

# Changing Places

Presented to Bingley Council  
23rd January 2018

Prepared by Fiona Dunne



# The Campaign

- There are around 11m people who are disabled in the UK.
- 1 in 6 of us will be affected by a disability at some point in our lives, for many of us it will be the hardest thing we have to face.
- Over 1/4m people in the UK need CP toilets and yet there are currently only 1000 in the UK.
- The Changing Places Consortium is aiming to change this.
- The law recognises that everyone has a right to live, move around and access all facilities in their community. Many public buildings, shops and cinemas have standard accessible toilets - but whilst these toilets meet the needs of some disabled people and their carers, they lack the equipment and space to meet everyone's needs.
- That is people with complex disabilities such as MND, Strokes, Head injuries and profound and multiple learning disabilities.



# What are Changing Places Toilets?

- Changing Places toilets are different from standard disabled toilets as they provide:
- An adult sized, height adjustable bench and hoist.
- Enough space with room either side of the toilet for carers to assist.
- A screen or curtain to allow privacy for carers.
- A safe and clean environment and a non slip floor.



# Why are they important?

- Without CP toilets, venues can isolate and exclude entire families. Carers and families of disabled people need CP too: without them, they face: Isolation and exclusion, Mental Health problems, physical injury from manual handling, having no where to go to the toilet discreetly and safely with the person they care for, potentially having to kneel on a toilet floor.
- Imagine having to care for someone you love by changing them on a dirty toilet floor, in the backs of cars or using inappropriate and unsafe baby changing areas. All of these options are unhygienic, undignified and unacceptable - the alternative is to stay at home.
- With a CP facility we give people who need them the ability to access the community and use the toilet comfortably and with dignity.



# Who needs CP?

- People like my daughter Grace, who has a life limiting neurodegenerative condition called NPC. Grace is 12 years of age, is now in a wheelchair and needs a CP so that we can change her comfortably and with dignity when we are visiting places that normal families are able to do without a second thought
- The Head and teachers at Chellow Heights Special School have written a letter of support saying “Our families and young people love to be able to participate in a range of activities in the community, and Bingley is close to our school. We have minibuses at school and would like to be able to access more in the community, and by having facilities that support our children’s needs would give our families and us so many more opportunities.”
- Local businesses - Families and carers have money to spend when they go out, for some, if they want to go somewhere, there needs to be a CP, which means they will go elsewhere, the purple pound is estimated to be worth £249 bn across the UK.



# Who needs CP?

- Beth McPhail Head teacher of Hazelbeck secondary school states - of the 142 students, 90 would benefit from there being a toilet facility that was accessible for those with limited mobility.
- Approximately 1/4 of Hazelbeck students are unable to access the local community as there are no changing facilities suitable for them to use.
- A Hazelbeck 6th form student is 17, she uses a wheelchair and needs a hoist for hygiene purposes. She uses an electronic device to speak and communicate her needs and is fed via tube, her cognition is not affected. Read Letter ....



# Our Aim

- Bingley Council have conducted a consultation into the CAT of the existing toilets and have commissioned an architect to draw up plans to convert the buildings into office space with 4 work stations, a meeting room, storage facility, office toilet and for 2 separate public toilets. Reducing the current conveniences quite significantly.
- We here, along with other residents in Bingley have responded to the consultation and have commented on the need to include a CP facility within the plans.
- We would like Bingley Town Council to seriously consider the installation of a Changing Places toilet in the existing public toilets.
- We believe there is space to do this by reconfiguring the architects plans and reducing the wasted space. And by the council compromising the space they have allocated for offices.
- Existing CP facilities across the Bradford District range in space from 7m<sup>2</sup> at City Square up to 12m<sup>2</sup>.
- In doing so the Council would be fulfilling its duty to the Equalities Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equalities Duty which came into effect in April 2011. This requires public bodies to put equality at the heart of everything they do.



# The right thing to do

- In simple terms it is the Right Thing to do. It is a sad state of affairs when we are discussing the right for people to use a toilet in 2018!
- Being fully accessible creates a positive public image for Bingley.
- We should celebrate our incL00sion. Everyone has a right to access their community. On behalf of all those who need a Changing Places toilets, their families and carers, thank you for listening.
- Changing Places, Changes lives.