



Workshops for primary schools, special schools and pupil referral units - summer term 2007.

'Promoting disability equality in schools' – a new section of 'Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings' explains to schools how they can develop their Disability Equality Schemes.

In the summer term, DfES are holding a series of workshops for primary schools, special schools and pupil referral units. Attendees should include members of schools' senior management teams, governors and officers in local authorities with responsibility for supporting schools in meeting the Disability Equality Duty.

The workshops are free and lunch will be provided, but delegates will need to meet all other expenses themselves such as travel.

Delegates will benefit most from the event by bringing their current accessibility plans with them and details of any early work on their disability equality schemes. During the workshops, delegates will have the opportunity to use criteria to assess the extent to which their school/authority is meeting the requirements of a scheme. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions. Clips from the DVDs in the resource *Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings* will also be shown.

To register for an event follow the link www.pauljamesassociates.co.uk/login.htm using conference code **975837** and password **pdes**. Alternatively, you can email the conference organisers at **pdes@pauljamesassociates.co.uk** or phone **0115 943 5589** for more information.

Places for each event are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Therefore you are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Joining instructions, including an outline programme and location map, will be sent prior to events

Dates and venues for workshops are as follows:

10/05/07	South East – Thistle Marble Arch Hotel, London;
22/05/07	North West – The Midland Hotel, Manchester;
8/06/07	East Midlands – Holiday Inn Leicester City, Leicester;
11/06/07	South West - Holiday Inn, Taunton;
18/06/07	East of England – Newmarket Race Course, Newmarket;
26/06/07	Yorkshire & Humber – Holiday Inn, Harrogate;
2/07/07	North East – Marriott Newcastle Gosforth Park, Newcastle;
11/07/07	West Midlands – Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham;
18/07/07	London – Hilton Paddington, London

Please Note:

Carol Foster-Middleton is planning to attend some of the events, to talk about a piece of research she is undertaking for a PhD. Carol works for the Department for Work and Pensions, and is intending to do a small case study in around six primary schools looking at how they are implementing the new public sector duty and developing their disability equality schemes. Carol is keen to talk to people at the event, to discuss any issues they may have in relation to the new duty. In particular, the study will last three to four years, starting from this year. You can talk to Carol at the event, or contact her by email: carol.foster-middleton@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by phone on 0207 712 2157.

Additionally members of the Department with an interest in workforce issues will be attending the first London event and the events in Manchester, Birmingham and Harrogate to discuss the collection of disability data on the school workforce.