Social Model of Disability

The original text can be found here: <https://inclusionscotland.org/socialmodelofdisability/index.html>

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| Advocacy Self 1 | At Inclusion Scotland we use the **social model of disability**. This document explains what that means. |
|  | What you do about disability depends on what you think causes disability. |
|  | If a wheelchair user can’t get on a train you might think this is because of their **impairment**. |
|  | **Impairment:**  A difference, illness or health condition which means you cannot do some things that other people can. |
| C:\Users\AprilO'Neil\Downloads\Medication Review.png | You might think the answer is to cure or treat the person’s impairment. |
|  | Or you might think it is because the train is not designed so wheelchair users can get on it. |
|  | If so, the answer is to redesign the train so they can. |
| Medication 1 | The first response is ‘fix the person’. |
| **C:\Users\AprilO'Neil\Downloads\Handyman 2.png** | The second and better response is to ‘fix the train!’ |
|  | The social model was developed by disabled people. It is supported by organisations led by disabled people. |
|  | It says barriers in society (including trains!) cause disability. |
|  | It says society is not designed for people who have impairments. |
| Image of person facing a high brick wall | We are stopped from being included in society and taking part in an equal way. |
|  | If society removes these barriers, a person may still have an impairment but would not experience disability. |
|  | What are these barriers? They include: |
|  | **Attitudinal Barriers:**  The ways people think about disability and disabled people. |

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|  | We are disabled by the way other people think and feel about us. This could be fear, ignorance or even hatred. |
|  | We are disabled when people have low expectations of us or think that they know best what we want and need. |
| Choose home4 | **Environmental barriers:**  The barriers in the physical world around us. |
|  | We are disabled when we cannot get into buildings because of how they are designed. They may not have ramps, lifts or accessible toilets. |
|  | This includes shops, public buildings, workplaces, museums, restaurants and other buildings. |
|  | Outside, pavement kerbs may not be dropped. There might be no textured pavement at crossings, or no noise to let people with visual impairments know when to cross. |
| Meeting agenda | **Organisational barriers:**  We can be excluded by the way things are organised, like meetings, events, or services. |
| When? | This could include not enough time being allowed for appointments, or to get meeting papers translated into Braille. |
|  | The event might start too early for people who need support to get up in the morning and have to arrange accessible transport to be able to arrive in time. |
|  | **Communication barriers:**  These could include: |
|  | Printed writing that is too small. |
|  | Materials are not produced in plain English or Easy Read. |
|  | There are no sign language interpreters. |
| C:\Users\AprilO'Neil\Downloads\Victim.png | Images of disabled people show us as tragic victims and heroic survivors, rather than just as normal people. |
|  | **None of these barriers have to exist, so we should not have to face them.** |
|  | The Medical Model says disability is caused by impairments that need to be treated, managed or cured. |
| Place Hospital | With the Medical Model, disabled people become just people who use services. Medical professionals like doctors take control over our lives. |
|  | This does not mean people who have impairments never need healthcare services. |
|  | **But if barriers are not removed we will continue to be disabled.** |
|  | **Made with photosymbols.** |