

## Why make information accessible?

Accessible information empowers people. It means they can;

- know what is going on
- get involved
- have their voice heard
- improve services for themselves and for other people
- claim their rights.

## Who needs accessible information?

Everybody needs information they can understand. It is hard to know how many people poor information affects. However, there are large numbers of people in the UK who are likely to benefit from more easily accessible information. These include;

- around 12 million people in employment with literacy skills at level one or below (the same or lower than an average 11 year old)
- 15 per cent of people in the UK describe themselves as disabled people
- almost one million men and women in the UK have a learning difficulty
- around eight per cent of the UK population are from ethnic minorities

## Won't accessible information be expensive?

More accessible doesn't mean expensive

- Plain English Campaign estimates it has saved the British Government £500 million in the last two decades
- Royal Mail saved £500,000 in nine months by changing one form

The biggest waste of time and money is creating information people cannot use. You waste the cost of creating the document as it doesn't provide the information it is intended to give. You also waste the costs of paying workers to support people to understand the information.

So by making information accessible, you actually save time and money!