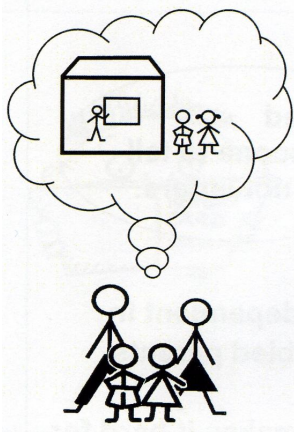


**Access All Schools:
Disabled Parents
working with schools.
Summary**



Access All Schools is a project run by disabled parents in Norfolk.

- **It asked disabled parents in Norfolk how schools support them to encourage their children's learning.**
- **It asked them about what makes it easier to work with their children's schools.**
- **It looked at how Norfolk's Disabled Parents Protocol supports disabled parents with school issues.**
- **It will support disabled parents to take part in Equality Scheme consultations.**



One in seven of all parents have physical or mental impairments.

Social and environmental barriers can make it harder for them to help their children to learn.

In an average classroom of 25 children, 7 have a disabled parent.



This summary has the main results of our survey.

**The full report can be found on our website:
www.norfolkparents.org.uk**

**For other formats phone or text: 078 525 989 548
or email: info@norfolkparents.org.uk**



Only half of disabled parents get good information about their child in a way that suits them.

Some parents have to rely on others to read letters, including their children.

This stops disabled parents and their children being equal to families where parents are not disabled.

I've asked for e-mail but they often send print.

I need someone to tell me, not letters.



Disabled parents want to be as independent in working with schools as non-disabled parents.

Poor information is a barrier that makes it hard for some disabled parents to help their child learn.



A third of disabled parents want to support their child's school life more than they do.

Access to school is dangerous for me.

Car parking is a big problem.



New ways of teaching make it hard for some disabled parents to help their child with homework, especially from secondary schools.

It's beyond me now.

I use different ways to the school. They say I'm wrong.



Poor transport is a barrier that makes it hard for some disabled parents to talk to teachers in school, go to school events or to volunteer.

Poor transport, and getting children to school, is the most common problem disabled parents have to deal with.



A third of disabled parents do not know if their children are learning well.

The way this information is given is a common barrier.

I have nothing to compare it with.

Reports don't make much sense to me.



Less than half of disabled parents use their child's school website.

Websites often had poor disability access and out of date information.

I didn't know school had a website.

Technically unable to access.

The screen sets off my epilepsy.



There are suggestions to improve school websites in the full Access All Schools report.

Better school websites could help some disabled parents who are isolated in rural areas, and those with children in secondary schools.

They would be good examples of inclusion and equality for pupils too.



Two thirds of parents had asked school for individual support for their child.

Only half of these found school supported them well.

We changed schools to one with brilliant special needs

I try to talk to teacher to get help for the children but nothing comes.

Social service helped out with transport

Support just fades away.

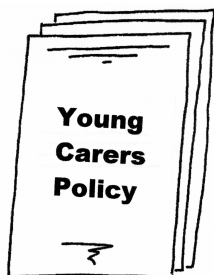


Only a few schools have told all parents about the support parents can use to prevent children becoming young carers.

Information is given only to parents who say they need it, instead of to all parents.

Have a trained member of staff talk to.

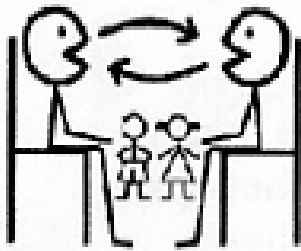
Don't be so hard on them. Staff shouldn't have to be reminded.



Early support to disabled parents allows parents to take control and prevent family difficulties getting worse.

Early support makes life easier for young carers and improves their life chances.

There is an example school policy for young carers in the full Access All Schools report.



Most disabled parents want schools to ask all parents if they have any access, communication or support needs.

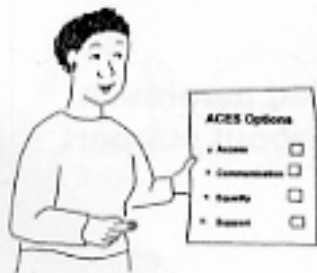
I feel silly telling them. If everyone was asked it wouldn't seem such a big issue

Have a one-to-one orientation visit.

Talk with every new parent who comes to the school.

Talk to the Parent Support Adviser

Get communications right from the start.



Disabled parents think schools should offer ACES Options to all parents:

Access, Communication, Equality and Support Options will signal to disabled parents that school will support them to help their children learn.

ACES Options can help to ensure disabled parents and their children are equal to all other families.



The challenge for schools and Government is to create whole school systems that always deliver the support options parents want.

Schools should work together with networks of support for disabled parents.



Most disabled parents don't know if or how disability issues are discussed in school. Many parents think it should get more attention.

They include disabled children but don't tell them adults have disabilities too.

I teach my child, and he teaches the teachers.

We need disabled people to teach them.



Recommendations from disabled parents to all parents:

- **Use all opportunities school offers to tell them what you need. Tell them if their ways make it hard for you to take part.**
- **Get support if you need it. Disabled parents in Norfolk can also get information about support through Community Care by**

I'm a disabled parent



Phone: 0344 800 8014.

Fax: 01603 762445.

Textphone: 01603 763585.

On line: www.norfolk.gov.uk/Adult_social_services

Or write to: Adult Social Services, PO Box 3210, Norwich, NR7 7AB.

Say you are a disabled parent and you need support in your parenting role.



Recommendations to schools:

- Be proactive in offering communication and support needs to all parents.
- Develop systems to consistently establish and deliver parent's support needs.
- Involve parents as full partners in discovering children's needs. Know what can be done at home and in school, and make plans with parents that show a belief in equality.



Recommendations to voluntary groups:

- Think about both disability and family access when planning friends of the school and out-of-school events and disability group activities.
- Check your websites for access and useful content.



Recommendations to Local Authority and partnership groups:

- Promote good quality individual support to disabled parents in all areas of Norfolk.
- Provide information about the support available to disabled parents and their children for schools to pass onto parents.
- Publicise support to the wider population.
- Promote learning through all divisions and service providers about working together.
- Promote positive approaches to disadvantage, disability and illness that support parents to maintain their children's learning and welfare.





Recommendations to Government:

- Ensure all bodies recognise their duties to support the parenting role of disabled or ill parents and the welfare of their children.
- Ensure all Local Authorities operate a protocol that supports disabled parents.
- Help disabled parents with their extra costs for children which are not paid by non-disabled parents and disabled adults who do not have children.
- Recognise the extra costs of providing support to disabled parents and their children in rural areas to ensure support is available to all parents.
- Support more disability advocacy, information and advice groups.
- Provide more help for disabled people to obtain their rights, and for service providers to practice their responsibilities under the Equality Act.
- Ensure initial teacher training and INSET includes equality training that embeds disability issues into the curriculum and includes disabled parent issues.

The next stage of Access All Schools is to develop disability equality skills among disabled parents in Norfolk to support school Equality Plans.

For more information, contact Norfolk Disabled Parents Alliance at the address on the front page.