

The role of Disability Spokesperson

The Disability Spokesperson aims to be an advocate for **all** disabled people in the City, including those working in Brighton & Hove City Council; giving a voice and representing their views through the Administration and Cabinet role where decisions or changes might affect them.

In general:

- Champions disability across the Council / City
- Is committed to equalities and recognises the abilities and potential of all
- Understands that society and culture disable people, not 'medical conditions' and strives to eradicate negative perceptions of disabled people (the 'social' model)
- Shares information, ideas and innovations with others and encourages and motivates others to get involved
- Helps to find enabling solutions by considering accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of our work
- Uses messages of support and quotes in news releases, the website and newsletters
- Attends and speaks at key events and development events relating to disability
- Keeps abreast of developments nationally that impact on disabled people's lives

To act specifically as a focus in the Council by:

- Engaging with disabled workers and supporting networks
- Challenging staff and elected members to promote inclusion for disabled people across all services and functions and ensuring the level of commitment to this position from the highest levels within the organisation
- Taking a strategic role in influencing policy, training, support etc
- Promoting the council's Public Sector Equality Duty and action plan (both within and external to the organisation)
- Understanding and effectively representing the priorities for the council in terms of disability equality.
- Understanding the vision and goals of the organisation and influencing the strategy for developing disability confidence
- Keeping up to date in relation to developments in the law or in best practice (for example, the implementation of the Equality Act)

