

# Changing Places Toilets in the Outdoors

## Toolkit



# Changing Places Toilets Change Lives

A Changing Places Toilet is a facility that enables everyone, regardless of their access needs, disability, or reliance on the assistance of carers or specialist equipment, to use a toilet facility hygienically and with dignity. Changing Places Toilets go far beyond just meeting someone's essential medical needs. They are a key component of an inclusive society, ensuring everyone can benefit from the health and wellbeing benefits of all experiences **including accessing the outdoors and engaging with nature.**

In May 2021, the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers conducted a UK survey to look at Changing Places Toilets insights. Survey results showed that country parks/open spaces/seaside ranked highest in a list of the type of places people would like to see Changing Places Toilets provided. This reflects the fact that access to the outdoors is in demand from across all corners of society in Northern Ireland.

The positive impact of Changing Places Toilet provision for providing improved access to the outdoors extends beyond individuals, to entire family, care, and social circles, meaning everybody benefits.

Understand the importance of the Social Model of Disability



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Follow these key steps to ensure the success of your proposed Changing Places Toilet...



# Step 1: Appoint a Changing Places Champion

To deliver a successful Changing Places Toilet requires uncompromised commitment to achieve a standard set by the Changing Places Consortium.

The appointment of a Champion is recommended to ensure there is a dedicated resource from within or on behalf of your organisation. They will manage the project and oversee the application of standards from conception to post-completion.

The role of a Changing Places Champion is to:

- Understand and 'own' the brief and specification for a Changing Places Toilet commission and share this knowledge with delivery teams.
- Engage with the Changing Places Consortium, including early and ongoing consultation, arranging a facility audit, and achieving registration.
- Engage with prospective end-users and oversee the co-design of a Changing Places Toilet in the context of the wider outdoor visitor offer.
- Act as the point of contact across multi-disciplinary teams (Planning, capital projects, cleansing and maintenance) to ensure compliance with the Changing Places Toilet standard.



*Caswell Bay modular Changing Place, Wales*



## Step 2: Engage Early

Before beginning your Changing Places Toilet development journey, engage with the Changing Places Consortium who will guide you through your development process and the standards you are required to meet to have your Changing Places Toilet accredited. Only those facilities meeting the Changing Places standard can be accredited and therefore benefit from the Changing Places brand logo and gain inclusion on the Changing Places map.



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Also:

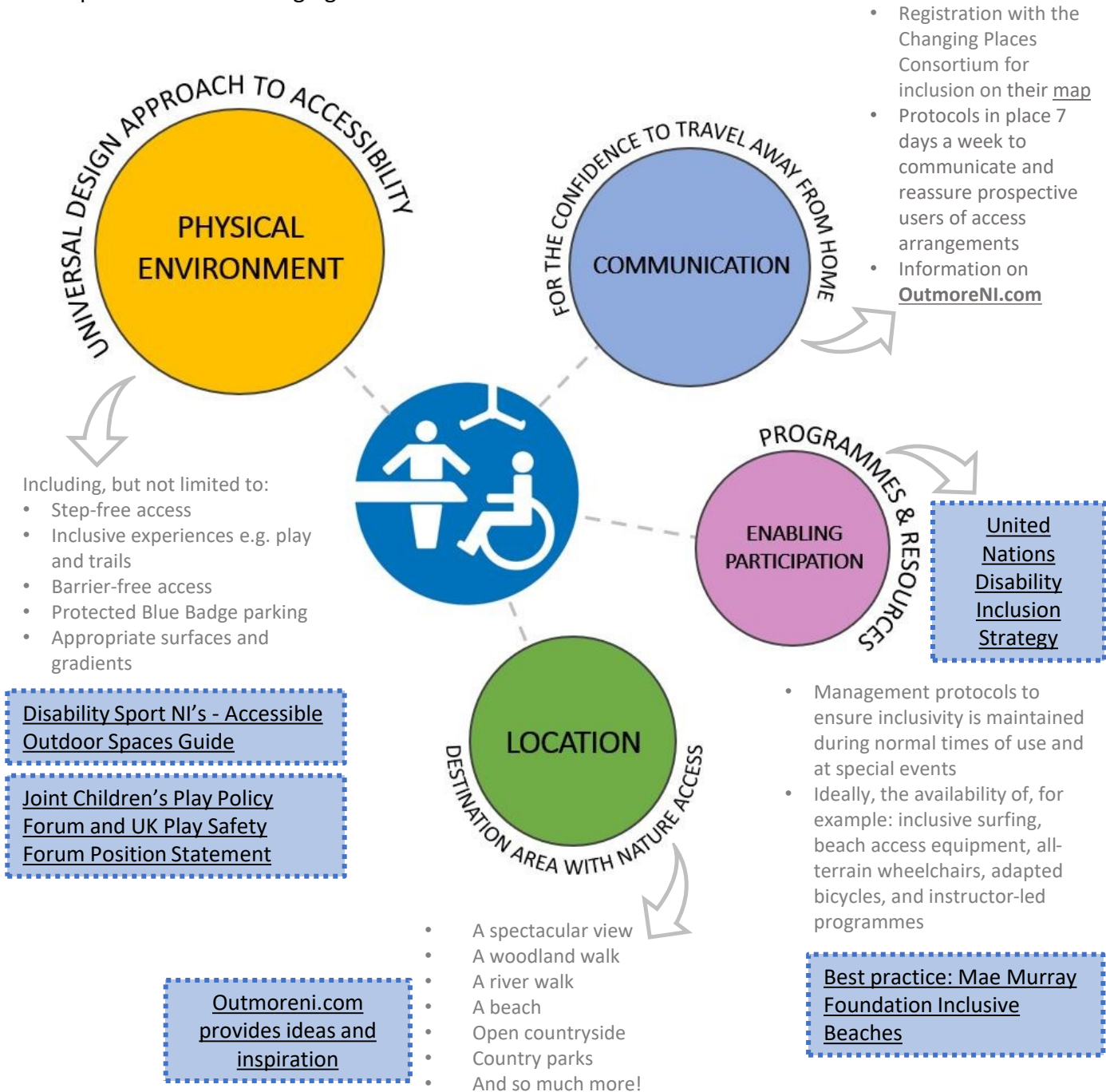
- Engage with people with lived experience in your area. Listen to their experiences. Be willing to learn from past mistakes
- Gather the input of students and staff in local special education schools and care centres who will often plan excursions based on availability of an inclusive experience, including a Changing Places Toilet
- Adopt a co-design approach with those you have engaged with. This should include everything from layout and location, to wall colours

Early and ongoing engagement will ensure the Changing Places Toilet is a success for end users. You will be more likely to get things right first time, and you will have undergone a valuable form of promotion for your site



# Step 3: Look at the Bigger Picture

The characteristics of the outdoor setting within which a Changing Places Toilet sits will determine the facility's success. This diagram outlines critical success factors for the placement of a Changing Place in the outdoors.



# Step 4: Consider your Options

There are a range of approaches to developing a Changing Places Toilet. This high-level guide provides indicative costs and examples for each scenario.

Scenario	Examples	Capital cost (indicative)
Events – rental of mobile Changing Places Toilet	<a href="#">Accessoloo</a>	<b>From £380 per day</b> including staff & insurances
Fit out of an existing space, assuming structurally independent equipment (does not rely on structural fabric of building) and use of existing plumbing configuration	<a href="#">Wendover Woods (Forestry England)</a> <a href="#">Westonbirt, the National Arboretum (England)</a>	<b>£20,000 -30,000</b>
Integrated within new building, for example a new leisure or visitor centre, or shopping centre, with subsequent fit-out of Changing Places equipment	<a href="#">Bangor Aurora Leisure Centre</a>	<b>£20,000-£30,000</b>  If well integrated at planning stage the capital cost to create the space will be low relative to overall construction costs, so fit-out only is assumed.
Pre-fabricated full standard modular unit. May require planning approval	<a href="#">Caswell Bay, Wales</a>	<b>£85,000-£100,000</b> including groundworks, delivery, and installation.
Re-worked building within existing footprint to create space suitable for equipment fit out. May include plumbing reconfiguration and structural works to internal walls	<a href="#">Divis Barn</a>	<b>£100,000 (+ £20-30k)</b>  For building modifications (+ interior fit-out of equipment)
Full standalone toilet block construction – this includes DDA compliant accessible toilet, male & female toilets, and a Changing Places toilet. May require planning approval	<a href="#">Dunluce Avenue, Portrush</a>	<b>£250,000</b>

Costs shown are indicative only and may have increased since research was carried out in 2021. Every facility will be subject to unique characteristics and these figures are intended as a high-level scenario-based guide only and should not be used for detailed budgeting purposes.

# Step 5: Funding

Once you have planned your development timeline it is time to source funding.

- Consider the fact you may need to obtain Planning Permission, procure an integrated design and consultancy team, and you may need to co-ordinate timings and seamlessly integrate with the delivery of other elements of site development.
- ***Don't forget that a Changing Places Toilet should sit seamlessly within its surroundings as part of a wider inclusive experience.*** Once you are clear of your timescales, it's time to deliver!

Options for funding assistance for your Changing Places Toilet in the outdoors are increasingly available as legislative frameworks and cultures shift towards ensuring inclusive outdoor experiences are part of our landscapes.

## DAERA's Environment Fund Challenge Competition 2022-2023

When sufficient budget may be available, and the DAERA identifies emerging priority areas of work, focused Environmental Challenge Competitions may be run to deliver these. These typically run once annually and offer up to 85% project costs at a minimum of £30,000 grant.

Provision of associated infrastructure to enhance accessibility for all including Changing Places have been referenced under 'Connecting People with Nature'. This key area encourages projects that will help connect significant numbers of people with nature - through increasing the quality, quantity or accessibility of nature to people or increasing their understanding and involvement in the protection of nature, natural landscapes and earth science.

## DFC's Access & Inclusion Fund 2021-2022

Offering contributions of up to £30,000 Projects will have a maximum value of £30,000 and are delivered by councils, largely in council-owned facilities, although councils that have the capacity to do so may issue an open call for applications. Grants of up to 90% of project costs are available towards both physical improvements at facilities and works that will enhance the experience on offer for disabled people

Other avenues of funding may be available and may emerge, given the provision of inclusive spaces is becoming more widely recognised as an essential component of an equitable society. Funding is rarely a barrier to providing inclusive experiences.



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