

Press release

Working together for
outstanding care

Worcestershire NHS Trust working with DisabledGo to provide Accessibility Information

A local NHS Trust will soon be able to provide its visitors with more detailed information about disabled access across its sites thanks to a partnership with DisabledGo.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust has teamed up with DisabledGo to enable people to check the accessibility of their sites before they arrive, providing information and photographs about toilets, car parking and other key features.

DisabledGo produce guides detailing the level of accessibility for disabled people at locations across the UK - they have produced information on over 125,000 places and will be profiling 16 NHS sites in Worcestershire.

A DisabledGo surveyor will visit each site during April and May and collect up to 1,000 pieces of information, including taking measurements and photographs. The information will then be compiled into an access guide that will be promoted on www.disabledgo.com and via <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/> by summer this year.

As well as toilets and car parking they will also look at ramp, stairs and lift information, door widths and reception desk height along with other accessible features.

Abby Oates, Organisational Development & Inclusion Facilitator at Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust said, "We hope that the access guide will make a huge difference to people with access requirements. They can easily find out how accessible our sites are – sometimes people can be reluctant to visit different places because of the fear of the unknown and the anxiety this creates. We want to ensure that this fear is removed from visiting our sites."

DisabledGo, founded by Dr. Gregory Burke, who is himself a wheelchair user has been working to provide better information about access since 2000. DisabledGo are the UK's leading provider of detailed disability accessibility information.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust is the main provider of community, nursing, therapy and mental health services to people of all ages provided in a range of community venues including; community hospitals and recovery units, schools, community centres, outpatient clinics and in peoples' own homes.