

The Vassall Centre Trust: Providing an environment without the barriers that disable people

People with impairments **only** work with true equality and without disadvantage when work-place barriers have been removed.

The Vassall Centre is leading the way in demonstrating how this can be done.

A wheelchair-using worker says
“In The Vassall Centre, I am not disabled”!

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The Queen's
Golden Jubilee Award
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What is a **BARRIER FREE** Physical Environment?



The Vassall Centre



ALSO AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT OR ON DISK

Properly convenient!

Barriers disable people with impairments

Freeing a building of barriers means:

- ◆ recognising the features that could form barriers for some
- ◆ thinking inclusively about the whole range of impairments
- ◆ reviewing everything - from structure to smallest detail
- ◆ seeking feedback and learning from mistakes

Our barrier-free environment includes -

- ◆ changes of level and cross-falls that are very gradually ramped
- ◆ corridors wide enough to allow two wheelchair users to pass unimpeded
- ◆ low surface temperature radiators
- ◆ locks and security panels for opening and closing rooms and offices, which can be operated by anyone
- ◆ door handles that can be used by anybody
- ◆ doors, in specific locations, that open automatically
- ◆ induction loops in reception areas and meeting rooms
- ◆ signs that can be understood by all
- ◆ colour contrasts of walls and floors to highlight doorways and directions
- ◆ switches and power points at the right height for all users
- ◆ windows that can be opened and closed by everyone
- ◆ taps that can be turned on and off by anyone
- ◆ audible and visible fire alarms



- ◆ the men's and women's cubicle toilets have support rails and maintain the colour contrast
- ◆ all signs have the same accessibility i.e. colour contrast, raised text and braille



- ◆ all the unisex wheelchair accessible toilets maintain the colour contrast, non-slip flooring etc
- ◆ some have raised seats and they allow for right-hand and left-hand transfers
- ◆ the hand dryer is automatic and is positioned adjacent to the basin



- ◆ a large mirror for those who stand and those who sit
- ◆ the shelf is low

- ◆ a large, easy-grip locking handle and pull bar



Anyone can make the coffee



- ◆ everything in the food preparation area is colour contrasted
- ◆ the boiling water dispenser is low enough for everyone to reach and no stretching is needed
- ◆ the floor is non-slip, even when wet
- ◆ the fridge is raised above floor level

- ◆ the height-adjustable sink and work surface are suitable for those who stand and also for those who sit
- ◆ lever taps need no grip and involve minimal stretching



- ◆ Cup holders have easy-grip handles and they shield the fingers from the heat of the drink

- ◆ easy switches are strongly contrasted against their background



Entrances and exits These suit visitors as well as staff



- ◆ there is generous car parking space
- ◆ walking surfaces are safe and colour contrasts help way-finding
- ◆ a pedestrian gate keeps walkers safe from cars
- ◆ cyclists have covered stands



- ◆ there are automatic gates and entrance doors
- ◆ the foyer is light, with strong colours
- ◆ signs are very clear



How are these features different?



- ◆ colour contrasts in the doors, the carpet and the dado
- ◆ deep kick-plate
- ◆ long vision panel
- ◆ wide door
- ◆ door handles are never in a corner



- ◆ easy grip door handle and extra pull-handle on outer side



- ◆ signs brailled, with text raised and contrasted



- ◆ light switches are positioned above the dado, require no finger strength and are marked with a blue dot for identification

Able to lead—not just to listen A fully accessible Conference Centre



- ◆ the David Hiatt Baker Conference Centre is light and bright with clearly contrasted colours
- ◆ its chairs have arms that aid standing and feet that do not stick out to be a tripping hazard
- ◆ the induction loop receives speech from the audience as well as the platform

- ◆ the access to the platform is ramped and has a handrail
- ◆ its edge is raised and colour contrasted



- ◆ the speaker's table is designed for wheelchair users and the O.H.P. is low enough to reach

- ◆ the blinds and projection screen are powered
- ◆ the switches are large, colour contrasted and are at an easy height to reach

