

Peter Jones and Sam Williams working on the 'Accessible Information Project' report on the development of a new easy read health care information website.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities refers to "the importance of accessibility to [...] health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms". With this in mind, Learning Disability Wales has been working in partnership on a project to develop a new website aimed at providing people with learning disabilities and their families with better access to easy read healthcare information.

Website

The website is called **Easy Health Wales** www.easyhealthwales.org.uk and was launched on 18 October 2011 at the Learning Disability Wales annual conference in Swansea. It is still under construction at present as the Accessible Information Officers, Gwyn Owen and Sam Williams, need time to upload all the documents and materials that they have collected over the past few months.

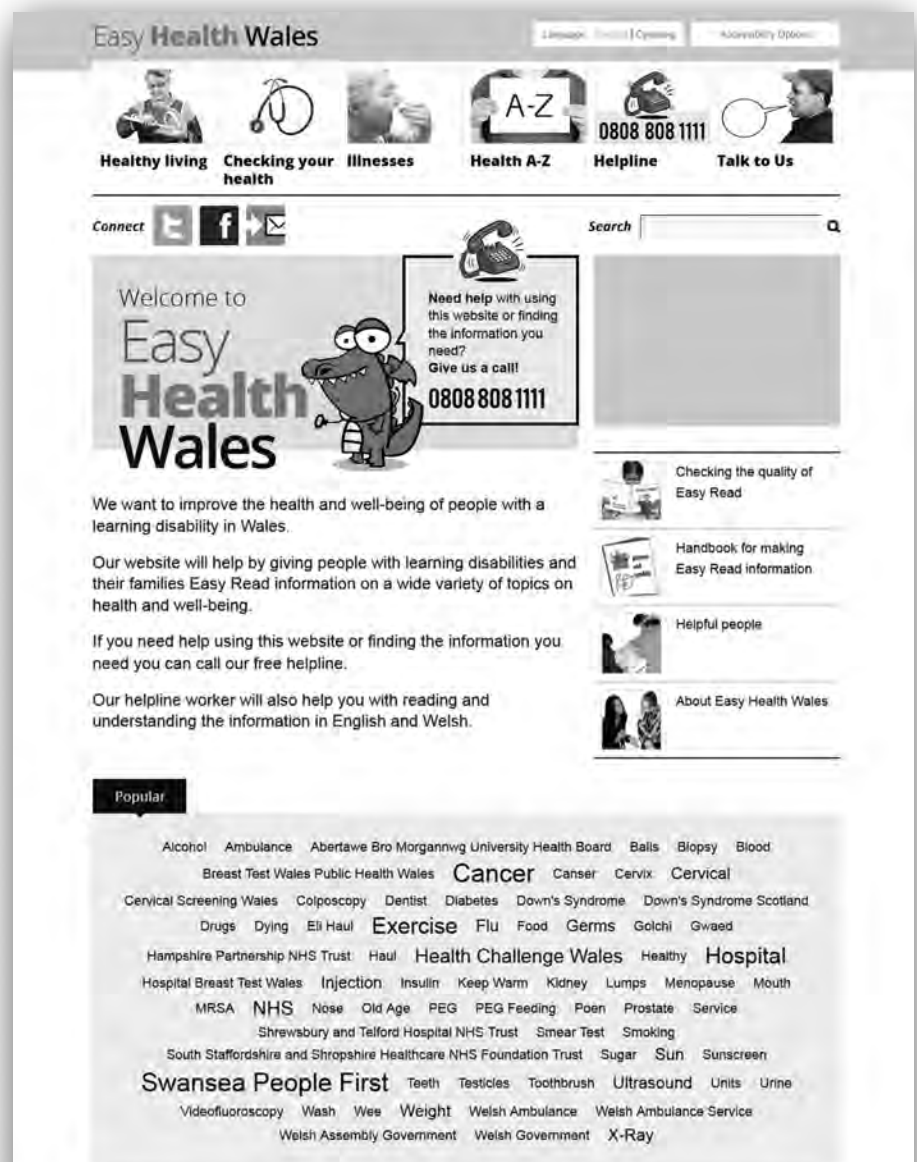
If you are looking for accessible

information about illnesses, healthy living or checking your health then log on to the website. The home page has been designed to make it easy to find the information you are looking for including an A to Z of

illnesses as well as a standard search facility. There are also video clips to help people understand the text. The website is bilingual so you can log on to the Welsh or English version to find the information you need.



www.easyhealthwales.org.uk



Llais



Sam Williams

The web design company chosen to build the website is CDSM. They have an excellent track record in building accessible websites and consulting with people with a learning disability throughout the design process. The two Accessible Information Officers will use a specially designed accessible content management system to update and maintain the website.

Marketing the website as widely as possible will be a priority for the team over the coming months. If you have any easy read health information that you think could be added to the site, please contact **Gwyn Owen on 029 2068 1175**

gwyn.owen@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk or **Samantha Williams on 029 2068 1164**
samanthawilliams@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk.

Helpline

A dedicated helpline worker, Eluned Jones, has been employed by Mencap Cymru to provide support in finding and understanding documents about



Gwyn Owen

health in both English and Welsh. **The helpline number is 0808 808 1111.** If you or someone you support is finding it difficult to find the information you need or you are struggling to understand the information, please give Eluned a call and she will do her best to help you. Learning Disability Wales is also working with Anne Collis from Social Interface to produce an evaluation tool to assess the quality of accessible information. The final tool should be available by the end of December 2011. The other project partners, All Wales People First and the All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers, are in the process of recruiting a pool of evaluators, six people with a learning disability and six parents/carers, to receive training on how to use the tool in January 2012. Once trained these people will evaluate a selection of documents by March 2012.

Project Legacy

The work is being funded by the Welsh Government. Gwenda



Eluned Jones

Thomas, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, made it clear at the start of the project that there needs to be a project legacy. Equipping organisations across Wales with guidance on how to produce easy read materials in the form of a handbook will be part of this legacy. The handbook will be as generic as possible so that it can be applied to all topics and used by organisations with different capacities and staffing capabilities. As part of the proposed marketing campaign, flyers and 1000 CD-ROMs will be produced. We know that many organisations across Wales, including health services, banks and government departments, need to improve the way they communicate with people with learning disabilities. The new accessible information handbook will help these services to achieve this.

*Peter Jones and Sam Williams
Accessible Information Project*

