

## Disability Discrimination Acts

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 brought in measures to prevent discrimination against disabled people. The Act was amended in 2002 to include schools. The Part 4 Code of Practice for Schools is available on the Disability Rights Commission website [www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org). A new Building Bulletin 77, to be issued by the DfESS in 2005, will provide best practice guidance for inclusive design of schools. The most recent amendment in 2005 (DDA 2005) introduces further measures to prevent discrimination. The new duty on public authorities

to promote disability equality will have a most significant impact on local councils, as it requires a similar rigorous review of policies and procedures as has the Race Relations Act 2000.

By December 2006 Islington Council (and all other public authorities) must publish a Disability Equality Scheme showing how it intends to fulfil this duty, and this will be reviewed annually. Involvement of disabled people is a key principle which underpins the general duty, and how they have been involved in identifying initiatives and priorities must be demonstrated.