



# Barriers to Access

## Plain English Summary

'Barriers to Access' is a written report. It explains the problems or **barriers** young **disabled and D/deaf people** come across accessing **youth arts provision** in Scotland.

**Disabled people** are people who experience barriers or challenges.

**D/deaf people** are people that use British Sign Language to communicate or are deaf.

**Barriers** are issues and problems disabled people experience - for instance these could be steps if you use a wheelchair or how other people treat you.

**Arts provision** is activities like acting, dancing, creative writing, painting - usually as part of a group or class.

The report explains how Birds of Paradise Theatre company and the researcher Dr. Matson Lawrence found out about the barriers people experience. Dr Lawrence spoke to young people and some young people answered questions in forms.

What we found out cover young people aged 0 – 25, and mainly young people aged 16 – 25. Lawrence spoke to 20 disabled and D/deaf young people across Scotland and some people working in youth arts organisations.

We found that young disabled and D/deaf people face many and barriers to accessing arts provision. These barriers tend to cross over - people don't just experience one barrier at a time.



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**Five main barriers** were identified:

1. Finding suitable arts provision and things to do;
2. Lack of information about access;
3. Lack of help with access and support;
4. Travel, transport and where things happen; and
5. Attitudes and awareness of people who work in the arts.

We came up with **five key ideas** to make things better:

1. Activity just *for* young disabled and D/deaf people;
2. Information about arts opportunities in one place;
3. Thinking about *Front Door to Stage Door Access*;
4. Working with disabled and D/deaf communities across Scotland; and
5. Education and awareness for people who work in the arts.

These ideas will help people who work in the arts to find ways of working to make things better for disabled and D/deaf access.

People will now know more about the barriers that disabled people experience.

For more information or to access the full report email:  
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