Changing Places Toilets on Campus

What will we do:

1. To mandate the Students’ Association to lobby the University to build upon existing accessibility infrastructure by updating and expanding the provision of Changing Places toilets on campus
2. To push for all existing partial (incomplete) Changing Places toilets (George Square and King’s Buildings campuses) to be brought up to standard before the end of the 2018/19 academic year
3. To push for all University of Edinburgh campuses (George Square, King’s Buildings, Edinburgh College of Art, Holyrood, Easter Bush, Little France) to have at least one fully operational Changing Places toilet for the beginning of the 2019/20 academic year
4. To push for the provision of a further Changing Places toilet in plans for the new Student Centre
5. To put the University of Edinburgh ‘on the map’ for accessibility standards by making Changing Places toilets open to the public, via the Changing Places national register (see: http://changingplaces.uktoiletmap.org/), and to increase awareness of the University’s accessibility services through, for instance, literature materials given to staff, students and visitors, and the promotion of the ‘AccessAble – UoE’ app.

Background to this:

1. According to DisabledGo, Changing Places require:
   a. The right equipment: a height-adjustable adult sized changing bench; a tracking hoist system, or mobile hoist if this is not possible
   b. Enough space: adequate space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two carers; a centrally placed toilet with room either side for the carers; a screen or curtain to allow the disabled person and carer some privacy
   c. A safe and clean environment: wide tear-off paper roll to cover the bench; a large waste bin for disposable pads; a non-slip floor
   d. Further information can be found here: http://www.changing-places.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=YEDKVYyX8TE%3d&tabid=81
2. UK Government data shows that people with disabilities are half as likely to obtain higher education level qualifications as the rest of the population
3. Poor campus accessibility for people with disabilities makes the University of Edinburgh a hostile environment for potential staff, students and visitors, and closes the University community off from diversity of thought and experience
4. The current state of accessibility services means people with more severe mobility requirements are disproportionately disadvantaged, as people with profound and
multiple learning disabilities as well as other disabilities which severely limit mobility cannot use standard accessible toilets. As outlined on the Changing Places campaign website: ‘Standard accessible toilets (or "disabled toilets") do not provide changing benches or hoists and most are too small to accommodate more than one person. Without Changing Places toilets, the person with disabilities is put at risk, and families are forced to risk their own health and safety by changing their loved one on a toilet floor.’

5. There is clear commitment from the University to prioritise accessibility, for instance with the dedicated Disability Access and Equality Manager at the Estates Service, and the app ‘AccessAble – UoE’ set-up in conjunction with DisabledGo

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. Toilet provision is an often-overlooked aspect of accessibility
2. No potential students, staff, or visitors should be physically excluded from the University of Edinburgh
3. All people have the right to live independently, freely and safely in the community, and the ability to access facilities partly constitutes that right
4. There are not enough Changing Places toilets across the country or in the City of Edinburgh, and the University of Edinburgh should be striving to set an example by properly supporting the disabled community.

Motion submitted with 20 student signatures.