Darlington Association on Disability

Information Guide

Arts, Leisure and Sports

The scope of leisure activities is very wide and a guide like this cannot detail everything. As a general rule it helps to contact any destination in advance to make sure you can enjoy it. Many leisure opportunities may be limited for disabled people due to bad access, lack of sign language interpreters and other obstacles. This section aims to enable you to plan ahead before taking part in leisure activities and manage any obstacles. It outlines the main sources of information about local facilities and organised art and leisure events for disabled people.

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Arts and Leisure Information

The Disability Cultural Projects (DCP) Community Interest Company was established in 2008. The aim of the organisation is to further the cultural equality of Deaf and Disabled people / Deaf, Disability arts practice, and to support new approaches to the way these are delivered. DCP provides a free weekly newsletter – EtCetera, and Arts Access UK, a national online Access database.

If you are planning a trip to London, visit the Artsline website. This has lots of information on many arts venues across the capital. Artsline also runs Attitude-is-everything, which was set up in response to young disabled people's complaints of unfair treatment at live music venues, clubs and festivals in the UK.
Arts and Leisure Service Providers

Darlington Arts Centre and Civic Theatre offer several facilities to make their performances accessible to more people. Ask what is available when booking tickets.

The Arts Centre main entrance is ramped and there is level access to the Theatre, Ballroom, Bistro, Main Bar and other ground floor rooms. There is a lift to the Garden Bar; other rooms are up one or more flights of stairs. There are adapted toilets suitable for wheelchair users and people with a mobility impairment.

There is level access into the Civic Theatre from Borough Road into the Stalls and the Conservatory Bar. There are double yellow lines at this entrance, but it is usually possible to stop and set down passengers. There are no lifts at the Civic Theatre. Disabled people who need someone with them to access the performance may bring a companion or helper free of charge. Wheelchair spaces are charged at a concessionary rate for performances where concessions are available. There are adapted toilets suitable for wheelchair users and people with a mobility impairment.

‘What's On’, the Arts Centre & Civic Theatre's season brochure, is available in audio cassette version, large print format or braille. Audio described performances are also marked in ‘What's On’. Touch tours of the set may be arranged one hour before an audio described performance, but the request needs to be made to the box office at least two days in advance when booking tickets. Guide dogs are welcome and water bowls can be provided. Ask the Front of House staff on arrival. Programmes are available in braille at some performances.

There is an infra-red system in the auditorium at the Civic Theatre. Ask for a free receiver when booking tickets. There is an audio loop in both the Civic Theatre and the Arts Centre for people with hearing aids. Sign language interpreted performances are marked in the ‘What's On’ diary. A request should be made for the best seats for this service when booking. Headsets are available from front of house staff. Please arrange in advance with box office staff.

Head of Steam is the newly revamped Darlington Railway Centre and Museum. It is located on the 1825 route of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the world's first steam-worked public railway.
The site encompasses three significant Stockton & Darlington Railway buildings of the 1830s/50s: North Road Passenger Station, the Goods Shed and Hopetown Carriage Works. Exhibits include Stephenson's "Locomotion No. 1", built for the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, and "Derwent", the earliest surviving Darlington built locomotive, on loan from The National Railway Museum Collection. Locomotion is one of the oldest surviving steam engines in the world and the first ever steam train to carry fare paying passengers. A range of smaller items complements the larger exhibits. Several events are held throughout the year. There is designated Blue Badge parking near the entrance, which is ramped and most parts of the museum are wheelchair accessible. The Centre has accessible toilets, an Induction loop at the reception, and a designated Access and Learning Officer. Information can be provided in different formats on request.

**Teesside Park** is a leisure and retail complex which includes a cinema, bowling hall, bars, clubs, supermarket and shops. The Hollywood Bowl provides ramps to all areas including bowling lanes, ball ramps and lane bumpers for use with or without wheelchairs, lightweight balls and accessible toilet facilities. The retail area in the park offers accessible parking bays and accessible toilet facilities. A manual wheelchair may be borrowed free of charge on request from any of the shops on the site. The wheelchair can be returned to a different shop on completion of your shopping. The Showcase Cinema is wheelchair accessible, with accessible parking bays, accessible toilet facilities and equipment for deaf visitors.

**Sport Information**

The **Ambulant and Wheelchair Disabled Supporters** group works to promote access to football stadiums and encourages the sharing of information about facilities on its website.

The **Riding for the Disabled Association** can provide information and advice about horse riding. Various riding schools in the area can provide assistance with riding, including equipment and individual support. For a list of riding schools contact the regional representative. The **Unicorn Centre** in Middlesbrough is registered as a centre for Riding for the Disabled.
Sport Services

Cirdan Trust provides disadvantaged young people, including disabled people with the opportunity for self development by living and working on large sailing boats. Courses can be tailor made and a full range of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) training can be provided.

Durham Area Disability Leisure Group provides sports, leisure and social opportunities for disabled people of all ages, living within County Durham and surrounding areas. It offers sports taster sessions, family activities and adapted push bikes for groups and individuals, including tandems and side-by-side bikes.

The English Federation of Disability Sport is the national body responsible for developing sport for disabled people in England and has a regional office in Durham. Its aim is to increase participation in sport and ensure disabled people can access the sport and physical activity of their choice, at a level and venue of their choice. The Federation brings together eight national disability sports organisations recognised by Sport England. These are: British Amputees and Les Autres Sports Association; British Blind Sport; UK Deaf Sport; Wheelpower - British Wheelchair Sport; CP Sport; Dwarf Athletics, Mencap Sport and the Special Olympics.

Leisure centres provide a variety of sporting and leisure activities. The facilities available for disabled people may vary from one centre to another. Darlington Borough Council’s Community Services Department provides a variety of sporting and leisure activities. In Darlington, the Dolphin Centre has automatic entrance doors and ramped access to its Reception. There are accessible changing facilities, hoists for both the training pool and main pool, and a lift to all four floors. The centre has an accessible fitness suite with trained instructors. Disabled people and carers are eligible for concessions on Dolphin Centre activities using a LiveDarlington card. Application forms can be downloaded from the Dolphin Centre website or may be obtained from the centre’s Reception. Eastbourne Leisure Complex offers a range of sports services, including a bowling green, running track, boulder climbing wall, fitness suite and exercise classes.

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) at Newton Aycliffe has a hydrotherapy pool available to individuals and groups, with a
poolside hoist and accessible changing facilities. Accompanying carers are charged a reduced rate.

**Information about local social activities**

**Darlington Association on Disability** and **eVOLution** have contact details for local social groups for disabled and non-disabled people.

**Providers of local social activities**

Darlington Borough Council's **Youth Service** can provide information on a range of accessible venues and inclusive activities in local youth clubs.

Gateway Clubs offer different activities and events locally for children and adults with learning difficulties. Contact **Darlington Gateway Club** for more information about venues and activities.

**Other Sources of Information**

Other sections of the Darlington Association on Disability Information Guide may contain further information relevant to arts, sports and leisure activities.

The **Access** section gives further information regarding access issues to leisure and sporting facilities.

The **Children** section has more detailed information on arts, leisure and sports for children and young people.

The **Consumer Issues** section gives details on shopping.

The **Education** section has information regarding educational providers of art, sport and leisure courses.

The **Legal Rights** section gives further information regarding the Disability Discrimination Act.

The **Media** section provides information on tapes, books, television, radio, video and internet interests.

Contact **Darlington Association on Disability**'s Information Service for assistance with searching for information about any subject in this guide or for support in dealing with your information requests.
There are a number of local and national organisations providing broad information and advice resources. Please refer to this guide's Introduction for contact details.

Contacts

Ambulant and Wheelchair Disabled Supporters
2 Coopers Fold
Ribbleton
Preston
PR2 6HW
Telephone / fax : 01772 700 788
Minicom :
Email : barbs@awads.co.uk
Website :

Artsline
54 Chalton St
London, NW1 1HS
Telephone : 020 7388 2227
Minicom : 020 7388 2227
Fax : 020 7383 2653
E-mail: access@artsline.org.uk
Website : www.artsline.org.uk

Cirdan Sailing Trust
3 Chandlers Quay
Fullbridge
Maldon
Essex
CM9 4LF
Telephone : 01621 851433
Fax : 01621 840045
Minicom:
E-mail: info@cirdansailing.com
Website: www.cirdansailing.com

**Darlington Arts Centre & Civic Theatre**
Head of Theatre & Arts
Parkgate
Darlington
DL1 1RR
Telephone: 01325 486 555
Fax:
The Civic Theatre minicom: 01325 387 761
The Arts Centre minicom: 01325 489 094
E-mail: access@darlington-arts.co.uk.
Website: www.darlingtonarts.co.uk

**Darlington Association on Disability**
20-22 Horsemarket
Darlington
DL1 5PT
Telephone 01325 489 999
Fax: 01325 488 188
Minicom: 01325 245 061
Email: mail@darlingtondisability.org
Website: www.darlingtondisability.org

**Darlington Gateway Club**
Salters Lane
Darlington
Telephone: 01325 250421
Fax:
Minicom:
E-mail:
Website:

Disability Cultural Projects (DCP) Community Interest Company
Contact via a form on the website
Website: www.disabilityarts.info

Dolphin Centre
Darlington Borough Council
Horsemarket
Darlington
DL1 5PT
Telephone: 01325 388406
Fax:
Minicom: 01325 380786
Email: leisure.services@darlington.gov.uk
Website: www.darlington.gov.uk/culture/DolphinCentre

Durham Area Disability Leisure Group
Donald Owen Clarke Centre
Riverside South
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 3SJ
Telephone: 0191 389666
Fax: 0191 389666
Minicom:
E-mail: via website
Website: www.communicate.co.uk/ne/dadlg
Eastbourne Sports Complex
Darlington Borough Council
Bourne Avenue
Darlington
DL1 1LJ
Telephone : 01325 243177
Fax : 01325 245575
Minicom : 01325 380786
Email : leisure.services@darlington.gov.uk
Website : www.darlington.gov.uk/culture/Eastbourne

English Federation of Disability Sport
Manchester Metropolitan University
Alsager Campus
Hassall Road
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
ST7 2HL
Telephone : 0161 247 5294
Fax : 0161 247 6895
Minicom : 0161 247 5644
E-mail federation@efds.co.uk
Website : www.efds.co.uk

English Federation of Disability Sport North East
Telephone : 0191 334 7207
Fax :
Minicom :
E : mail: northeast@efds.co.uk
Website : www.efds.co.uk and follow link to North East region
eVOLution
Church Row
Darlington
DL1 5QD
Telephone : 01325 266 888
Fax : 01325 266 899
Minicom :
e-mail : enquiries@evolutiondarlington.com
Website : www.evolutiondarlington.com

Head of Steam
North Road Station
Darlington
DL3 6ST
Telephone : 01325 460 532
Fax : 01325 287746
Minicom :
E-mail : museum@darlington.gov.uk
Website : www.darlington.gov.uk

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)
Cobblers Hall
Off Burn Lane
Newton Aycliffe
DL5 4SF
Telephone : 01325 321234
Fax : 01325 301129
Minicom :
E-mail : enquiries@pcp.uk.net
Website : www.pcp.uk.net
Riding for the Disabled
The Unicorn Centre
Stainton Way
Hemlington
Middlesbrough
TS8 9LX
Telephone : 0845 450 6920
Fax : 01642 576254
Minicom :
Email: enquiries@unicorn-centre.freeserve.co.uk
Website: www.communigate.co.uk/ne/unicorn

Riding for the Disabled Association
Norfolk House
1a Tournament Court
Edgehill Drive
Warwick
CV34 6LG
Telephone : 0845 658 1082
Fax: 0845 658 1083
Minicom :
Email: via website
Website: www.rda.org.uk

Teesside Park
The Management Centre
Teesside Shopping Park
Sandown Way
Stockton on Tees
TS17 7BT
Telephone : 01642 679447
Fax:
Minicom:
E-mail: enquiries@teespark.com
Website: www.teessideshoppingpark.co.uk

Youth Service
Darlington Borough Council
Telephone: 01325 362957
Fax:
Minicom
E-mail: via the website
Website: www.darlington.gov.uk/Education/ysportal.htm

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