabled people from different areas together so that we can listen to the things they know to help us make our plans.
- Ask members of our group and other people who support us to say if they think what we are doing is a good thing.
- Offer training in different areas. This training is for disabled people and other groups to learn more about disability and what disabled people need to have a better life.
- Work with other groups to run courses about disability.
- Train disabled people to be leaders so that they can make a difference.
- Give expert advice on disability so that other groups can learn more about what we do and how to work with disabled people better.



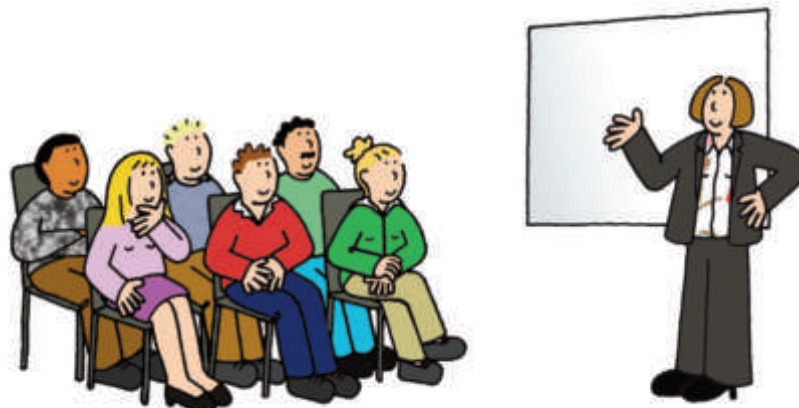


### 3. Doing things in the best way to make life better for disabled people

We are making plans to make life better.

We will

- Make sure that people who want to become a member of our group are able to do this.
- Make sure we know as much as we can about disability and how disabled people want to live their lives.
- Make sure the real lives of disabled people help our work and the work of other groups.
- Work well as a team and with other groups.
- Make sure we work with other groups who believe in what we are doing to make our plans happen.
- Make sure everyone knows what we are doing and why we are doing it.
- Make sure that we have the right people and the right teams at our place of work.



## Contact us



If you want to know more about who we are and what we do, you can go to our website [www.ecdp.org.uk](http://www.ecdp.org.uk)

You can get in touch with us by telephone, email, fax, textphone or by writing a letter.



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