



Friday 31 October 2008

## **NEW LOOK FOR CAPABILITY SCOTLAND**

Capability Scotland launched its new image today. (Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>)

Capability, one of Scotland's leading disability organisations, unveiled its new look – including a colourful logo and a makeover for its 19 high street shops - at a launch event at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh last night.

Chief executive Alan Dickson said: “We live in an ever changing world and Capability needs to be positioned to meet challenges it faces in 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland. I believe our fresh new image will reflect more accurately what we do and our vision to become a major ally in supporting disabled people to achieve full equality and to have choice and control of their lives by 2020.

“We have been delighted by the positive reaction it has received from service users, staff, friends and partners of the organisation. “

The charity also launched two new pieces of research to mark the launch of its new corporate identity – a report on disabled people's experiences of accessing sports and fitness activities and a study to develop software to improve healthcare for disabled people with communication issues.

The Access to Sport report highlights the top 10 barriers that are still faced by disabled people who want to participate in sport at all levels. It suggests ways to overcome these, hot on the heels of Scotland's success at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Mr Dickson said: “The London Olympics in 2012 and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014 present an unprecedented opportunity to address these barriers. We must ensure that the investment in these high profile events results in a legacy of accessible facilities and a commitment from the Government to delivering sporting opportunities for all disabled people.

Capability has also teamed up with academics at the University of Dundee to develop an electronic “passport” for patients with communication impairments.

The three-year project was developed after disabled people reported a range of problems during hospital stays because staff do not communicate with them properly. As a result relatives often take on the majority of caring for disabled patients in hospital.

The new easy-to-use software would hold details of the patients' basic care needs, how they communicate and other useful information and would be attached to the

hospital's electronic patient records. It is hoped it will make communication easier, lessen the burden on family members and ensure disabled patients have access to an equal standard of healthcare.

Ends

**Note to editors:**

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