



By Sligo PPN

Key Submission Points

1) Changing the focus of the plan from Disability to Accessibility

- Propose changing the name of the plan from Sligo Disability Implementation Plan to Sligo Access Plan and an accompanying section in the document to explain the rationale for this change
- Adopting the Social Model of Disability which removes the emphasis on the disability of the individual and instead looks at the way services and programmes are delivered in terms of their accessibility to all

2) Moving from a Legislation focus to a Proactive approach

- Through a heavy legislation focus, the old plan suggests we are doing this because we 'have' to. Sligo PPN would like more emphasis on the fact that Sligo are taking a proactive and equality focussed approach that is aimed at ensuring anybody living with a disability or mobility issues are able to access services and generally be part of the community in the same way that all other people are. We acknowledge the importance of legislation but feel it should be as an additional reference point and summarised, rather than the focus.
- Sligo PPN would like the scope of the plan broadened. While physical access issues are critical, there are many ways that people are currently excluded. Accessibility needs to cover the way we engage, our communications, how services are delivered etc
- While access for people living with a disability is at the forefront, there is a scope here for Sligo to include access enhancement for other groups currently facing exclusion – tie in this plan closely to initiative such as age friendly, dementia friendly, child friendly.
- Looking at the opportunities that better meeting the needs of people living with a disability presents for the county, ie increased economic spending through more suitable shopping and tourism experiences – along with older adults this is a hugely untapped market.

3) The Local Context

The old plan is quite generic and the new version needs to reflect local needs – ie local health check information and census data

4) Celebration of Achievement

A lot has happened in different guises that would support the core aim of this plan, such as the adoption of the Age Friendly Programme (in particular walkabilities), the inclusion of Universal Access in the LECP and the new Public Realm Strategy. The section in the old plan around what SCC has achieved is not very engaging.

5) Consultation

Consultation will be a critical part of this plan to get buy in from key individuals and organisations. It will also provide a key opportunity to get the message across to people that SCC is changing it's approach to disability programming and is leading the way in a new vision for access. We would recommend 3 consultation targets: community members and service organisations, Cross departmental to ensure this does not become 'pigeon-holed' as merely a corporate or planning issue and desktop research because there is huge international practise in this area.

6) Imagery

Recommend the use of strong visual imagery throughout the plan reflecting and celebrating the real face of disability in the community – ie empowered, engaged and living life.

7) Alignment to Key Documents

The new plan should be closely aligned to the LECP (ie appendix 1) and other key documents such as: Healthy Sligo, Age Friendly Sligo, NPAS, PSD, Public Realm Strategy, Tourism Strategy, SICAP etc

ie **LECP Theme: Employment and Sustainable Activity**

Actions (EXAMPLES ONLY)

- Create an Accessible Shopping & Dining Guide for the town
- Incorporate Accessibility as a Criteria for Business Awards
- Promote the growing economic opportunities for Accessible Tourism

LECP Theme: Health and Wellbeing

Actions (EXAMPLES ONLY)

- Ensure all leisure and play opportunities include access for all elements, ie accessible play and exercise equipment, disability and age friendly community garden beds,
- Improve the walkability of communities as a means of improving health and wellbeing and reducing car dependency.
- Ensure that strategies and resources are in place to support 'continuous accessible paths of travel' in key shopping precincts, play spaces, neighbourhood locations and public spaces.

LECP Theme : Social Inclusion and Poverty

- Develop a consultation toolkit for staff to ensure accessible consultation and engagement with the community. This includes considerations such as: use of appropriate language in advertising , promoting positive images of people with a disability, effective dissemination of information, accessible printed material and signage, use of accessible premises, information in alternative formats, alternative communication systems

8) Query– who is the plan for?

The old plan reads very much as a working document for staff. If this is the focus of the new plan then an accompanying document should be put together for the community.