

## Accessibility statement

Our website accessibility policy, and how to report problems or request information in another format.

This accessibility statement applies to the <https://fosteringwestsussex.org.uk/> website.

This website is run by West Sussex County Council. We want as many people as possible to be able to use it. For example, this means you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts
- zoom in up to 300 per cent without the text spilling off the screen
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver).

We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.

In order to further enhance the website and comply with A11Y we have also added a plugin to the website to enable users to have access to a number of accessibility tools. This enables them to alter the display of the website so it is suitable for their needs.

[AbilityNet](#) has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

### How accessible this website is

We know some parts of this website aren't fully accessible as:

- some of our documents aren't yet fully accessible to screen readers
- the GovDelivery sign-up modal (a pop-up element that still keeps the main window visible) spills off screen at 300 per cent zoom.

### Feedback and contact information

If you need information on this website in a different format, such as accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille use the form below to contact us.

We'll consider your request and get back to you in ten working days.

### Reporting accessibility problems with this website

We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, use this form to contact us:

[Website accessibility contact form](#)

If you wish to make a formal complaint, please complete our [complaints form](#).

## Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the ‘accessibility regulations’). If you have made a complaint and you’re not happy with our response, please [contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service \(EASS\)](#).

## Technical information about this website’s accessibility

West Sussex County Council is committed to making this website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

## Compliance status

This website is partially compliant with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) version 2.1 AA standard](#) due to the non-compliances and exemptions listed below.

## Non-accessible content

### Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons.

- Some images do not have suitable descriptions. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.1.1 (Non-text content).
- Links in our body content do not maintain an underline when a user hovers over them. This fails WCAG 1.4.1 (Use of colour)
- There is an empty element in the templates of our campaign landing page, news landing page, directories search, subsite landing page, forms pages and A to Z pages. This fails WCAG (1.3.1 Info and relationships)
- When loading images from an image gallery in modal, the keyboard focus doesn't pass. This fails 2.4.7 (Focus visible).
- There is no text on Previous/Next pagination buttons on some results and guide pages to make users aware of new content. This fails WCAG 2.4.4 (Link purpose – in context).
- Maps used on our directory pages are set as aria-hidden by default, but in some circumstances can still receive focus. This fails WCAG 4.1.2 (Name, role, value).
- Widgets we use to embed Twitter/Facebook feeds and Google Maps don't always load with their iframe title attribute. This fails WCAG 4.1.2 (Iframe is missing a title).

- Table column and row headers automatically display the <b> (Bold) emphasis tag rather than <strong> on mobile devices or small screens, which most screen readers do not announce. This fails WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships).
- Our content management system automatically adds a border attribute to some tables. This fails WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships).
- Some third-party widgets we embed, such as Facebook/Twitter feeds, videos and Google Maps include HTML to format content. This includes deprecated (outdated) 'frameborder' and 'bgcolor' attributes. This fails WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships).
- Our suggested search options function uses the attribute aria-live="assertive" but should also include aria-atomic="true". This fails WCAG 3.3.1 (Error identification).
- Some lengthy search filter options on our job search pages cause a small amount of horizontal scrolling on small screen devices. This fails WCAG 1.4.10 (Reflow).
- Content section tabs on some 'campaign' pages, and logos and clickable image banners on our 'subsite' templates, aren't sufficiently highlighted on focus. This fails WCAG 2.4.7 (Focus visible)
- The required field error message for the GovDelivery sign-up modal does not operate correctly for screen readers. This fails WCAG 3.3.3 (Error suggestion)
- There is a contrast issue with the number of search results on our job search page. This fails WCAG 1.4.3 (Contrast – minimum)
- Some links on our job search page have the same text but point to different pages. This fails WCAG 2.4.9 (Link purpose - link only)
- There are some select elements on the job search application page which do not have accessible labels. This fails WCAG 4.1.2 (Name, Role, Value)
- There are contrast issues with some elements on our job search application page. This fails WCAG 1.4.3 (Contrast - minimum)
- In content implemented using markup languages, elements may not analyse a string or text into logical syntactic components correctly. This fails WCAG 4.1.1 (Parsing). It includes:
  - active link phone numbers which include a space
  - text within the tags on iframes used to embed Google Maps
- Although we are not required to make online maps accessible:
  - there are data tables and areas with incorrect HTML coding markup, and use of deprecated markup such as <b> tags and use of HTML to format content – WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships)
  - some map areas and features are mouse-dependent rather than keyboard-enabled – WCAG 2.1.1 (Keyboard)

- some maps use images (for example, for tiles and markers), for which we are unable to set an alt attribute (including to mark as decorative) – 1.1.1 (Non-text content)
- on some maps an anchor link exists but does not refer to a location the page – WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships)
- some links on maps have no link text – WCAG 2.4.4 (Link purpose – in context)
- document language is missing or incorrect – WCAG 3.1.1 (Language of page)
- some form controls are missing text and/or input fields have no description – WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships)
- some headings are missing text – WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships)
- aria groups roles are used but are missing a name – WCAG 1.3.1 (Info and relationships)
- some forms are missing a submit button – WCAG 3.2.2 (On input)
- some elements have contrast issues - WCAG 1.4.3 (Contrast – minimum)

## PDFs and non-HTML documents

- Some of our PDFs and MS Office documents don't meet accessibility standards – for example, they may not be structured so they're accessible to a screen reader. This fails WCAG 4.1.2 (Name, role, value).
- Some of our resource documents, such as posters, are designed to be downloaded and printed, so these may not be fully accessible.
- Some documents that are essential to providing our services, such as forms published as Word documents, may not yet be accessible.
- Some of the documents we link to are owned by third parties and may not be accessible.

Accessibility regulations don't require us to fix PDFs or other documents that we own and published before 23 September 2018 unless they're essential to providing our services. If you need information in another format, please [use our form to contact us](#).

## Third-party systems

Some of the systems found on the Gov.uk website are supplied by third parties and have their own statements:

- [Family Information Service website](#)
- [Freedom of Information website](#)
- [GovService forms](#)
- [Modern.Gov](#)

- [Online Planning Register](#)
- [West Sussex Library Catalogue \(Arena\)](#)

Although these sites may use our footer template, each is covered by their supplier's accessibility statement rather than WSCC's.

We have also created several interactive reports using Microsoft Power BI. This includes those on [West Sussex Life](#). These are not fully accessible, but we have made them as accessible as we can. If you need information from any of the reports, please [use our form to contact us](#).

## Disproportionate burden

### Forms

The form locator on our contact page has been created using accessible (A11Y) elements and ARIA links.

For more information on accessibility of forms, please see:

<https://academy.bricksbuilder.io/article/accessibility/>

## Content that is not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

We are not required to:

- make documents published before 23 September 2018 accessible, unless users need them to access a service
- add captions to videos published before 23 September 2020
- make reproductions of heritage documents accessible
- make online maps accessible
- add transcripts to audio files published before 23 September 2020.

## What we're doing to improve accessibility

We're working to resolve all identified accessibility issues which are within our control. Our services are also working with suppliers to resolve any identified accessibility issues where we do not have direct control over their product.

In order to further enhance the website and comply with A11Y we have also added a plugin to the website to enable users to alter it so it is suitable for their viewing. We are also using ARIA labels and keyboard navigation where possible.

## Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 7th December 2022. It was last reviewed on 7th December 2022.