



DISABILITY
Festival in the Park

WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2025
A DAY TO REMEMBER



“Long may this
festival continue”

-Festival attendee

CONTENTS

OPENING MESSAGE	4
MEET THE PLANNING TEAM	6
MEET OUR PARTNERS	8
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	9
MEET OUR PROVIDERS	11
WHAT THE PROVIDERS HAD TO SAY	13
WHAT YOU TOLD US: FESTIVAL FEEDBACK	16
FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS	20
PLANNING FOR 2026	22
THANK YOU	23

MESSAGE FROM THE PLANNING TEAM

The Disability Festival in the Park was a joyful and inclusive celebration of creativity, community, and connection. Set in the heart of our local green space, the festival brought together people of all ages and abilities to enjoy a vibrant mix of arts, music, performance, and participation.

This year's event built on the success of previous festivals, offering a rich programme of accessible activities and performances that reflected the diversity and talent within our community. From live music and dance to interactive workshops, storytelling, and visual arts, the park came alive with colour, sound, and shared experiences.

Our aim was to remove barriers-both physical and social-and to create a space where everyone, regardless of ability, felt truly welcome, valued, and inspired. From the moment people arrived in the park, we wanted them to feel a sense of belonging and joy. Whether someone came to perform, participate, volunteer, or simply soak in the atmosphere, the festival was designed to celebrate difference, encourage connection, and spark creativity.

Thank you to our partners, funders, and volunteers for your support and commitment to inclusive arts. To the artists and participants-many of whom shared work shaped by lived experience-you were central to the festival's success. Your creativity and collaboration helped turn the park into a space where everyone could feel welcome and inspired.

Together, we showed what's possible when creativity meets inclusion: a festival where barriers fall away, and community rises in its place and we already cannot wait to see you all in 2026.



**Disability Festival
Planning Team**



Well done to all involved. A brilliant event that we wouldn't miss!

Family Information Direct-
London Borough of Redbridge

MEET THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Group Team was at the heart of this year's Disability Festival in the Park, bringing together creativity, coordination, and community spirit to deliver an unforgettable celebration of inclusion and accessibility.



Want to Join the Planning Group Team?

We're always looking to grow our Planning Group with fresh ideas, new perspectives, and wider representation. If your organisation or service is passionate about inclusion, accessibility, and community celebration, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're part of a statutory body, a voluntary group, or a grassroots initiative, your contribution can help shape future Disability Festivals and ensure they continue to reflect the needs and strengths of disabled people.

Joining the team means collaborating with like-minded partners, sharing resources, and helping to co-create events that make a real difference. No matter your size or focus, there's a place for you in the Planning Group.

Interested in getting involved?

Please contact us at dafestivalredbridge@gmail.com or call 07944 119 899 to find out more.



“It’s a wonderful opportunity for people with disabilities to experience a real festival atmosphere”

Thank you to our funders:

We would like to thank our funders, without whom this years Festival wouldn't have been possible:



Events Management & Production Team:

We couldn't have pulled it off without the incredible support of Events & Joy, CM Production Management Ltd, Mountain Events and Rolling Stage Hire. Their dedication, expertise, and behind-the-scenes magic helped bring our vision to life. From staging and sound to coordination and care, they were instrumental in making the festival a success.



CM Production Management Ltd



Our Sponsors:

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, whose generous support helps make the Disability Festival in the Park possible. Their contributions-whether financial, in-kind, or through shared resources-enable us to deliver a vibrant, inclusive event that celebrates disabled people and their communities. Thanks to their commitment to accessibility and equality, we're able to offer a wide range of activities, performances, and facilities that ensure everyone can take part and feel welcome.

THE STOW
BROTHERS

CFDN
Empowering Disability, Supporting All



MONT ROSE®
COLLEGE

One Place East
Where disability matters



Gates
ESTABLISHED 1920
www.gates.co.uk

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Planning a Disability Festival is not just about celebration - it's a commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and equity. As organisers, we hold a social responsibility to ensure that every aspect of the event reflects the values of dignity, respect, and empowerment for disabled people.

Key principles of social responsibility in our planning include:

- **Accessibility First:** Every decision - from venue layout to signage, transport, and facilities must be guided by accessibility. This includes physical access, sensory-friendly spaces, quiet zones, and clear communication formats (e.g., BSL interpreters and Easy Read materials.)
- **Inclusive Representation:** The festival should amplify disabled voices-not just as attendees, but as performers, speakers, artists, and decision-makers. Representation matters, and we aim to showcase the talents and leadership of disabled people across all roles.
- **Community Collaboration:** We work closely with disabled individuals, advocacy groups, and local organisations to co-design the festival. Their lived experience is central to shaping an event that truly meets the needs and aspirations of the community.
- **Environmental and Ethical Practices:** Social responsibility also means considering sustainability and ethical sourcing. We aim to reduce waste, use local suppliers where possible, and ensure that all vendors and partners share our commitment to inclusion.
- **Affordability and Access to Opportunity:** The festival should be free or low-cost to attend, with support available for travel and participation. No one should be excluded due to financial barriers.

By embedding social responsibility into every stage of planning, we ensure that the Disability Festival in the Park is not only a joyful celebration - but a powerful statement of solidarity, respect, and progress.



“A wonderful opportunity to be with my community”

- Festival Attendee

MEET THE PROVIDERS



At the 2025 Disability Festival in the Park, our vibrant Information Village was made possible thanks to the incredible range of providers who took part. These organisations brought their expertise, resources, and passion to the event, offering valuable information, support, and services to festival-goers.

Their presence helped create a welcoming space where attendees could connect with local opportunities, learn about accessible initiatives, and feel empowered through community engagement.

Here are the providers who took part in making the Information Village a success:



Imagine Independence



POhWER



Inclusion London



NHS Foundation Trust

NELFT – Coping Through Football



Work Redbridge



Access All Care & Training Solutions Ltd



Redbridge Carers Support Service



Redbridge Carers Support Service



Jewish Care

RIASS

Redbridge Information, Advice & Support Service



RIASS



Redbridge Welfare Benefits Team



Age UK Barking, Havering & Redbridge



Vision Ability



Mencap



ShopMobility UK

Ilford Shopmobility



Redbridge Emotional Wellbeing Team



Right at Home Loughton



Breakaway Supported Holidays



Gullivers R G Care



Uniting Friends



Capstone Foster Care



Redbridge Early Years SEND Team



Redbridge Family Information Direct (FiND)



Links Support Solutions



Outward Housing



Bluebird Care



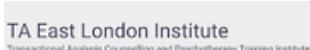
Tutor Doctor



Scope



ComCab Limited



TA East London Institute



Shout Out UK



Ringrose Law



Redbridge Community Engagement



Redbridge Neighbourhood Engagement



North East London Cancer Alliance



VIA



Vaccination UK



In Health



What Our Providers Had to Say

Providers consistently praised the festival's welcoming atmosphere, excellent organisation, and inclusive setup. Many noted how well supported they felt by the planning team, with clear communication, accessible facilities, and thoughtful coordination making their experience smooth and enjoyable.

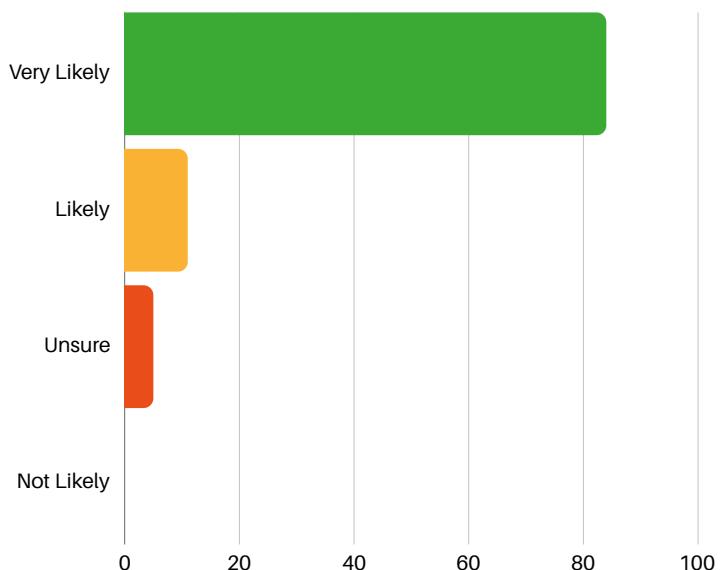
Their presence helped create a vibrant and engaging Information Village, where attendees could explore services, ask questions, and build meaningful connections. Beyond showcasing their work, providers valued the opportunity to network with each other, collaborate, and reach new audiences. The festival gave them a platform to engage directly with the public, offer guidance, and signpost to other services - making a real difference in people's lives.

“

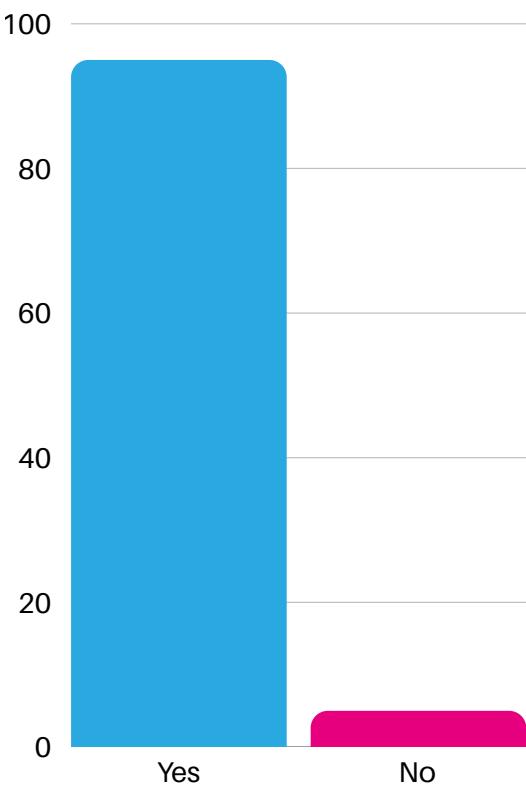
Organising such a big festival must be a very stressing and challenging task, but the team pulled it off amazingly. Well done, Keep up the great work.

”

How likely are you to exhibit at a future Disability Festival event?



Did you make valuable connections or partnerships during the event?



Their feedback also reflected a deep appreciation for the inclusive spirit of the event. Many expressed how important it was to be part of a day that celebrated disability, community, and creativity in such a visible and accessible way. Their contributions helped shape the festival into a space of belonging, empowerment, and joy.

In short, providers are not just participants - they are co-creators of the festival experience. Their involvement is integral to its success, and their voices, services, and energy help ensure the event remains a meaningful celebration for all.

“**Thank you for putting on such a vital event for the borough. It was such a wholesome day and to see so many of the disabled community come together and experience a festival like no other is truly moving.”**





“It creates awareness and an atmosphere of friendliness. God bless the organisers.”

Celebrating Success While Embracing Opportunities for Improvement

Overwhelmingly, feedback from all attendees was positive, whilst opportunities for continued growth and improvement were also identified.

A total of 71 individuals completed our feedback form - these represent feedback from Disabled people, carers and community members. We received comments from 170 individuals.

What's Better and What's Next: Insights from Feedback



Accessibility Improvements: A Step Forward

Stallholders highlighted clear improvements in layout and access, particularly around the information tent and attendees continued to praise the welcoming atmosphere. While sensory accessibility remains an area for refinement, the shift from critique to constructive suggestions shows real progress. The festival is becoming more

responsive to diverse needs, with Disabled people's feedback consistently shaping how the day evolves.

Inclusive and Accessible themes were consistently praised, with comments noting the friendly environment and thoughtful physical setup that enabled greater access, especially for wheelchair users. This marks a notable improvement compared to previous years.

"Inclusive for everyone"

"Spacious"

"Very friendly atmosphere"

Easier access

"REALLY LOVELY VIBE"

"Appreciate the shelter in sun & rain"

WHAT YOU TOLD US



Entertainment: Bringing Energy and Joy to the Festival

Entertainment was a standout feature this year, adding vibrancy and excitement to the event. Attendees praised the variety and quality of performances, with comments such as "Great music," "Entertainment superb," and "Music brilliant" appearing frequently. From live music and DJs to comedy and workshops, these elements created a lively atmosphere that many described as fun and engaging. While overall feedback was highly positive, a few suggestions - such as adjusting volume levels and having a 'quiet area' - highlight opportunities for further refinement.

A Festival to Remember: Joy and Community at its Heart

This year's festival truly raised the bar, with feedback overflowing with excitement - phrases like 'the best one ever,' 'a day of joy,' and 'everyone having fun' appeared again and again, capturing the spirit of a day that people will never forget. Both stallholders and attendees emphasized the festival's unique role as a cherished date in the Disability calendar - a day people anticipate and remember fondly.



"The feedback painted a vivid picture of joy and connection, with comments celebrating the festival's inclusive spirit and lively energy. Attendees spoke of a 'great vibe,' a 'fantastic day,' and the abundance of activities that ensured 'lots to do, plenty for

everyone.' These remarks highlight not only the success of this year's event but also its ability to create a space where people feel welcomed, entertained, and part of something truly special.



Food: Variety Praised, Pricing Noted as a Concern

Food options added to the festival's appeal, with many attendees appreciating the wider choice and improved quality compared to previous

years. Comments such as "great food," "lots of food choice," and "food choices are much better this year" highlight this progress.

However, affordability emerged as a recurring theme, with remarks like "food too expensive" and "if food prices were more reasonable, it would be perfect." Some attendees also expressed a desire for more traditional English food, while others praised affordable options like the Cherry Tree cafe. Overall, food contributed positively to the festive atmosphere, but pricing remains an area for improvement.

Well-Organised and Borough Pride: A Festival That Stands Out

Feedback highlighted strong appreciation for the event's organisation and its role in showcasing the borough's commitment to inclusion. Stallholders described the festival as "impressive," noting that it demonstrates what the voluntary sector and Redbridge can offer. Comments such as "staff have all been on point," "staff ready to assist," and "worth the travel from South London" underline its growing reputation.

Attendees also praised smooth logistics, clear signage, and improved layout, with remarks like "everything has been easy to navigate," "taken care of everything," and "positioning of stalls much better." Publicity efforts were also recognised, with feedback noting the event was "well-advertised" and "well-attended," reinforcing its status as a flagship celebration for the borough.





Community Momentum: Growth and Deeper Connections

This year marked a turning point for the festival, with feedback showing both expansion and stronger community ties. Stallholders described the event as “flagship,” “worth travelling for,” and “bigger than last year,” while attendees called for “more

than one a year” and offered to help promote future events.

Comments reflected a vibrant sense of belonging: “lovely to engage,” “day of community,” and “met people not seen in years.” Networking and partnership opportunities were widely noted, alongside praise for “information booths galore,” “fantastic connectivity,” and “charities doing a good job explaining what they did.” This feedback shows the festival is evolving into a collaborative space where people share knowledge, build relationships, and celebrate Disability pride together.

Areas for Improvement: Feedback Highlights

While overall feedback was positive, attendees shared constructive suggestions to make future festivals even better. Key points included calls for more charities and livelier stage activities, as some felt there was “less going on on stage” this year. Practical improvements were also noted, such as adding more bins, introducing quiet spaces for sensory needs, and considering a weekend schedule for greater accessibility.

Entertainment ideas like a Punch and Judy show for little ones and more relevant activities (e.g., Games Inn) were suggested.

Affordability and inclusivity remain priorities, with comments mentioning high costs, lack of clothing adaptation stalls, and requests for adaptive everyday items. A few attendees flagged noise levels and the absence of quiet areas as challenging, with remarks like “too noisy for people like myself” and “I felt anxious.” These insights provide a clear roadmap for refining the festival experience.

FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

Areas for Improvement: Feedback Highlights

The comparison between 2024 and 2025 feedback reveals clear progress across key themes, alongside areas that still need attention. Here's what the data shows:

Theme	2024 Status	2025 Status	Direction of Change
Joy & Celebration	Strong and widespread across all feedback types	Dominant theme again, even more consistently	Sustained and growing
Inclusion & Accessibility	Praised but with notable physical and sensory gaps	Stronger praise, especially from stallholders; sensory access still flagged	Improving, with refinements needed
Growth & Momentum	Emerging enthusiasm	Clear appetite for expansion and repeat events	Strengthening
Organisation	Mixed: praised but with layout, signage, and programme issues	Stallholders praised logistics; attendees gave fewer, more constructive comments	Noticeable improvement
Infrastructure	Heavily criticised: toilets, seating, signage	Still flagged, but tone more constructive and frequency lower	Progressing, not resolved
Entertainment	Enjoyed, but sound bleed and stage layout issues	Popular again; volume and layout still noted	Consistent, needs tuning
Community Connection	Strong sense of belonging and networking	Reaffirmed by both groups	Sustained
Gratitude	Present but quiet	More frequent and heartfelt	Growing appreciation

FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

Theme	2024 Status	2025 Status	Direction of Change
Food	Concerns about affordability, limited dietary options, Vegan and healthy choices noted as missing.	Cherry Tree – noted as a more affordable option. Also better options available. Some concerns about cost persisted, the tone was more balanced and appreciative	Clear improvement
Promotion	Digital-only outreach criticised; accessibility concerns	No attendee complaints; stallholders offered to help distribute flyers	Clear improvement
Venue	Recurring issues: signage, quiet zones, layout	Similar issues raised again	Needs strategic response
Friendly Staff	Praised across feedback	Praised again, especially by stallholders	Consistent strength

A Community-Owned Celebration: Where We Go From Here

The 2025 Disability Festival built on the successes of previous years, delivering a day filled with joy, inclusion, and community pride. However, feedback also highlighted areas for continued improvement, including sensory accessibility, infrastructure issues (such as seating and quiet zones), and entertainment adjustments around sound and stage layout. These insights provide a valuable roadmap for future planning, ensuring the festival continues to grow in scale, reputation, and inclusivity.

By listening to the voices of Disabled people, carers, and community members, the festival is evolving into more than an event - it is becoming a collaborative, community-owned celebration of Disability pride and progress.

Building on Success

Following the incredible success of the 2025 Disability Festival in the Park, planning is already underway for an even bigger and better celebration in 2026. The Planning Group Team - made up of statutory and voluntary services - is coming together once again to co-produce an inclusive, accessible, and joyful event that reflects the voices and experiences of disabled people across our community.

We're taking on board all the feedback from attendees, providers, and performers to shape next year's festival. From improving accessibility features to expanding the Information Village and diversifying entertainment, every idea is being considered to make 2026 even more impactful. To make sure the voices of those at the heart of the festival are heard, we're also holding a dedicated feedback event. This will give everyone a chance to share their thoughts on this year and help shape plans for next year, ensuring maximum involvement and collaboration.

How You Can Get Involved

We're inviting new organisations, services, and individuals to join our Planning Group. Whether you're a provider, community group, or have lived experience, your input matters. Help us shape a festival that breaks barriers and celebrates diversity. Interested? Contact the One Place East team - we welcome fresh ideas and new partnerships!

Support Through Sponsorship

To help make the 2026 festival a success, we're offering a tiered sponsorship package that gives businesses and organisations the opportunity to support the event in a way that suits their budget and goals. Each tier offers unique benefits—from brand visibility and promotional opportunities to direct engagement with the community. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us to learn more about the available packages.

Let's make 2026 a year to remember.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made the 2025 Disability Festival in the Park such a powerful celebration of inclusion, community, and creativity. From our dedicated Planning Group and generous sponsors to the incredible providers, performers, and attendees - your contributions helped create a truly memorable event.

As we look ahead to 2026, we invite even more organisations, services, and individuals to get involved. Whether you want to join the Planning Group, host a stall, perform, or volunteer, there's a place for you in next year's festival.

Let's keep building a future where disabled people are visible, valued, and celebrated.



DISABILITY Festival in the Park

dafestivalredbridge@gmail.com

This event was made possible thanks to the generous support and collaboration of our valued partners and sponsors. We extend our heartfelt thanks for your contributions, which have played a vital role in bringing this event to life.



CM Production
Management Ltd



THE STOW
BROTHERS



MONT ROSE®
COLLEGE

