

- ♦ Ensure disabled people who need an extra room are entitled to one in any assessment of their Housing Benefit needs.
- ♦ Help greater numbers of disabled people work by encouraging employers to shortlist any qualified disabled candidate and providing advice about workplace adaptation.
- ♦ Maintain Disabled Students' Allowance to ensure students with disabilities receive appropriate support in their university studies, and review the impact of any changes to consider additional protections for the most vulnerable students with disabilities.
- ♦ Make it easier to get around by:
 - ❖ Making more stations wheelchair accessible and giving wheelchair users priority over children's buggies when space is limited.
 - ❖ Bringing into effect the provisions of the 2010 Equality Act on discrimination by private hire vehicles and taxis.
 - ❖ Improving the legislative framework governing Blue Badges.
 - ❖ Building on our successes in improving wheelchair access to improve accessibility of public transport for people with other disabilities, including visual and auditory impairment.
 - ❖ Setting up a benchmarking standard for accessible cities.
- ♦ Tackle disability hate crime by ensuring proper monitoring of incidents by police forces and other public authorities.
- ♦ Formally recognise British Sign Language as an official language of the United Kingdom.

To ensure the highest standards of equality and fairness in public services we will:

- ♦ Maintain the Public Sector Equality Duty and encourage external providers to the public sector to follow best practice in terms of diversity.
- ♦ Prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion in the provision of public services.
- ♦ Move to 'name blank' recruitment wherever possible in the public sector.
- ♦ Replicate the civil service accelerated programme for underrepresented groups across the public sector.
- ♦ Require diversity in Public Appointments. We will introduce a presumption that every shortlist should include a BAME candidate. We will establish an independent committee that will monitor the drive for greater diversity in public appointments and verify the independence of the appointment process to public bodies, boards and institutions.
- ♦ Work to ensure the shift to Digital by Default for public services does not leave people behind, by upholding the highest standards