



Darlington Association on Disability

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Established since 1986

Polling Station Disability Access Assessment

Hurworth Grange Community Centre

Location:

Hurworth Grange Community Centre is situated somewhere between half to three-quarter of a mile from Hurworth-on-Tees on an uphill gradient. This would be a long difficult walk for anyone who has a mobility problem or is elderly. It would also be difficult for someone being pushed or self-propelling themselves using a wheelchair.

The Community Centre is set in its own grounds and set well back from the main road. There is a long driveway with a footpath that branches off to the Centre approximately halfway along. However if a scooter or wheelchair user didn't get on the footpath from the outside pavement before entering the premises they would have to take the longer route of the driveway because there is no way to getting onto the path from the driveway. The footpath is not very wide and of poor quality. There would not be enough room for two wheelchair or scooter users to pass. This would be the same for someone with a guide dog or pushchair. The surface of the pathway is rough in parts and would be a problem for anyone using a walker or who shuffles their feet. Walking or traveling by wheelchair on the driveway would not be wise as there is two-way traffic.

Entrance to the Centre:

The centre has a step landing step entrance. There is a mat well and with its present mat is a trip hazard. Both steps have homemade short ramps with a type of roofing felt surface. The ramps are steep, moveable, with no side up-stands or handrails. There are doors at the top of each step/ramp. The doors are double leaf with one leaf permanently open. However one open leaf will not be wide enough for many wheelchairs and scooters. When both door leafs are open the ramps do not fill the full width of the doorway meaning a wheelchair / scooter user or pedestrian could go over the side of the ramps.

At the minimum the ramps need to be fixed, less steep covering the mat well and be the full width of the entrance with a proper nonslip surface. Up-stands are needed to prevent roll-off and handrails are also needed so people can walk on the ramps.

Rooms:

The rooms had good wide doorways. There was plenty of good natural light. Floors were nonslip and there was a wheelchair accessible toilet if needed.

Gordon Pybus

17th September 2014

