

Outdoors for all? The Action Plan



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**What the Government wants to do to
get more people to go into the
countryside and green spaces**

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Easy read summary



Contents

What is this booklet about?

- the outdoors
- who goes to the outdoors?
- who runs outdoor services?
- what do we need to change?
- new laws
- people told us what they wanted

Our Action Plan: the things we need to do

- training
- bringing people together
- plans and new ways of working
- transport
- information
- research to find out more
- money
- making sure things are going well



What is this booklet about?

The outdoors



The outdoors can be the countryside of hills, mountains and forests.



It can be the green spaces with woods or rivers or parks in towns and cities.



It can be by the sea.

You can go outdoors to get out in the fresh air and exercise. You can see trees, flowers or animals.

You can go outdoors to do things like:



- walking
- eating a picnic with family or friends
- climbing a hill
- going for a bicycle ride
- bird-watching

Who goes to the outdoors?



The Government wants to give everybody the chance to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

We know there are some people who do not go to the outdoors very much. We want them to have more chances to go to the outdoors.



Groups of people who do not go to the outdoors:

- disabled people
- people from ethnic minorities (for example black or Asian people)
- people from inner cities
- young people

Who runs outdoor services?

There are lots and lots of different people and organisations running services in the outdoors.



Some of them run the local park or woods near where you live.

They may look after buildings and special places like Hampton Court Palace and Stonehenge.



Farmers look after their animals and fields. They also have to look after the footpaths and woods on their land.



Private companies run other things like trains, buses, hotels, shops or cafés.

What do we need to change?



Lots of people say they like the idea of going to the outdoors but are not sure what it will be like.

We need to make it easier for people to try doing different things when they go to the outdoors.



We found out that people wanted to go back if they had the chance to visit the outdoors.

Some people who run outdoor services do not feel they know how to work with these groups of people.



We need to help them so they can do things better for everyone using their services. They need to make everyone feel welcome when they go to the outdoors.

They may need to change how they do some things. Then new people would come and use their services.

New Laws



There are new laws about making things more equal for everyone.

People running services have to do more for disabled people.



Buildings have to be easier to use. They may have to put in things like ramps.



They also have to make the information easier to understand.

People told us what they wanted



We talked to lots of different groups about why they did not go to the outdoors.

We also talked to people who run services.

What do we want to change?

We want:



- to help people who run outdoor services change the way they plan and run things for different groups



- people to feel more OK and happy about going to the outdoors



- to get all parts of local and national government to work better together to make sure everyone has the chance to go to the outdoors



- to have the latest information we can trust so we can make good decisions

Our Action Plan the things we need to do

Training



People who run services need to learn how to give people from different groups the right kind of welcome and things to do in the countryside. Some people who run services will need training to help them work in new ways. They will need ideas about how to do things differently.

Bringing people together



We want people who run services to meet up with groups who work with disabled people and other groups.



Plans and new ways of working

People who run things need to think about everybody's needs.

Transport



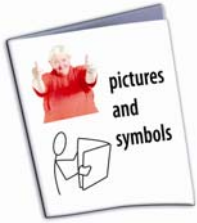
Getting around can be a big problem. Some people do not have a car.

Trains and buses can cost a lot of money. They are not easy to use for some people.



Information

It can be hard for people to find out what is going on or how to get there. Information needs to be easier to understand.



Some people need information in easy read or in large print.

People who run services need to make sure it is easy for everyone to find out about what is going on.



Information on the internet about the outdoors needs to be easier to use.

Research to find out more



We need to find out more about what people do with their free time.

We need to try out different ways of doing things to see what works best.



Money

There needs to be more money to make all these things happen.

We need more money to:



- help people try out new things
- help people get out in the outdoors who have never been before



- help people who run services plan things better
- find special people who are good at changing things and making things happen



- help people who want to give their time for free or volunteers
- get different people working in the outdoors

Making sure things are going well



We will check up to make sure everyone is doing a good job.

We will check up on 2 things:



1. To see if people from different groups know about things that are going on in the outdoors.
2. How many people from the different groups are going to the outdoors and enjoying themselves.



Mencap helped to make this easy read
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Photos used in this document

We would like to thank these people for the photos:

Tina Stallard: Photo on front cover, all on page 3, photo 1 page 5, photo 2 page 11

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Photosymbols: For other photos