

disabled
Every Child Matters

Going places!



Campaigning for more places to go

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is the campaign to get rights and justice for disabled children, young people, and their families.

The government is going to spend lots of money making places to go better over the next few years. We want to make sure they make places better so that all children and young people – including disabled children and young people – can be going places!

In this leaflet you can find out:

- ★ what your council should be doing to make sure you have good places to go in your area
- ★ how to get involved with making places to go better
- ★ questions you can ask your councillor and MP
- ★ some other ideas for campaigning.



What is my council?


Your council is the place where decisions are made about your area, including schools and places for children and young people to play and go in their free time.

Your council is run by councillors. It is the councillors' job to make sure decisions about your area work well for the people that live there – including you.



How can I get in touch with my council?

You can find out how to get in touch with your council by going to **www.upmystreet.com** and putting in your postcode, or by asking someone at school to help you find the contact details.



What should my council be doing to make places to go in my area better?

You are the expert about the places you like to go to. If your council wants to make places better they need to speak to you about it!

Your council should be:

- making sure there are enough places to go for all young people in your area
- involving young people in planning and decisions about places to go
- helping young people to apply for the Youth Funds.



What are the Youth Funds?

The Youth Funds are money that groups of young people aged 13-19 can apply for. The money can be used for activities or places to go.



How can I apply for the Youth Funds?

- Think of an idea about a place or an activity that will make your community better for young people.
- Then get a group of young people together who agree with your idea.
- Then contact your council and ask them to help you apply for money from the youth funds.

Find out more at

www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Youthfunds



How can I help to make places to go in my area better?

- **Write to the councillor** in your area who has responsibility for children and young people. Your council can give you their name and address. EDCM can send you an example letter to help you think about what to write. There are some ideas below.
- **Try to meet with your councillor.** You could take them to a place you like going to show them what works. You can do this by yourself, or with a group of friends.
- **Write to your MP** or try to meet with them. It is your MP's job to fight for what you want in your area and in Parliament. You can find out who your MP is and how to contact them at **www.upmystreet.com** or by asking at school.

You can do some of these things on your own, but you could make a bigger difference if you are working with other people who also want better places to go. This is called campaigning. You could ask your youth worker or teacher to help you do some of these things with a group.

What should I tell my councillor and MP?

You should tell them:

- about places that you want to go to but can't
- what makes it difficult for you to go to those places
- what you think they need to change so that you can go to more places
- what new things you would like to do.

What should I ask my councillor or MP?

- What are your plans for making places to go in our area better?
- How can I get involved in making places to go in our area better?
- How are you making sure disabled children and young people get to have their say about places to go in our area?
- How are you making sure places to go in our area work better for disabled children and young people?

You can find examples in our booklet '**Going Places**'. You can download the booklet at **www.edcm.org.uk/goingplaces** or ask us for a copy by calling **020 7843 6318**.



What else can I do?

- You can write to the person who is in charge of improving things for children and young people in the government. This person is called the **Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families**. Their address is: DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. We can send you an example letter.
- Give your councillor, your MP and your school a copy of our **‘Top Tips for Participation’** poster to put up on the wall. The poster was made with disabled young people and says what they think adults should do to listen to them better. You can get copies by emailing vwright@ncb.org.uk or calling 020 7843 6318.

There are lots of groups and websites that can give you more support and top tips for campaigning. Go to **www.edcm.org.uk/startcampaigning** or call the UK Youth Parliament on **020 7843 6310** to find out more.

Don't forget! You can contact your councillor or MP about anything that you want to change in your local community – not just places to go.

Get campaigning!

This leaflet should give you lots of ideas for what you can do to change things in your area and get people to listen to you. Good luck!

Please tell us if your councillor or MP write back to you, or if anything in your area changes because of your campaigning. Contact us at:

Every Disabled Child Matters

8 Wakley Street

London EC1V 7QE

Email: **info@edcm.org.uk** Telephone: **020 7843 6318**

Please sign up to support the campaign at **www.edcm.org.uk**

