

# 1970

## Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act

An Act to make further provision with respect to the welfare of chronically sick and disabled persons  
[29th May 1970]

The Private Members Bill gives 20 MP's who are drawn the chance to draft a piece of legislation. In 1969 Alf Morris MP was drawn and his draft became the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act in 1970. A pioneering piece of legislation that meant local authority must ensure public buildings were accessible and improve services for disabled people. This legislation has formed the backbone for future legislation here and abroad.

In 1972 Alf Morris was appointed as Britain's first Minister for Disabled People. The Alf Morris Bill was the first attempt to introduce a law to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of disablement. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was passed in 1995 marking a step towards full civil rights for all disabled people and in 2010 was replaced by the Equality Act.

Alf also opened the United Nations' discussions that led to the International Day of Disabled People.



# 1972

## Birth of UPIAS and the Social Model

Paul Hunt was a writer and activist at the forefront of the disability rights movement. Resident of Le Court Cheshire Home, from the age of 19. Le Court was the first purpose built residential homes for disabled people and would become synonymous with disability rights activism. Paul spent 14 years at the home, much of that time in conflict with the staff for the residents to have more control over their lives.

The experience of living at Le Court lead Paul to look at disabled peoples position in society and the barriers they faced. In 1972 The Guardian published a letter written by Paul inviting disabled people to form a new organisation set up to address all forms of discrimination disabled people faced. The Union for the Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS) was formed and went onto formulate the basic principles of the social model. The Fundamental Principles of Disability was published by UPIAS in 1976 and stated that "In our view it is society that disables people."



# 1979

## Project 81

In 1975 John Evans became a resident of Le Court Cheshire Home after an accident while traveling abroad. Surrounded by beautiful countryside but cut off from the rest of society John made it clear to staff that he would not spend his life at Le Court but was told at the time there was nowhere else for him to go.

John describes Le court as a place of radicalism, with former resident Paul Hunt being an activist for the disability rights movement. This radicalism inspired a group of residents to form 'Project 81'. 1981 was announced as the United Nations International Year of Disabled People, using this international platform to help gain publicity this small group of residents in Hampshire made 1981 their deadline for moving out of Le Court and living independently. Their main aim was that the funds that Le Court received to care for the residents could be released to individuals to manage their own care in the community.

John Evans moved out of Le Court in December 1983 with all members living independently by 1984. Payments for independent living were effectively laundered through Le Court until direct payments were made lawful in 1996. John has spent his career being a disability rights consultant and advocates for independent living.



# 1981

## United Nations International Year of Disabled People (IYDP)

The theme of International Year of Disabled People was “full participation and equality”, defined as the right of persons with disabilities to take part fully in the life and development of their societies, enjoy living conditions equal to those of other citizens, and have an equal share in improved conditions resulting from socio-economic development.

Originally called International Year for Disabled People, disability groups called for the wording to be changed as disabled people were not involved in any of the key events, the ‘for’ was therefore changed to ‘of’. As a result of IYDP Disabled People’s International was formed and has a consultative status within the United Nations.

The publicity surrounding IYDP and the international platform it provided became a catalyst for activism, Project 81 was born, the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People was formed along with many others. The IYDP made disability rights visible to a wider audience.



# 1988

## British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) Day of Action

Founded in 1981 during the United Nations Year of Disabled People, BCODP shared the same ethos of full participation and equality. Bringing together organisations led by disabled people with different impairments they followed the new social model of disability that people were disabled by society not their impairments.

In 1988 a protest was organised by BCODP against cuts to the Social Security Act. 1200 people attended setting off from Kennington Park moving to the head office of the department for Health and Social Security in the Elephant and Castle. It was the biggest protest ever by disabled people in the UK. John Evans who was part of the organisation group for the demonstration said “We managed to get her (Margaret Thatcher’s) government to do one of the few U-turns they ever did.”



# 1996

## Direct Payments

Personalised care has been at the forefront of disability rights since its conception and in 1996 the Community Care (Direct Payments) Act came into force. This was a government response to growing demands by disabled people to have more control over their lives and the care they received. After an assessment of care needs, the local authority gives clients the choice of a service organised by Social Services (commissioned service) or the equivalent funding (called a Personal Budget which is paid via Direct Payments) to enable the client to purchase their own care and support services promoting creativity, independence and choice for the client.

For many, the introduction of Direct Payments also meant having to take on the daunting task of recruiting and employing people to support them. In Peterborough there is a dedicated support service available through the PCVS Direct Payments Support Service (DPSS), but in other areas this could be a team within the local authority or a national organisation supporting remotely which could prove challenging for some recipients that are restricted by where they live due to work commitments or family. On the whole Direct Payments have changed the way that care and support is provided to people that might have additional needs.



# 2014

## Care Act

The Care Act 2014 was a complete overhaul of 60 years of legislation regarding social care in England building on a patchwork of legislation starting from 1948's National Assistance Act. The legislation sets out how care and support should be provided to adults with care needs moving away from the one size fits all model to supporting the personalisation of care services and putting the individual at the centre of the process.

In 2015 the Department of Health Commissioned a survey to explore the impact of the Act on the lives of people with care and support needs. Some of the findings were:

- 25% felt that councils always or frequently listened to their wants and needs.
- 49% reported that their choices are always or frequently respected.
- 69% overall said their care and support made a positive difference to health.
- 48% said their care and support helped in them feeling safe or secure.
- 58% overall said support made daily living better.
- 42% of carers said that support made their daily living activities better, compared to 74% of people who need care or support.
- 29% said quality had improved over the last year.
- 21% wanted better quality, more flexibility or less complexity in arranging support.

The information that was gathered was used to improve the Acts implementation across councils.



# 2005

## Alison Lapper Pregnant

The fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square was originally intended to hold an equestrian statue of William IV but remained bare due to insufficient funds. The plinth was empty for 150 years until 1998 when the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce commissioned three contemporary sculptures for temporary display. It was decided that rather than seeking a permanent sculpture the space would remain a rolling programme of temporary artwork.

Artist Alison Lapper was awarded an MBE for her services to art in May 2003 and in 2005 a statue of her eight months pregnant, sculpted by artist Marc Quinn, was unveiled as the latest fourth plinth commission. Lapper attended the unveiling with her then five-year-old son Parys. Lapper said "This is an amazing day for me, not only just for me but for all the people in the country and across the world who have got a disability. It's a really positive sculpture and an important step forward."

A large replica of the statue was a feature of the 2012 London Paralympic opening ceremony.

