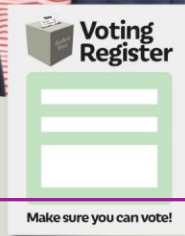


Disability Devolution

What are the Mayoral Candidates saying they'll do to make life better for Disabled people in the North East?



Kim McGuinness

Labour Candidate

Representation of Disabled People:

Acknowledges the high rates of declared disability in the region and the under-representation of disabled people in elected politics. The approach to addressing this is through integrating disability considerations across all policy areas and ensuring proactive engagement with disabled communities.

Disability Equality Policy Adviser:

There is a proposal for hiring a senior disability equality policy adviser to ensure strategic and social model approaches to disability are integrated across the region. The discussion covers whether this role should be full-time and how it would fit into the broader policy framework.

Leadership and Funding for Inclusion Projects:

Discusses leading by example in implementing an equality, diversity, and inclusion strategy that integrates disabled voices from the design stage of policies and projects, including directing funding towards community and inclusion projects.

Addressing the Disability Pay Gap:

There is a commitment to addressing the disability pay gap, which remains significantly high. The candidate suggests actions like reporting on the pay gap and challenging organisations to adopt more inclusive practices.

Improving Employment Opportunities for Disabled Individuals:

The conversation shifts to enhancing employment opportunities for disabled people by asking the community about barriers to employment and designing inclusive educational and employment pathways.

Transport Accessibility:

Discusses the need for more accessible public transport options, including addressing the availability of wheelchair-accessible taxis and ensuring that transport services are inclusive of all needs.

Climate Resilience and Disability Inclusion:

Rejects the notion that environmental initiatives cannot co-exist with disability inclusion, advocating for integrated approaches that consider both accessibility and environmental sustainability in urban planning and public infrastructure.

Throughout the dialogue, there is an emphasis on a collaborative approach, listening to and incorporating feedback from disabled communities into policy-making, and ensuring that disability inclusion is a core aspect of all regional development initiatives.