



# Changing places, changing lives

Sometimes you just need to  
change one thing to open up a  
world of possibility...

*To find out more visit*  
[www.changing-places.org](http://www.changing-places.org)

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## Sometimes you just need to change one thing to open up a world of possibility...

Most of us don't give visiting public buildings a second thought. But many disabled people are unable to take part in activities we may take for granted because standard accessible toilets do not meet their needs – or the needs of their carers.

Imagine having to change your son, daughter or partner on the floor of a public toilet. Most of us would agree that this just isn't acceptable. But it is the reality for many family carers, who simply have no other choice.



One example of a Changing Places toilet

They need **Changing Places toilets** – with a changing bench, hoist and plenty of space.

## Who needs Changing Places toilets?

Standard accessible toilets meet the needs of some disabled people – but not all. Over 230,000 of people living in the UK need personal assistance to use the toilet or change continence pads. This includes people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, some people who have had a severe stroke, some people with acquired head injuries and some older people.

They – and their families and carers – need Changing Places toilets to be able to take part in their communities. But many face a daily challenge to leave their homes because this basic need is not met in most big public places. There are only a small number of public Changing Places toilets in the UK.

The number of people with complex disabilities is growing, and we are all living longer – so more people are likely to need access to Changing Places toilets in the future.



## What people have told us



### Toby and Julie

“Toby and I found a Changing Places toilet in Milton Keynes shopping centre – so we now know that there’s somewhere we can go that caters for Toby’s needs. But it really would make a world of difference if we had facilities like this closer to where we live.”



### Sara and Linda

“I’m determined Sara should have the chance to take part in our local community, and we go out somewhere every day. Now that Nottingham city centre has a Changing Places toilet we have far more freedom and choice – it’s made such a difference to our lives.”



### Jenny and Craig

“ Everyone should have the opportunity to go out and about into the community with their families, go to the theatre, meet friends or visit exhibitions. If Changing Places loos were provided in public places it would make a huge difference to people needing these facilities. ”



### Rosemary and Christian

“ Christian loved to go bowling, travel to different towns and visit museums and art galleries. But without Changing Places toilets we could never travel very far from home. Young people like Christian and their families should be able to enjoy a day out like everyone else. ”



## What is a Changing Places toilet?



Changing Places toilets provide:

### The right equipment

- A height adjustable changing bench
- A tracking hoist system, or mobile hoist if this is not possible



### Enough space

- Adequate space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two carers
- A centrally placed toilet with room either side for the carers
- A screen or curtain to allow the disabled person and carer some privacy



### A safe and clean environment

- Wide tear off paper roll to cover the bench
- A large waste bin for disposable pads
- A non-slip floor



## What do we want to happen?

The Changing Places Consortium is campaigning for Changing Places toilets to be installed in all big public places – like city centres, shopping centres, arts venues, hospitals, motorway service stations, leisure complexes, large railway stations and airports.

Changing Places toilets should be provided in addition to standard accessible toilets.

## Why should venues install Changing Places toilets?

- Across the UK over 230,000 disabled people and their families are denied the right to do everyday things because of a lack of public Changing Places toilets. Instead families have to change their disabled family members on dirty toilet floors or are forced to stay at home. Providing a Changing Places toilet will enable disabled people and their families to visit your venue.
- *'British Standard 8300:2009 Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people'* recommends that Changing Places toilets should be provided in larger public buildings and complexes.
- Government guidance *'Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets'* recommends that local authorities provide Changing Places toilets. This can also help you to fulfil your legal duties under Disability Equality legislation.

## How YOU can help

- ✓ Let us know if there is a Changing Places toilet near you.
- ✓ Campaign for a Changing Places toilet in your area.
- ✓ Install a Changing Places toilet in your venue.



To find out more visit our website at [www.changing-places.org](http://www.changing-places.org)

The Changing Places Consortium is a group of organisations working to support the rights of people who need Changing Places toilets. It includes:



For more information about Changing Places visit  
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