

Motion HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER SCHEME & LANYARD

A hidden disability is a disability that may not be immediately obvious. Hidden disabilities don't have physical signs and include learning difficulties, mental health as well as mobility, speech, visual or hearing impairments. They can also include asthma, COPD, and other lung conditions as well as chronic illnesses such as renal failure, diabetes, and sleep disorders when those diseases significantly impact day-to-day life.

Living with these conditions can make daily life more demanding for many people. They affect each person in different ways and can be painful, exhausting, and isolating. Without visible evidence of the hidden disability, it is frequently difficult for others to acknowledge the challenges faced and as a consequence, sympathy and understanding can often be in short supply.

I bring this Motion to the Council as someone who has been aware of the Sunflower Lanyard scheme for a number of years since its inception. It may not be known to all members but I have had a hidden disability myself from the age of 7.

This Council believes in disability equality and will accordingly commit to:

- Officially recognise the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower and will promote what it stands for and its importance in breaking stigma.
- Help promote the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower to local businesses and encourage them to formally look at recognising it
- Ensure that the Council offices are Hidden Disability friendly and promote the Sunflower on its buildings so people can identify the Council as Hidden Disability friendly
- Provide appropriate training to all staff and councillors to understand the scheme and the impact of hidden disabilities
- Actively promote and encourage local City, Town and Parish Councils to recognise the scheme

Cllr Alan Sutton

Acknowledgement is made to members of Arun District Council & the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme for content.