

The Equality and Human Rights Commission Disability Committee published its strategic priorities on 30 September 2009, setting out how it will use its powers and responsibilities to tackle some of the major issues faced by disabled people.

The strategy is working towards the Committee's vision of creating a society where disabled people participate fully and contribute to society as equal citizens.

The work plan tackles legislative developments, including how the Equality Bill will affect disabled people and how to put into practice the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

It will also deal with other key issues for disabled people. These include employment and skills; choice in public services; goods, facilities and services; safety and security; and empowering those who are 'hard to reach'.

In order to achieve these priorities, the Committee will initiate a series of projects, act as a source of expert advice for all of the Commission's work, and consider how to use the Commission's regulatory powers to get results.

The Committee's membership of disabled people ensures that the rights of disabled people are part of everything it does and every decision it takes. Its wide-ranging powers were set out in the Equality Act 2006 by Parliament, along with its duties to promote equality, human rights and good relations in respect of 'disability matters'.

Alun Davies, who chairs the Disability Committee, said: "Significant progress has been made with disability rights in the past 15 years, but deep inequality persists for considerable numbers of disabled people. We've set out our plans for the coming year that will tackle

these issues head on. We'll be working closely with other organisations to meet these objectives."

In a longer statement to all key disability stakeholders issued with the work plan Trevor Phillips, chair of the Commission, said: "It demonstrates clearly how the Disability Committee is continuing its important work of promoting and working towards disability equality, in the heart of the Commission as a whole and with its full support."