

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- 18 AUGUST 2003**

**REPORT ON: EUROPEAN YEAR OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – MADRID
DECLARATION**

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 472-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a briefing on the Madrid Declaration and approval for Dundee City Council to adopt guiding principles.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 endorse the aims of the Madrid Declaration as a set of guiding principles for Dundee City Council's future policy development on equality for people with disabilities.
- 2.2 refer the above to the Task Group on Disability to publicise and promote the agreed principles throughout the Council's work (see paragraph 6.4).
- 2.3 promote the adoption of these principles to the City Council's Community Planning Partners.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report outlines principles relating to the dignity of disabled citizens including their right to enjoy equal access to the local environment and amenities of Dundee.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The report's main aim is to develop Dundee City Council's approach to equality for people with disabilities. The report will help to inform good practice in the pursuit of equality.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 2003 is the European year of People with Disabilities (EYPD). The year's objective is to drive progress towards achieving equal rights for people with disabilities. Across Europe attention will be focussed on the many areas of European society where barriers and discrimination still exist for people with disabilities.
- 6.2 A full programme of events will take place during the year in all 15 member states of the European Union. There is an expectation that the communities of people with disabilities will take the lead in each country in organising events and linking activities across Europe this reflects the "nothing about us without us" ethos that underpins the EYPD's programme.

- 6.3 The European Congress of People with Disabilities adopted the Madrid Declaration in March 2002. It constitutes a framework for action for the European Year, and contains a vision for the future development of policy and action for equality for disabled people. It consists of a number of paired statements showing the rejection of past attitudes and barriers in favour of a new and inclusive approach to promoting opportunities for disabled people.
- 6.4 It is suggested that Dundee City Council support the Madrid Declaration as a framework for action, whether unilaterally or with partners, on equality for people with disabilities. The Council would, therefore, declare that it will move:
- 6.4.1 Away from regarding disabled people as objects of charity and towards disabled people as rights holders.
- 6.4.2 Away from people with disabilities as patients and towards people with disabilities as independent citizens and consumers.
- 6.4.3 Away from professionals taking decisions on behalf of disabled people without consultation and towards independent decision making and taking responsibilities by people with disabilities and their organisations on issues which concern them.
- 6.4.4 Away from a focus merely on individual impairments and towards removing barriers, revising social norms, policies, cultures and promoting a supportive and accessible environment.
- 6.4.5 Away from labelling people as dependents or unemployable and towards an emphasis on ability and the provision of active support measures.
- 6.4.6 Away from designing economic and social processes for the few and towards designing a flexible world for the many.
- 6.4.7 Away from unnecessary segregation in education, employment and other spheres of life and towards integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream.
- 6.4.8 Away from disability policy as an issue that affects special ministries only and towards inclusion of disability policy as an overall government responsibility.

7.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 7.1 The Madrid Declaration is entirely compatible with the recently adopted draft Dundee City Council Disability Equality Scheme. (Committee Report no 782 – 2002) The policy statement contained in the Scheme states the Council's adherence to a social model of disability, defining it not in relation to medical conditions but as the social economic and social restrictions placed upon individuals by a society that does not recognise or cater adequately for their needs. This relates closely to points 6.4.4 and 6.4.5 above.
- 7.2 The DCC Scheme also emphasises the need for mainstreaming i.e. "the systematic integration of a (disability) equality perspective into the everyday work" of the organisation.
- 7.3 The Scheme also has specific references to:
- Identifying and meeting needs,
 - Preventing and removing barriers,
 - Promoting inclusion, Ensuring access to services and
 - Promoting good practice in recruitment.

It is suggested that the Madrid Declaration might act as a “user –friendly” summary of DCC’s aims during EYPD and beyond. Publicity material is available that might be used to promote this throughout Dundee.

- 7.4 It is noted that some Departments are tasked to offer services which are well defined in legislation and have set standards eg property access. The Declaration is not designed to replace these requirements in relation to para 6.4.3.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Disability Equality Task Group continues to oversee the implementation of the Disability Equality Scheme and has taken responsibility for marking and promoting the EYPD with a programme of activities. The adoption of the Madrid Declaration would present opportunities to promote certain aspects of the Scheme by “tagging” them with the most compatible statement. The Declaration will be widely publicised throughout Europe and the UK during the EYPD and will be easily recognised by the public, particularly those with disabilities. By linking our work on Disability Equality to this initiative, we have the potential to raising awareness amongst a wider audience of citizens, employees and visitors to the city.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive and the Council’s Management Team over the content of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background paper, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 was relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report

European Year of People with Disabilities website: - www.eypd2003.org

Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

8 August 2003