

## Meeting Notes: Accessibility Subgroup for SUP Hub Initiative - 22 May 2024

**Date:** 22 May 2024

**Attendees:** Annagail Leaman, Michelle Brown, Abi Coulborn, Katie Smith

### Overview

The accessibility subgroup convened to review and discuss key accessibility issues related to the SUP Hub initiative on the English Riviera. The discussion extended beyond physical accessibility to encompass elderly and youth.

### Website Accessibility

- **Current Issues:** The English Riviera website is not sufficiently accessible, particularly when accessed via mobile devices.
- **Action Item:** Identify strategies to enhance the website's accessibility for SUP enthusiasts, holidaymakers, and sub-users.

### Disabled Adult Services

- **Accessibility Gaps:** Disabled adults currently face challenges accessing SUP services.
- **Potential Solutions:** Consideration of para SUP championships and addressing the presence and support for para suppers.

### Funding Opportunities

- **Sources:** Exploration of potential funding from:
  - Public health initiatives via Active Devon
  - Older people funding through Age UK or similar bodies
  - Businesses like Reach Outdoors may be interested in expanding their services to include more accessible options.
- **Benchmark Examples:** Torquay Water Sports' integration with Wet Wheels serves as a successful model for inclusive services.

### Leadership and Advocacy

- **Role Models:** Councillor Steve Darling, who kayaks despite his visual impairment, was suggested as a potential hero and advocate in promoting accessible water sports.
- **Practical Measures:** Implementation of accessible starting cues, such as visual countdowns using hand signals instead of audio cues alone.

### Actions and Next Steps

1. **Website Review:** Assign a team to audit and propose improvements for the English Riviera website's mobile accessibility.
2. **Funding Research:** Investigate and apply for public health and older people funding opportunities.

3. **Service Expansion:** Engage with businesses and service providers about extending their offerings to include accessible options.
4. **Promotion and Advocacy:** Approach Councillor Steve Darling to potentially act as an advocate for the initiative.
5. **Implement Practical Accessibility Measures:** Develop and test visual cue systems for SUP events and activities.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 18 June 2024, in the evening to accommodate members who were unable to attend daytime sessions. Further details regarding the time and venue will be communicated closer to the date. Your prompt availability and attendance will be greatly appreciated as we continue to advance the accessibility initiatives for the SUP Hub.