



Supporting a more inclusive and accessible region

**Webinar 1: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023** 

Introduction to Accessible Tourism





Local Visitor Economy Partnership







#### Welcome

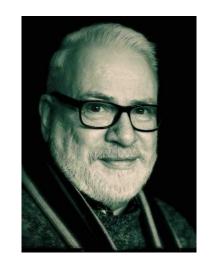


lan Thomas
Destination Director, NGI





#### Hello!



Chris Veitch



Jane Cooper

# Access & Inclusion UK

Making everybody welcome



#### Our clients include...



**Lake District** 

**National Park** 







































Megan



#### Objectives:

#### By the end of the workshop you will have:

- Learned more about the Everybody Welcome Programme
- Understood what 'Accessible Tourism' is, the value of the Purple Pound, who benefits and how
- Learned more about the Equality Act and its relevance to you
- Understood what the visitor journey is like for visitors with accessibility requirements
- Learned some 'top tips' on providing good accessibility information online



#### **Ground Rules**











### Accessibility needn't be difficult!





### There is no mystery!



At its heart, accessible tourism is about doing the things which visitor economy businesses already do best:

- providing a warm welcome to every visitor
- demonstrating that:
  - we know you
  - we understand you and, most of all
  - we value you!







#### Why do this?

Accessible Tourism supports your destination, its businesses, visitors, and local communities by:

- improving customer service and the visitor experience
- growing visitor numbers
- meeting the needs of underserved markets e.g. disabled people
- responding to changing markets e.g. an ageing population
- tapping into the growth of 3G family holidays and breaks
- ensuring valuable business is not lost
- contributing to sustainable and responsible tourism development
- supporting resilience, creating job opportunities, boosting a destination's image



#### **Everybody Welcome**

- New business improvement initiative across Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside
- FREE programme, funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority
- Extended across the region as part of the DDP programme
- Support businesses to provide excellent:
  - information
  - facilities
  - services

for visitors with accessibility requirements





#### **Everybody Welcome**

Three FREE, 1 hour, online webinars:

Introduction to Accessible Tourism	13 <sup>th</sup> June 9.30 – 10.30
Understanding Access Needs	20 <sup>th</sup> June 9.30 – 10.30
Marketing Your Accessibility	27 <sup>th</sup> June 9.30 – 10.30

- FREE access to the WelcoME App
  - digital platform to support businesses and customers



- FREE 360 degree filming for selected businesses
  - to support marketing and visit planning
- Social media and marketing campaign to raise awareness and drive visits

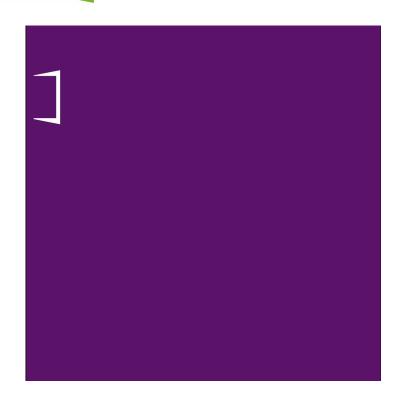


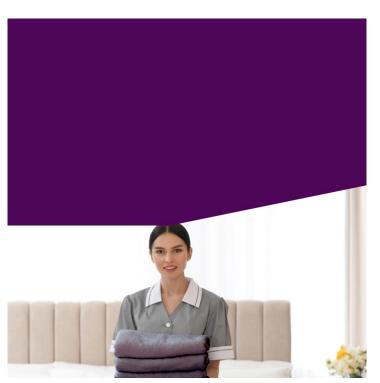














#### Icebreaker





### Quick quiz









#### The **Purple** Pound



Accessible tourism alone worth £15.3 billion



The **Grey** Pound

**Total Market** 



Total spending power of £320 billion

£594 billion!



#### The Equality Act

- Equality Act 2010 (formerly DDA)
- Covers all service-providers
- Covers all aspects of your business
- 9 'Protected characteristics' including disability
- Make changes to overcome barriers by:
- Adjusting information, facilities and services





#### The **Three Pillars** of accessibility



Information

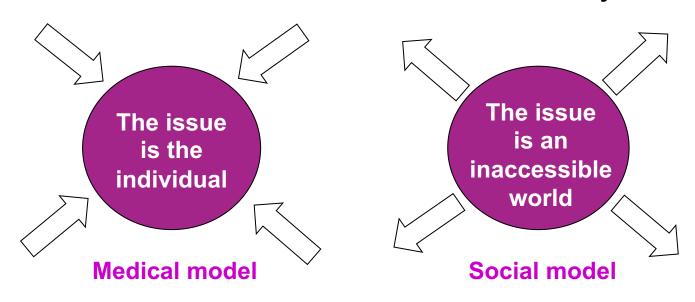
**Facilities** 

Customer service



#### A shift in thinking

# From the traditional 'medical' model of disability to the 'social' model of disability









## What is a visit like for us?





#### From this.....







#### To this.....









1



Select target

























2



Gather intelligence







91% of disabled people will try to find accessibility information about a place before they visit



# Accessibility information available from home page







#### **Access for All**

Call our Access Hotline for information: 01253 340721



Information for visitors with different needs



#### Accessibility Guide



Help available

Accessibility video or 360 degree tour



**Changing Places** 







58% of disabled people assume you are inaccessible if they can't find accessibility information





3



Reconnaissance



#### 'Dummy-run'





Arrival and parking



Entrance and queues



Special facilities



Chat to staff





4



The Mission



#### Watch a short film about access at Eureka!





#### **The Mission**





















# Customer Service is key!



### Welcome









## 5



## Mission accomplished!



#### When somewhere has good accessibility...





"182% tell others about it





# Q: So how can you improve your accessibility?



#### So how can you improve your accessibility and welcome?

- Provide good information online
- Understand the barriers which people may face and remove them
- Market your accessibility effectively



supports you with all of these!



#### The WelcoME App

### Welcome



#### 360 degree tours





#### What are the methods in 360 VR videos?



VR tours – Standard or



**Exploration** 

**Engagement** 

Interactive VR tours



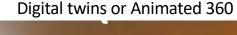
Wheelchair perspective VR tours



**Accessibility** 

**Visualisation** 







#### What are the methods in 360 VR videos?



VR tours – Standard or



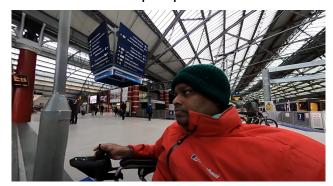




Interactive VR tours



Wheelchair perspective VR tours







Digital twins or Animated 360









#### Why?

- Improved Accessibility
- Inclusivity
- Increased Engagement
- Education
- Off-Season Tourism
- Visit preparation for children and adults with Special Needs and disabilities







### Museums and Historical Sites

- 360 VR tours can enrich the visitor experience by providing supplemental content and immersive storytelling.
- They can bring exhibits to life, allowing close-ups of artifacts or exploring areas that would normally be off-limits.
- These experiences can build interest and anticipation for an actual visit.





#### National Parks & Reserves

- 360 VR tours can serve as interactive guides, providing a sneak peek of the trails, sights, and experiences awaiting visitors.
- This can spark curiosity and inspire people to plan a visit to experience it first-hand.
- The educational component can also deepen their appreciation of the environment and wildlife during their visit.





### Hotels and Resorts

- A 360 VR tour can function as a digital concierge, offering a comprehensive preview of the facilities, rooms, and surrounding area.
- This can help guests to visualize their stay and build excitement, leading to increased bookings and customer satisfaction.





### Cities and Towns

- 360 VR tours offer a novel way to showcase a city's charms, from historical landmarks to hidden gems.
- It provides a more dynamic and interactive form of promotion than traditional brochures or videos, stimulating interest and potentially drawing more tourists.





### Festivals and Events

- Capturing the essence of an event through 360 VR allows people who can't attend to experience the atmosphere virtually, creating a sense of inclusion and potentially encouraging them to attend future events.
- It can also serve as a memory preservation tool for attendees, enhancing their overall experience.





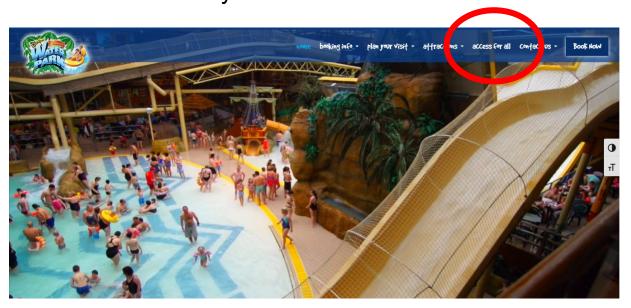






### Top Tips for online Accessibility Information

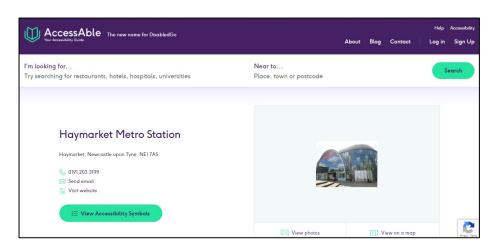
Create an 'Access For All' or 'Everybody Welcome' tab on your website and make it easy to find





### Top Tips for online Accessibility Information

Provide relevant accessibility information



Check whether you have an AccessAble Guide at accessable.co.uk

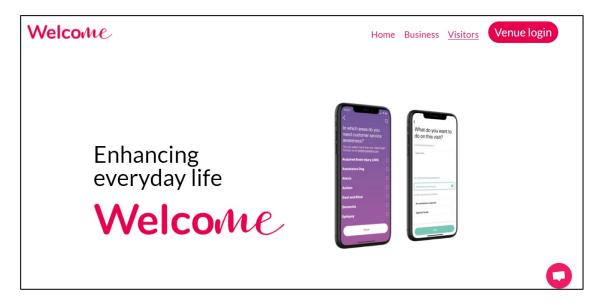


Create an FREE Accessibility
Guide at <u>accessibilityguides.org</u>



### Top Tips for online Accessibility Information

3 Use the WelcoME App





#### Next webinars:

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 9.30 - 10.30 Understanding Access Needs

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 9.30 – 10.30 Marketing Your Accessibility

Sign up for the webinars on the **Everybody Welcome Eventbrite page** 

For updates please **Subscribe to Everybody Welcome** 



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