



Access Plan and Statement

Introduction

At present the Museum is only accessible by a 32 step Spiral Staircase.

The major obstacle to open access for the Museum is that it is located in the Garret of a Grade 2* building which the organistaion does not own and which is accessed by a 300 year old Spiral Staircase. The fire escape is via an adjoining building.

The management have continually worked hard to improve access but so far have been unable to find a solution that is acceptable both to English Heritage and landlords.

However, as an institution we are committed to finding solutions. Improving access is the cornerstone of the Museum's Development Project and is the key to any future development.

In the meantime, we have worked to widen access to individuals or groups and have provided the following aids to wider access:

A hearing loop has been installed within the Old Operating Theatre so that visitors may now tune aids into the lecturer's unit to enhance sound.

- Twenty eight braille guides are within the museum available for visiting braille reading groups.

- A large print guide is also provided for the those with impaired vision.
- We provide regular guided tours and lectures on the Museum for those who can access the museum physically.
- Museum displays are also designed for independent hands-on access, and groups can participate in handling sessions using instruments, pharmaceutical equipment or materia medica.

In addition, for those who cannot physically access the Museum we offer:

- A range of alternative methods of discovering the Museum and Collections - via the Web Site, via the Museum's guide book or large print guide, or a video or CD as preferred by users.
- An outreach visit for groups featuring an illustrated Museum lecture given by Museum Staff
- Guided walk for groups around the remains of Old St Thomas' and Guy's Hospital and Guys Hospital accessible to wheelchair users.

The Old Operating Theatre Museum has prepared a policy and plan to improve access to the Old Operating Theatre Museum in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. This is available on request or available to download on:

<http://www.thegarret.org.uk/pdfs/accesspolicy.pdf>



Plan of Action

Action Already Taken

Staff attendance on DDA courses

Access Audit has been completed

Hearing Induction Loop installed in Theatre

Large Print and Braille Guides Created

Development plan created and Development officer employed to steer Access plan forward

Audience Development report written

Distribute revised Plan and Policy and make staff/management/trustees are aware of implications

Review web site, published literature, and notice boards to make sure our disabled access policy is clear and that options for different forms of access are made clear.

Action to take

Advertise outreach programme to local disabled groups

Consider events to target access groups we do not yet reach.

Seek Grant aid for work by Access Architect.

Contact Transport Police with view to ascertaining possibility of installing disabled chair lift.

Medium Term Action

Develop access options following report by Access Architect

Create events and outreach programme targeting groups we do not yet reach



Produce Video of Museum with Sign language for the web site

Review displays to improve readability

Review Web site to make as accessible as possible

Consider CCTV view of museum from downstairs

For the Long Term

Provide Full Access to the Museum via architectural intervention

Kevin Flude

Revision Details

Created 1998, revised 10th Sept 2003, Sept 2004, Jan 2005, Nov 200,
revised 21.09.09

