

# Supporting Voices for a Fully-Accessible Toilet in Frome



“Having a day out in town is very hard for us. We often have to suddenly go home to change our son as what adult or child should have to sit in soiled pads or lay on a cold, dirty floor to be changed?”

Carers who use Frome are not allowed to lift him either so when we do get respite care he either has to sit in soiled pads until he gets home or they cut the visit short for a long push back up the hill to get home. Its not acceptable. Everyone should have the right to have their basic needs met.”

**Shelley, Coleford**

“We have three other children plus Sonny who has a suction machine, a trachy kit, a ventilator and an emergency bag. Going out is complex enough without having to plan a day around toileting as well. Just to be able to go for a walk in town, or eat out as a family in Frome would be so nice but not having a properly accessible toilet here means we can't do that in our own home town. It isn't just Sonny who suffers, our other children miss out too and it puts massive physical and emotional strain on us.”

**Andrea Thompson, Frome**



“We can't go out to the big Sunday market like other families. It would be nice to be able to go down and have a coffee, do everyday shopping, but unfortunately because he is not able to control his body, you can get half an hour into a trip to the town and he needs changing. There is nowhere to do it in town, so we just have to come back up the hill and go home. Therefore we go to places like Bristol because you can actually have a family day out there without worrying about it. It's really stopping people with disabilities using the town centre.”

**Mr Riddick, Berkley Road, Frome**

“I have had to change Ted on some truly disgusting disabled toilet floors before now. It is undignified and unhygienic and it will only get harder as he gets older. We live in Warminster and would love to come to Frome more often and for longer – pottering around the shops and having lunch without worrying about whether Ted is comfortable.

As well as having very few activities that he can access and enjoy, a lack of appropriate changing facilities can mean that Ted's world gets very small indeed with fewer and fewer places he can go. We try to do as much as we can with him to have a full, fun life. A local Changing Places toilet would make a big difference to that.”

**Emma Haines, Warminster**



“My twelve year old niece has cerebral palsy. She lives near Stroud and I would love them to come to visit me in Frome more often. However, because there isn't a fully-accessible toilet in our town, it is really difficult for them to visit. We really need this facility here.”

**Lenka Grimes, Frome**

"This is essential for families with disabled children and young adults. It's hard to believe there is nothing like this in our area, needs to be sorted. Our son who is 19 uses disabled facilities when we are out and about with support from us., its one of the first things we check for before we venture out anywhere which is stressful enough, believe me – I've been doing this 19 years! We often don't go just for this reason which is a shame for us and for our son. Using a toilet is a natural function of everyday life. This type of public facility shouldn't even be questioned, especially in a growing town like Frome"

**Heidy Parfitt, Frome**

"Toilet facilities like this in a town centre is crucial and I'm definitely behind this campaign. I am a support worker at Future 4 From at Colliers Court on Manor Road."

**Sonia Hastie**

"It is disgusting that a town the size of Frome doesn't have suitable toilet facilities for youngsters like my son. When you don't have a child with disabilities, you don't realise how many people this affects. Having a child like Harry means I know so many people who need a properly accessible loo with a changing bench and a hoist. Something really needs to be done about this."

**Guy Burton, father of Harry, Frome**

"I used to work with Ettie Douthwaite while she was a pupil at Christchurch school. Any trip off site was difficult due to lack of appropriate equipment, even in the disabled toilets. No hoist or bed so either had to use baby changing bed (requiring 3 adults to assist) or the floor. I now work with another little girl who needs the same amount of equipment and we are still faced with the same problem on trips. Frankly this is not acceptable. Accessible rooms should be fitted with hoist and variable height adult changing bed so those affected can enjoy day trips out with families and/or their school peers. Please get behind this campaign."

**Di Wright, Frome**

"I had to change somebody on the floor of the disabled toilets in the market square in Frome, barely big enough so had to bring my client outside in the mobile hoist to hoist them back into their wheelchair with a big queue of people staring! And needless to say the toilet floor was not very clean. Definitely need a changing facility in Frome."

**Jade Prater**

"I think it's really sad that every town doesn't have at least one facility to change an older disabled child or adult. Its hard enough planning a day out with a disabled person without having to worry about there being no toilet."

**Jemma Whitburn**

"It is so important that disabled people are not discriminated and the lack of crucial facilities is discrimination. Its time to change this now."

**Janice Viner**