**Programme Information**

**Access for All**

**Friday 5 September**, **10am-4pm - Wakefield Museum**

This first workshop, led by Jane Cooper from [Access & Inclusion UK](https://accessandinclusion.com/) is designed to improve your confidence, skills and knowledge in welcoming disabled people to your museum. By the end of the workshop, you will have:

* Learned about accessibility, the Equality Act and the barriers faced by disabled people
* Considered potential barriers and opportunities for disabled visitors
* Explored practical tips to support inclusive experience and effective ways to provide assistance during a visit
* Improved their skills, knowledge and confidence in providing good customer service for disabled visitors
* Identified some practical next steps to support their learning and improve the offering for disabled visitors at their own museums
* Visited Wakefield Museum and discovered why they were nominated for the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Award – Best Accessible Museum, 2024

**Welcoming Families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

**Tuesday 30 September, 10am – 12.30pm** **online**

Do you want to make your museum more welcoming to families with additional needs, but need some guidance about how to do this? By the end of the session with Sam Bowen, you will:

* Understand the barriers special needs families face when visiting museums
* Explore examples of best practice in museums for welcoming families with additional needs
* Share top tips for how to start and embed work in your organisation.

**Autism Awareness Training**

**Monday 20 October, 10am - 12 noon online**

This online session is led by Emily Elsworth, who has lived experience of autism. Emily has worked in museums, developing events and facilities for autistic visitors and now provides mentoring. This training will cover:

• What Autism Is

• Myths and Misconceptions

• Barriers faced by autistic visitors

• Suggested ways to break down those barriers

**Enhancing your Museum Offer**

**Tuesday 4 November, 10am-4pm** - **Experience Barnsley**

Barnsley Museums have twice been awarded the Best Accessible UK Museum Award by Kids in Museums and have been nominated again in 2025! This interactive and practical day includes hands-on activities and a walk and talk through the galleries.  By the end of the day, you will have practiced how to make a visual story and planned your own sensory backpack.

**Visual Awareness Training**

**Monday 8 December, 10am – 1pm** **online**

Join Kirin Saeed and Roz Chalmers, MBE, to learn about the needs of blind and visually impaired visitors.  The session will focus on how museums can provide a more equitable service.  We will also learn more about audio description and practice some techniques.

**Sensory Journey Storytelling**

**Monday 12 January,** **10am – 1pm** **online**

How can museums create simple sensory engagement that benefits all audiences? Join Leslie Palanker, Learning Co-ordinator at Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort & South Shields Museum and Art Gallery to find out more. This will be a really hands-on session! Participants will be involved in an online storytelling session, use a work of art to create a soundscape and create a poem using techniques developed through the session. Come along with a sense of adventure!

**Consultation and Best Practice**

**Tuesday 10 February, 10am – 12.30pm online**

Find out how museums across the North have improved their services for, and in consultation with, disabled visitors.

**Access Policy and Plans**

**March date TBC, online**

Join MD North to learn more about the requirements for an Access Policy and Plan in Museum Accreditation.   Everyone will have the chance to ask questions, and advice will be provided on how to make both policy and plan Accreditation ready!