

# THE ACCESSIBLES

# 3

**ACCESS DENIED**  
Until Future Notice

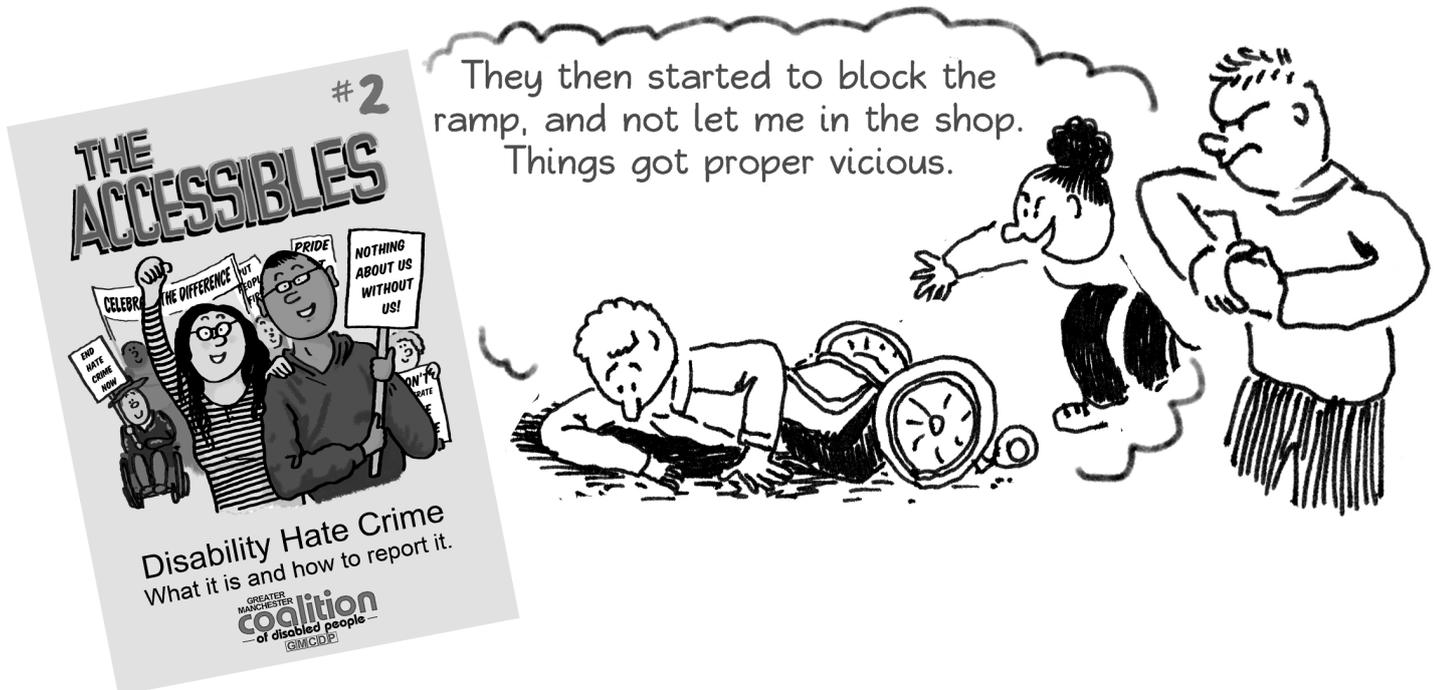


GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
**coalition**  
— of disabled people —  
GMCDP

# THE STORY SO FAR...

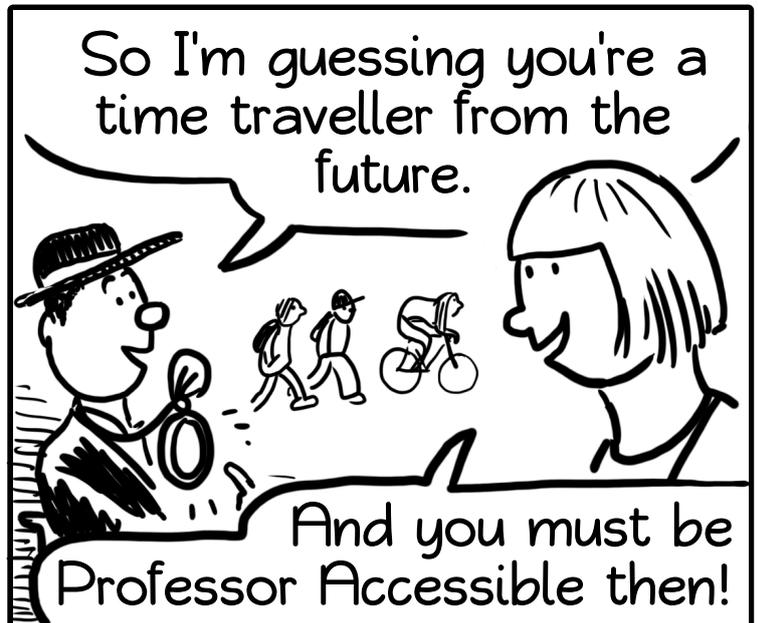
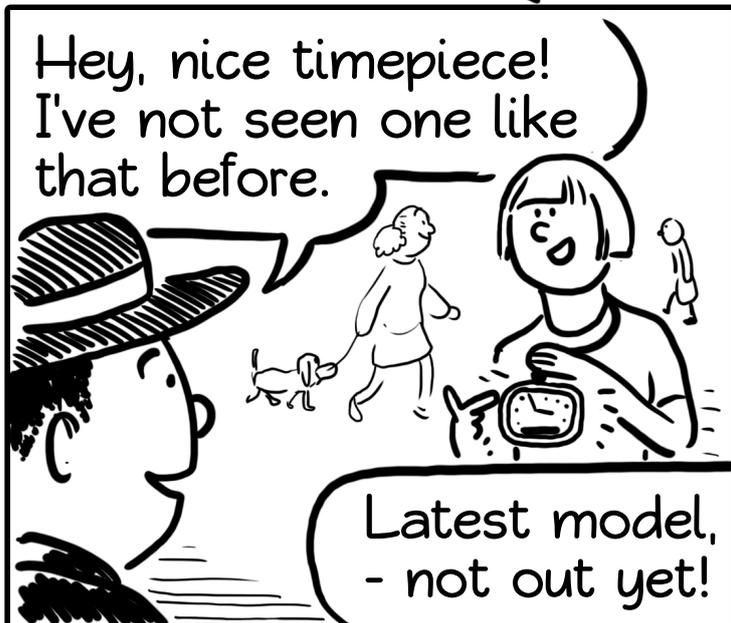


In the first issue of *The Accessibles*, Josh and Hannah embark on a thrilling adventure through time to investigate the history of Disabled People in Manchester.



In issue #2 of *The Accessibles*, Qaasim and Kat inform us about Disability Hate Crime: what it is, and ways to report it.

And 3 months after the last comic, we join Josh at a rally...



So, fellow time traveller, what exactly is going on here?

Ha, please just call me Josh. Not everyone knows my secret!

I'm Keira, and I come from the not-too-distant future.

OK Josh, so why all these people?

IT'S SOCIETY THAT DISABLES US, NOT OUR IMPAIRMENTS

PRIDE NOT PREJUDICE!

RIGHTS NOT CHARITY

ABILITY EQUALS BARRIERS

Well, - we are here because although we all have a range of different impairments, it's the barriers we face every day that disable us.

I think I know what you mean by impairments;  
the differences in our bodies and minds.

I guess your legs may work  
differently to mine, just as my brain  
may work differently to yours.

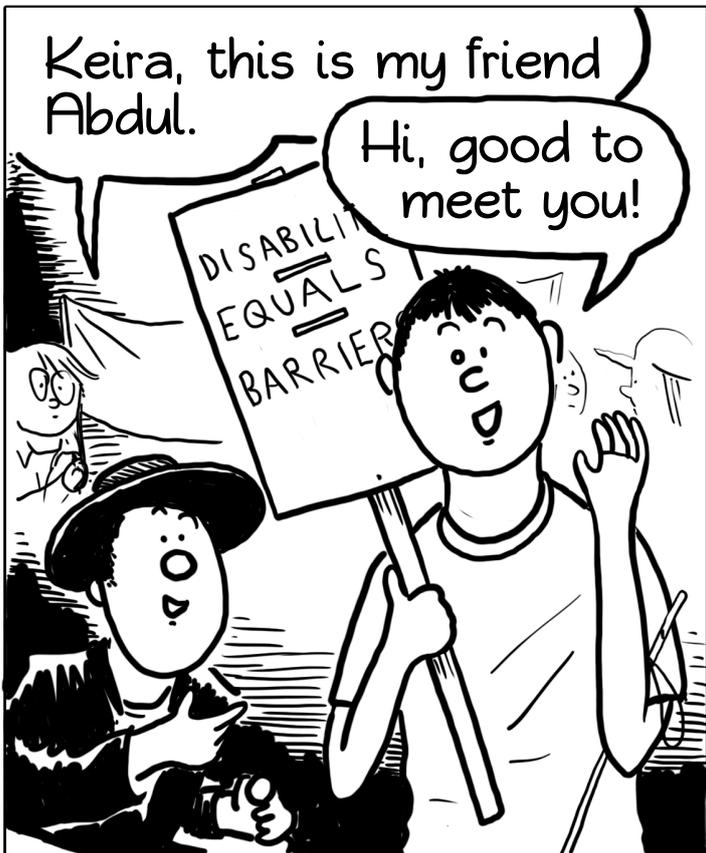
You've got  
it in one!



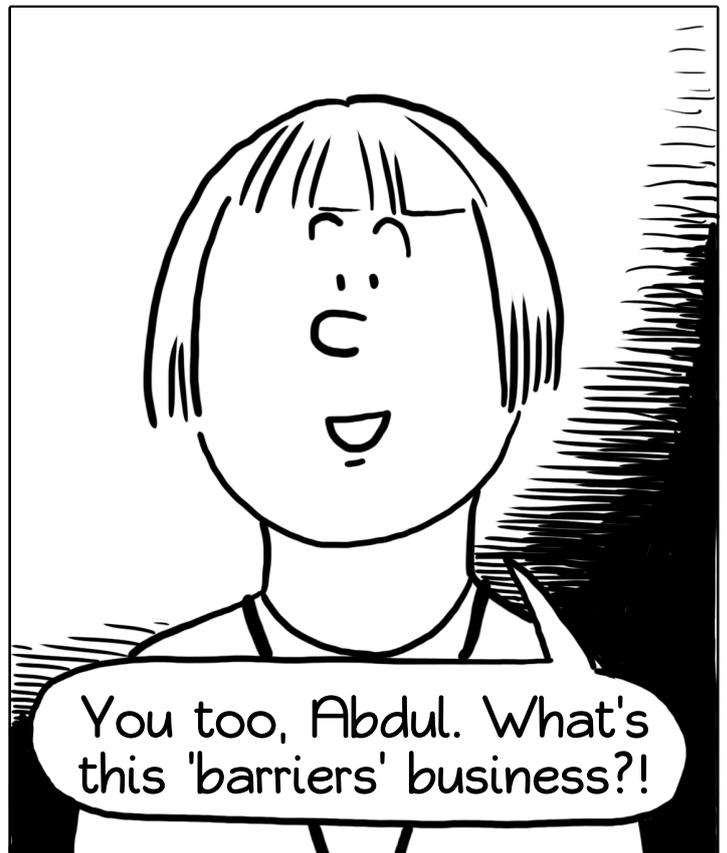
Keira, this is my friend  
Abdul.

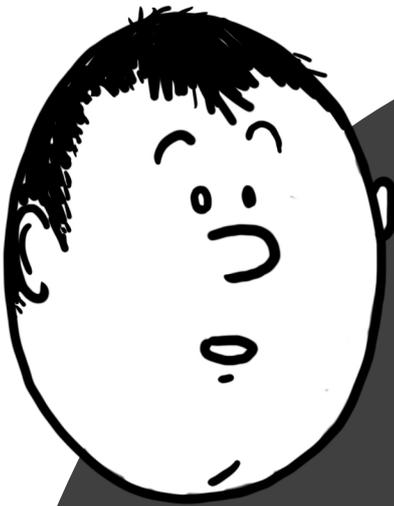
Hi, good to  
meet you!

DISABILITY  
EQUALS  
BARRIERS



You too, Abdul. What's  
this 'barriers' business?!





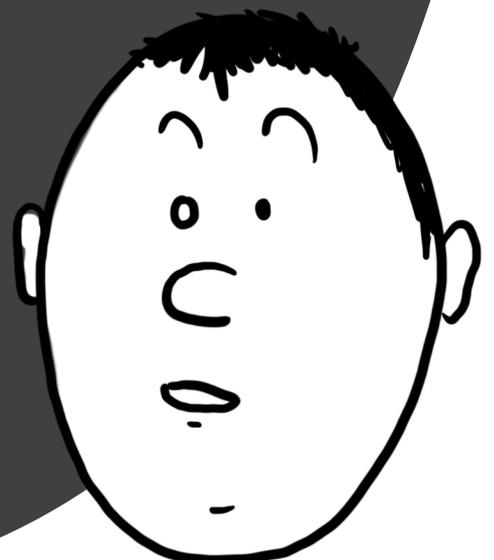
So basically, barriers are all those things in society that stop us as disabled people getting on with our day to day lives.

Here's the usual street slalom -

-and how am I supposed to cross here?



Barriers doesn't always mean physical obstacles; there's way more to it than that. The way places are run, and most importantly people's attitudes as well.





Take me for example;  
it's not just barriers like  
stairs and steps...



Even something like going to the shops,  
with crowds, loud music and  
flashing lights can  
be overwhelming.



We just don't have these  
barriers in the future, guys!  
We've figured these things out.



Wow, I'd love  
to see that.

Come on then,  
I'll show you  
the future! -



In the not-so-distant future,  
we've eradicated all those old barriers  
for disabled people. Look! -

Neat automatic stair  
ramp converter!

Voice activated  
AND push button!

WHIRR!

CLICK!



Have a go at buying a monorail ticket, Abdul -

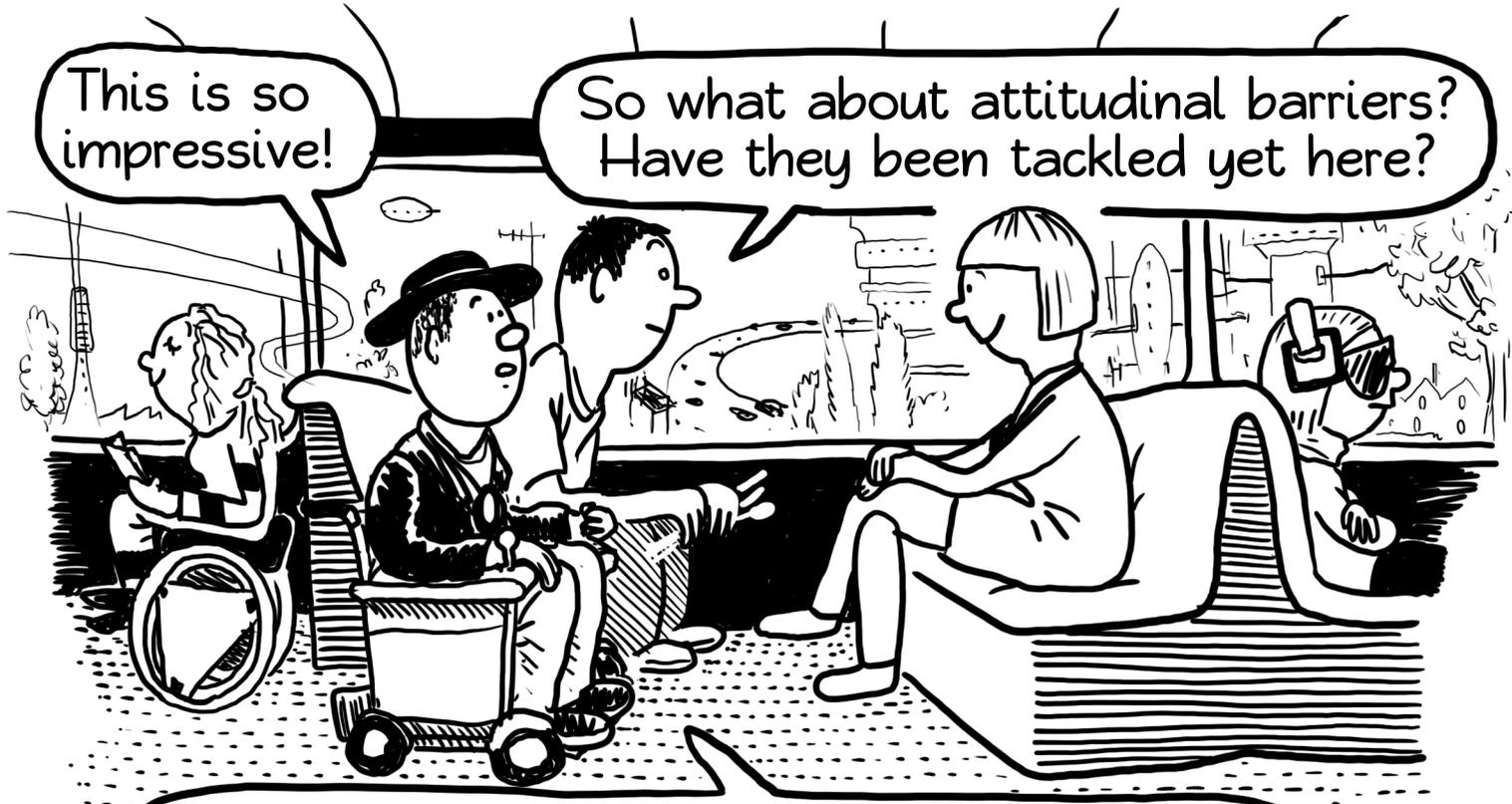
OK, right then -  
'info format', it's got  
braille, large print -

- and here you've got  
British Sign Language,  
and -

-or I can  
just speak and  
do it that way!

Wow, this place is

**Barrier-Freedonia!**



This is so impressive!

So what about attitudinal barriers? Have they been tackled yet here?

People having negative views of us disabled people, discriminating against us and being prejudiced.

Such as?



Sometimes it's just low expectations of us, or treating us like charity cases...

She's so **BRAVE!**  
Poor thing!



Does he want another napkin, just in case?

we get spoken down to, ignored and patronised too.

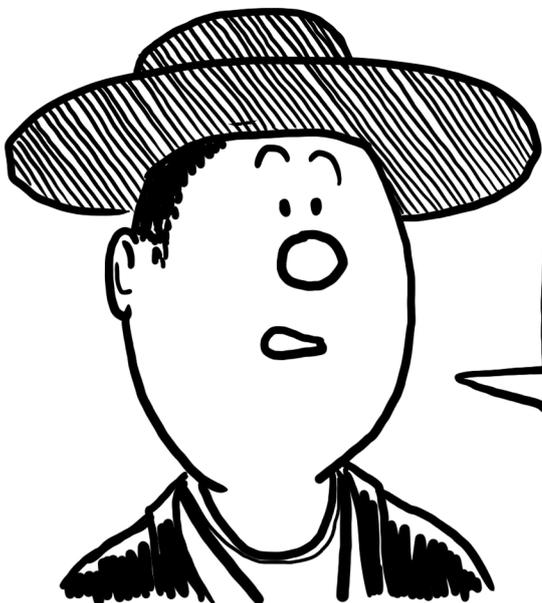
You wouldn't believe the abuse some of us meet in everyday situations.

IMPOSTER! You don't really need that wheelchair at all!

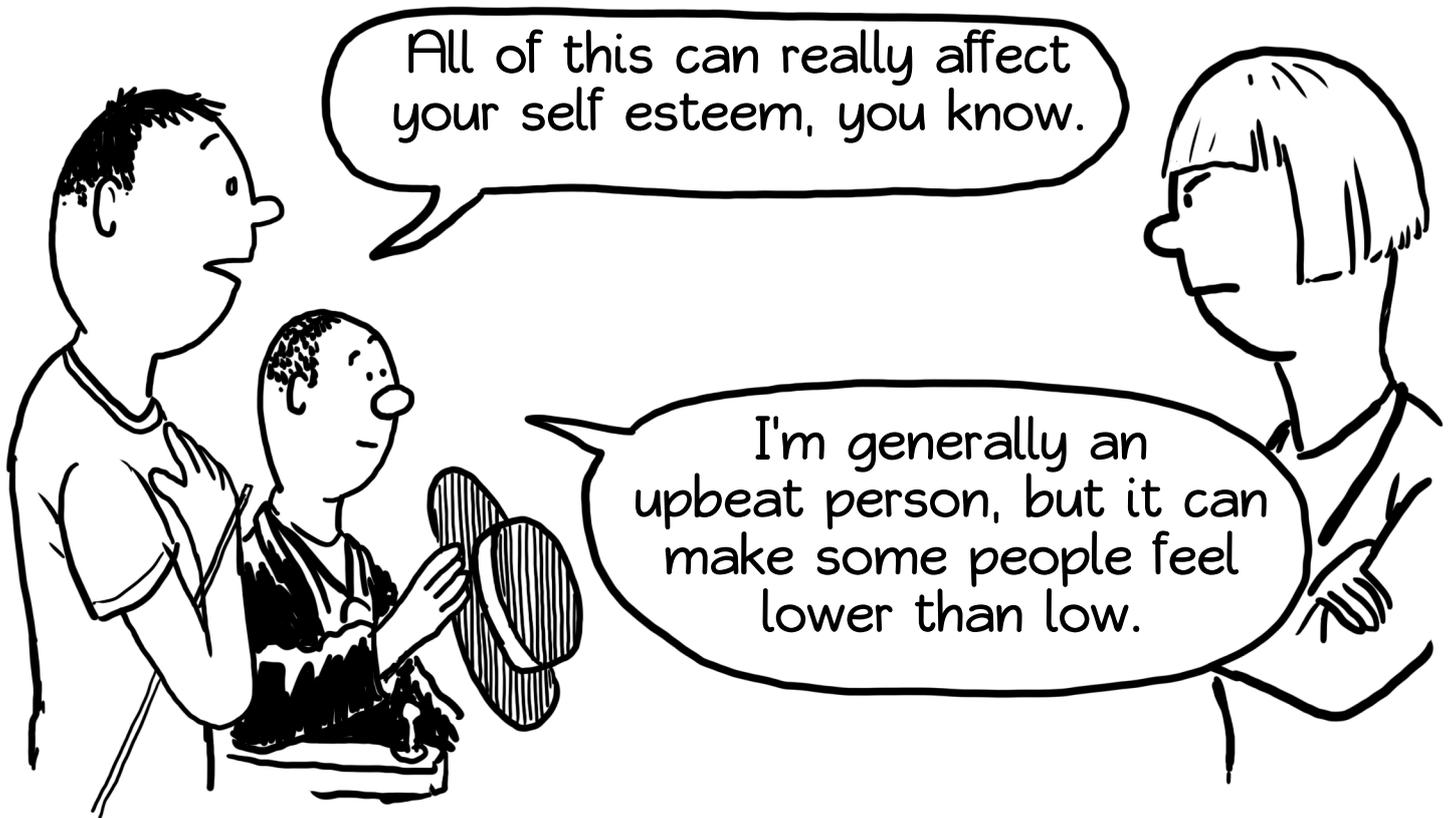
You should be ashamed, you fake!



It doesn't exactly help when newspaper headlines paint us as scroungers, frauds or 'fit to work' but lazy.



Many people don't understand that a wheelchair is a means of liberation - to get around. They assume if you use a wheelchair you can't move; they expect you to be glued to it.



We just don't have these problems in the future; everyone is included.

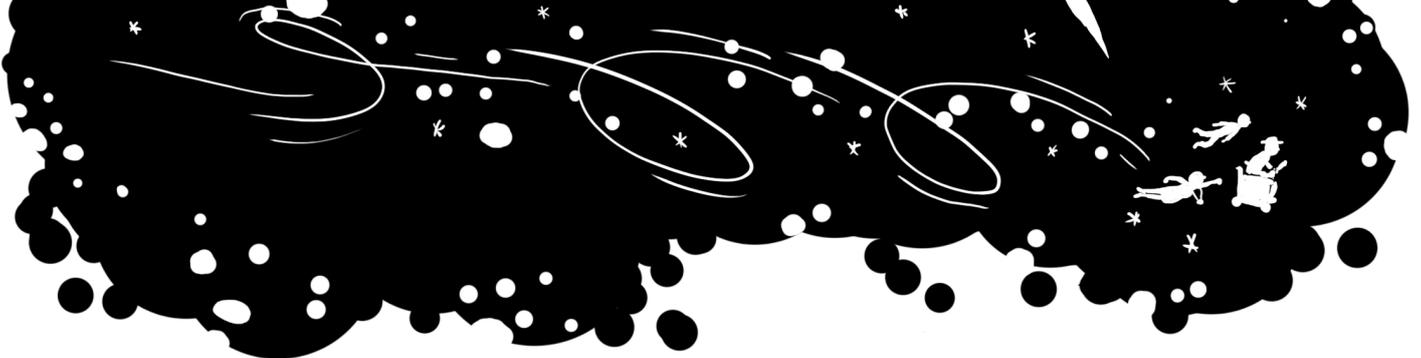
But how come? It's like the Social Model of Disability has finally been understood and accepted.

Exactly.



So it's because of the wider acceptance of the Social Model that all this has happened? Amazing!

Come on, let's take you back to your time -



-Friends, I've seen the future, and we can make this happen!

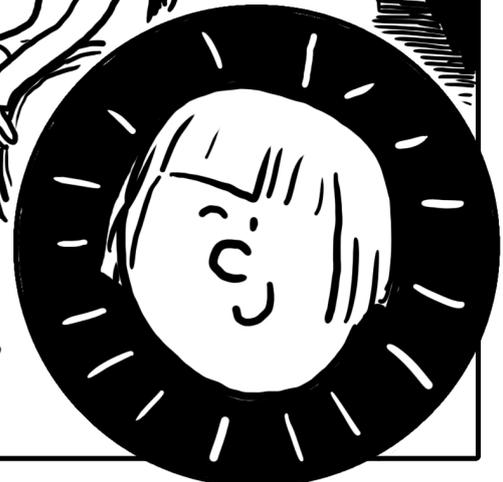
We need to spread the word somehow, and help everyone understand the Social Model of Disability.



Yeah, but how?

How about making a comic about it?...

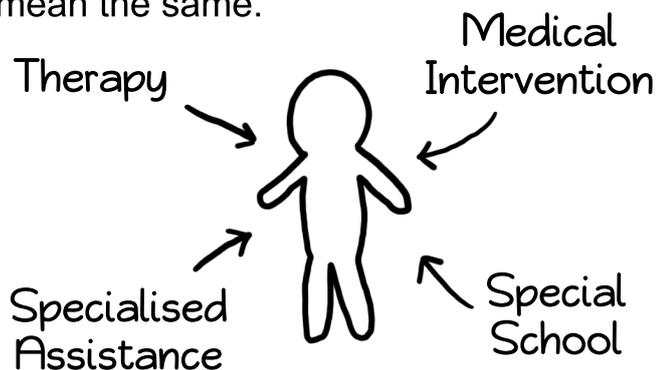
You already did!



Disabled people have been discussing what it means to be a disabled person since the 1970s. We have developed a tool to help people understand our experience, called the **Social Model of Disability**.

Many people including doctors, other professionals and members of the public think of disabled people in a different way. We call this the *Individual*, or *Medical Model*.

The **Individual Model** says we are disabled people because we have impairments. An impairment is when part of a person's body or mind does not work, is missing, or works differently to how society expects. Here 'impairment' and 'disability' mean the same.



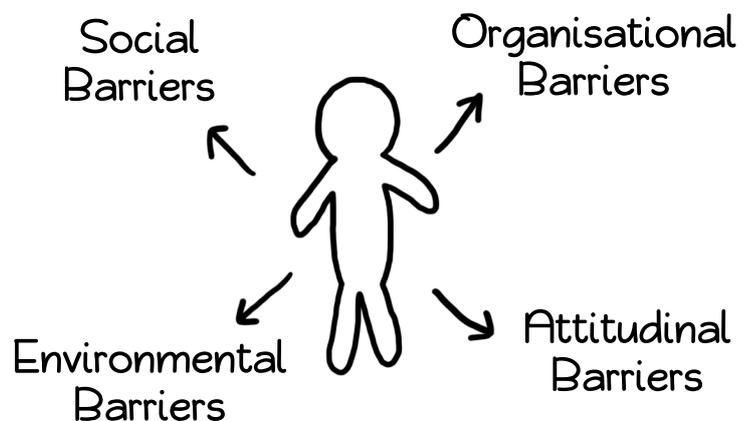
The Individual Model focuses on changing the disabled person so we fit in with what society expects. For example: Trying to make people hear or see with operations; giving people drugs to make their minds work in a way which is thought to be more acceptable.

The **Social Model** explains the real experience of disabled people. It says that we (people who have impairments) are disabled people because we face barriers, discrimination, prejudice and fewer opportunities in society.

Here, the words impairment and disability are not the same;

'Impairment' is when part of a person's body or mind does not work, is missing, or works differently to what society expects.

'Disability' is the word for the barriers, discrimination and prejudice disabled people face.



It is disability which makes us disabled people - not our impairments. The Social Model focuses on the barriers disabled people face, so everyone can work towards removing these.

This comic has been produced by a group of young disabled people involved in GMCDP's Manchester Disabled People's Project (funded by Manchester City Council) and Shaping Our Inclusion project (funded by the Big Lottery).

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- Do you feel that you experience barriers in everyday life?
- Do you feel that there is still some discrimination and prejudice towards disabled people?
- Do you want to do something to change this?

**Or...**

- Do you need information?
- Would you like assistance with getting support you need?
- Do you want to find out about campaigning for rights?

GMCDP is an organisation of disabled people which is here to support disabled people. We may not have all the answers - but we should know someone who has! So please, do get in contact with us.

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