



Information Pack Disability Lived Experience Group

www.midandeantrim.gov.uk



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

About the Group

We are looking for up to 15 individuals to join our Disability Lived Experience Group. The group will help shape Council services and promote a thriving and inclusive Borough.

The purpose of the Disability Lived Experience Group is to:

- Help Elected Members and Council officers to understand how the design and delivery of our services may impact disabled people.
- Create a space where disabled people and those with lived experience can discuss issues and concerns related to the areas we are responsible for.
- Let us learn from the knowledge and lived experience of disabled people, and improve how we communicate with individuals and organisations that represent them.

The role of a Disability Lived Experience Group member will involve:

- Attending the meetings of the Disability Lived Experience Group.
- Contributing to the work of the group, including providing input to consultation responses and other papers.
- Attending public meetings and events relevant to the group.
- Meeting any deadlines set by the Chair – for example providing comments on a consultation response.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in Northern Ireland, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities..

Please note to be considered for membership of the group you must be a resident of the Mid and East Antrim Borough and be 18 years of age or older. While members will not be paid, any out-of-pocket expenses such as travel will be paid.



About Us

The Borough of Mid and East Antrim covers an area of just over 400 square miles extending from the River Bann in the west, to the beautiful Antrim coast in the east, and includes part of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There are 3 main towns, Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, and a host of welcoming villages and rural communities, which are home to a population of just under 140,000 people.



Our vision for the Borough sits at the heart of everything we do. Our Corporate Plan strives to achieve this vision under the four key pillars of People, Place, Planet and Performance.

For more information on our Corporate Plan please visit: midandeastantrim.gov.uk/corporateplan

What we are responsible for

The work of the Disability Lived Experience Group will focus on the range of services that we are directly responsible for, as shown below.

 Environmental Health, Animal Welfare and Dog Control	 Tourism, Arts, Culture and Heritage	 Bin Collection and Recycling
 Planning and Building Control	 Parks, Cemeteries and Open Spaces	 Community Planning and Development
 Public Conveniences	 Council operated off-street car parks	 Economic Development
 Leisure, Recreation and Sport	 Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships	 Licensing

What we are not responsible for

There are some common misconceptions about what we are responsible for and unfortunately the services outlined below are not within our remit and will not be a focus of the group.

 Roads, potholes, footpaths, streetlights, bridges and on-street parking	 Water and sewerage, including septic tank clearance	 Electricity
 Penalty Charge Notice issued at on-street parking	 Housing	 Flooding



How to Apply

The application form and this document are available in a range of formats and languages. You can submit your application in your preferred format, including audio or video, as long as you answer all the questions. You can also complete your application over the telephone.

We are committed to making all the necessary adjustments to assist potential members to play a full part in the work of the group.

If you would like to discuss the support available for people applying to be a member, please contact Ellen Boyd or Liza Walker:

Telephone: **0300 124 5000**

Email: consultationandengagement@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Knowledge and Experience

The application form asks you about your knowledge and experience. It is essential that you tell us how you meet all three criteria.

1. You must be able to show a strong understanding of the key barriers disabled people face when accessing Council services.

Please explain to us what you know about the challenges and difficulties disabled people experience when accessing our services, and how you learned about them. For example, this could be from using a service yourself or from working with disabled people. Please make sure you give clear specific examples of the kinds of problems or barriers disabled people can face when trying to use a Council service.

2. You must be able to meet the time commitments of the role. This includes attending the meetings and helping to review documents and take part in related tasks.

You must answer 'yes' and fulfil the requirements detailed on the question to be considered for membership of this group.

3. You must be able to represent the best interests of all disabled people.

This means that sometimes you may need to put the wider needs of disabled people before your own personal interests or the interests of any groups that you are involved with.

When answering this question, you should give specific examples from your own experience where you have done this. For example, you could talk about:

- Other committees or groups you sit on, particularly where you have worked with disabled people.
- Projects or events you have been involved in, particularly those that included or supported disabled people.

Selection Process

A panel of three people will choose the members of the group. They will first select people who meet the three essential criteria. If more people meet this criteria than there are places available, the panel will use the additional factors below to help decide who is selected.



Balance of people with different disabilities



Gender balance



Geographical representation of the Borough



Data Protection

We will be collecting your personal information as part of the recruitment process for the Disability Lived Experience Group. We will keep your information secure, accurate, and for no longer than is necessary in accordance with data protection laws. If you wish to find out more about how we control and process your personal data and protect your privacy, please visit:

midandeantrim.gov.uk/privacy-notice



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Other formats

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communications@midandeastantrim.gov.uk