

Funding has been secured by the Health Services in the border region from the European Union INTERREG IVA programme to progress a three and a half year cross border Citizenship Project aimed at people with disabilities.

Project Aim

The project aims to promote real citizenship for people with disabilities living in the border region. The target group are people with a learning and/or physical and/ or sensory disability who are between 18 and 64 years old.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are to

- Increase awareness and understanding of disability within local communities
- Support people with disabilities to get the best use of existing buildings, goods and services in their local communities
- Improve choice for people with disabilities
- Improve access to buildings, goods, services and information for people with disabilities
- Create person centred day opportunity services for people with disabilities within their local communities
- Share the good practice and learning from the project

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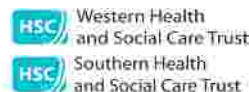
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Co-operation & Working Together (CAWT) EU INTERREG IVA Citizenship Project

Community Awareness Programme

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This part of the Citizenship Project will focus on the communities where people with disabilities live.

This pilot programme will be delivered in the Donegal County Council and Strabane District Council areas. Every section of the community will be supported to consider how they can make their buildings, goods, services and information more accessible to people with disabilities.

This will include

- schools
- shops
- businesses
- transport
- sports and leisure facilities
- health and social care providers
- councils
- youth groups
- community groups
- churches

Mission

To develop a community where people with disabilities have equal opportunities to actively be part of their community, using a cross border, partnership approach to change attitudes towards people with disabilities and to make sure they have proper access to buildings, goods, services and information.

Objectives

- Increase awareness and understanding of disability in local communities
- Improve access to buildings, goods, services and information in local communities
- Support people with disabilities to get better use of the buildings, goods and services in their local communities
- Support people with disabilities to take part in recreation, sports and leisure in their communities
- Support people with disabilities to have better access to healthcare, transport, education and employment in their local communities
- Show that people with disabilities are valuable members of their communities
- Support people with disabilities to find creative ways to use and make the most of their abilities and skills
- Develop ways to give people with disabilities a say in shaping policies, processes, decisions and services that affect their lives
- Improve choice for people with disabilities
- Share the good practice and learning from the pilot programme

Themes

The Community Awareness Programme will focus on the following nine themes:

1. Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings
2. Communication and Information
3. Civic Participation and Employment
4. Health and Social Care
5. Transport
6. Respect and Social Inclusion
7. Housing
8. Social Participation
9. Education

Outcomes

- Increased disability awareness
- Better access to buildings, goods, services and information in the local community
- Better use of existing buildings, goods, and services in local the community
- Increased social inclusion and participation
- Greater equality of opportunity
- Improved choice
- Greater independence
- Improved partnership and cross border working with local communities and voluntary, community and statutory organisations.

