

Mayoral Commission Update – Introduction from the new Disability Equality Commission

On 21 September 2020 Councillor Asher Craig announced the establishment of the Mayor’s Disability Equality Commission. The commission is being established in recognition of the inequalities faced by Disabled people in the city, and the negative impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having on Disabled people. The Disability Equality Commission will join the Commission on Race Equality and Women’s Commission as mayoral commissions taking forward equality in the city.

Councillor Craig chaired a steering group made up of Bristol’s key disability equality organisations who worked in partnership to set up Bristol’s new Disability Equality Commission. Steering group members include West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL), Bristol Independent Mental Health Network, Sight Loss Council, Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Bristol Reclaiming Independent Living, Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Thomas Pocklington Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust and Second Step.

Alun Davies MBE, an experienced and respected campaigner for Disabled people’s rights in the city, was appointed the first Chair of the Disability Equality Commission in August 2021. In September 2021 WECIL was appointed as the support organisation for the Commission.

The recruitment process for Commissioner roles has opened and it is hoped a diverse group of intersectional Disabled people will be recruited to the Commission by February 2022. The Chair and Commissioners will lead the work of embedding disability equality in every part of Bristol, to improve the lives and opportunities of its Disabled people.

A citywide consultation will support the Commission to identify an initial list of priorities to review and develop a strategic plan to tackle disability inequality in Bristol, including through influencing future decisions and presenting recommendations to the Mayor and One City boards.

Alun Davies, Chair of the Commission