

28. Neurodiversity

Inclusive design should aim to cater for neurodiversity of people and their sensory processing differences. Following all the checklists should enable neurodiversity to be considered throughout an audit. This specific checklist highlights some key issues to be aware of.

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| 28.1 | Is there an opportunity for people to obtain information prior to visiting?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there preview guides showing routes to the premises from transport links and key features?• Are there walk-through videos or plans available on a website?• Are audible guides available as well as visual?• Do publicity leaflets and invitation/appointment letters say where people can obtain information about the premises, transport, car parking, etc?• If there are likely to be busy times, is this information given on websites and publicity material?• Is it possible to arrange to be met on arrival? Or contact a staff member in advance? | [] |
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| 28.2 | Are facilities and access routes in the external environment easy to understand and use? For instance, do they avoid confusion such as:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'colourful crossings' featuring art installations• routes without defined pedestrian paths/priority• bus stop 'islands' intersected by cycle routes? | [] |
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| 28.3 | Are approach routes wide enough for the flow of pedestrians? | [] |
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| 28.4 | Are approach routes separate from traffic and cycles? | [] |
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| 28.5 | If the approach is via a large public space, are there areas of green space? | [] |
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| 28.6 | Are there quiet seating areas set back from pedestrian routes? | [] |
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| 28.7 | Is the level of lighting sufficient, without areas of low light or areas of glare? | [] |
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| 28.8 | Does the building design ensure that metal surfaces people may touch do not become hot enough to burn? | [] |
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28.9	Is the route to the entrance obvious from approach routes with clear sight lines?	[]
28.10	Can entrance(s) easily be identified? • Does the entrance appear welcoming without features which may cause sensory overload, such as clutter or glare from reflective materials?	[]
28.11	Does glazing at the entrance provide an opportunity to preview the space inside before entering?	[]
28.12	Is the entrance door easy to operate and open?	[]
28.13	Is there a transition of light to mediate between extreme light level changes, such as external and internal levels?	[]
28.14	Is the reception desk obvious from the point of entry?	[]
28.15	If the reception area is a large space, or very busy, is there an adjacent quiet space?	[]
28.16	Does the reception appear welcoming, without features which may cause sensory overload, such as clutter or excessive signage?	[]
28.17	Is wayfinding information provided in more than one format; for example, visual, audible, tactile?	[]
28.18	Are direction and information signs clear, consistent and repeated at regular intervals?	[]
28.19	Does the building layout provide distinctive wayfinding features or landmarks?	[]
28.20	Is visual contrast used effectively without causing stark changes between floor surfaces, which may present as a barrier, gap or hole?	[]
28.21	Do floor and wall surfaces avoid overtly distracting patterns?	[]

28.22	Are calming, muted colours used for large surface areas?	[]
28.23	Is colour-coding of routes used consistently and sensitively to avoid overstimulation caused by excessive use of different colours?	[]
28.24	Is colour-coding of routes supported by other features, such as using symbols, as colour alone does not cater for everyone?	[]
28.25	Does the design layout avoid long, narrow corridors or, where necessary, are these broken up using windows on side walls, intersections and recessed areas for rest/retreat?	[]
28.26	Do large open-plan areas have adjacent spaces where a person can pause to view the area before entering?	[]
28.27	In large areas of seating, such as waiting areas, is there a choice with some seats in smaller groups?	[]
28.28	Is noise ingress from busy or noisy areas controlled?	[]
28.29	Are odours from areas such as canteens controlled?	[]
28.30	Is the use of scented air fresheners avoided?	[]
28.31	In areas where people may spend time, are there windows providing views of nature/green spaces? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there blinds to control glare or block distracting views? • Are windows double- or triple-glazed where needed to prevent the intrusion of noise from outside, e.g. traffic? 	[]
28.32	In workspaces, is there flexibility in the choice of desk location? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If hot-desking is used, can an employee request a particular location? 	[]

Quiet rooms

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| 28.33 | Are quiet rooms available in workplaces? | [] |
| 28.34 | Are quiet rooms available for visitors who may need a quiet, restorative break? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there both quiet rooms that can be used alone and quiet shared environments so that individual use is kept for those requiring this? | [] |
| 28.35 | Is there a management policy for the use of quiet rooms; for instance, so they are not used as meeting rooms? | [] |
| 28.36 | Do quiet rooms provide a calming environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">- with muted colour schemes- natural textures- controllable lighting- free of odour- free of background noise? | [] |
| 28.37 | Is there flexible use of room furniture with rounded edges to prevent injury? | [] |
| 28.38 | Is there a choice of seating, including floor cushions and some seats which allow movement, such as rocker-style chairs? | [] |
| 28.39 | Is there a window with a view of nature? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can blinds or curtains be closed? | [] |
| 28.40 | Can a user control the temperature; for instance, by opening a window (for ground-floor rooms), using a fan, or a blanket if cold? | [] |
| 28.41 | Is there storage for items such as blankets, and fidget items to assist with sensory stimulation to de-stress or reduce anxiety? | [] |
| 28.42 | Is there an engaged sign to indicate when the room is in use? | [] |
| 28.43 | Where quiet rooms are used by visitors, is there a staffed area nearby? | [] |

Management

28.44 Has management considered options such as:

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- Do supermarkets provide quiet times for shoppers who need this?
- Do theatres and cinemas offer relaxed performances?
- Do museums, galleries and other visitor attractions offer tours at quiet times?
- Do transport facilities offer familiarity visits for people not used to public transport?

General observations:
