

Disability External Scrutiny Board

Terms of Reference

Who we are:

The Disability External Scrutiny Board was established in 2007 to provide an opportunity for disabled people within the West Berkshire area to communicate directly with the Council about the issues faced by disabled people.

The Disability External Scrutiny Board is one of a number of groups within West Berkshire, both internal and external to the Council, whose aims are to support disabled people and challenge service providers, for example by the Access Panel, Transport Forum, Home Care User Group, West Berkshire Independent Living Network, West Berkshire Disability Alliance.

The work of the Board is intended to complement that of other groups within West Berkshire and is not intended to duplicate work being undertaken elsewhere.

The aims of the Board are:

- To support West Berkshire Council in providing fair services that are compliant with current legislation.
- To challenge the Council's activities to encourage consideration of disability issues.
- To help West Berkshire Council obtain best value for money.
- To work directly with Councillors and Council Officers to advise on disability issues.

Notes about Membership:

- Membership is open to individuals who live in West Berkshire who have a disability or are a carer for someone with a disability.
- The Board can agree to co-opt members with relevant personal experience.
- Membership of the Board is on a voluntary basis.
- The Disability External Scrutiny Board meets twice a year. The Board requests that members are able to commit to attending these meetings, and that if a member does not attend for a year and does not contact the Board during that period, then the Board will reserve the right to allocate that member's place to someone else.
- All meetings are held centrally in Newbury Council offices during the day. Assistance with transport may be available, please contact Rachel Craggs to discuss this. (Tel: 01635 519441 or Email: Rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk).

Members of the Board are welcome to invite other people with disabilities or their carers to address the board if they have experience that will inform discussion on a particular topic. However it should be noted that the Board is not a forum for solving individual issues and the Council's existing processes should be followed for this purpose.

As a courtesy to other Board members, please speak to the Chair before issuing the invitation and give sufficient notice so that other Board members can be advised of who is coming and given an outline of what they will be contributing. Guests are welcome to attend discussion on the relevant topic but should not attend the rest of the meeting