

# Benefits of...



## Twitter

**Twitter** provides a free platform for sharing information and engaging in conversation in no more than 140 characters. Many people now think of Twitter as a news source rather than a social network, using it for networking and discussions based on their own interests.

### ■ 1. **Keep in touch with friends**

Twitter allows you to send a 140 character message. People who use Easy Read might prefer Twitter as the messages are brief and straight to the point.

### ■ 2. **Follow interests**

You can follow anyone of interest, friends, celebrities, organisations, TV programmes, sport teams etc. Tweets allow you to receive news/information in real time.

### ■ 3. **Equality**

Twitter does away with the eye to eye contact element of a conversation. You join conversations without judgment or prejudice.

### ■ 4. **Sharing experience**

Through Twitter you can network and make contact with other disabled people, and share experiences and information. It can become a wide support network, thus breaking isolation.

### ■ 5. **Campaigning**

Without social networks, most of the current disability campaigns would not be happening. Even physical protests are being organised, at least in part, through these platforms. Twitter allows you to send out information widely and quickly.

## ■ 6. Follow events

It might be difficult for you to physically attend an event/conference/protest due to illness. Twitter allows you to follow their updates, which might not be as rewarding as attending and meeting people, but it is a great way to be kept informed.

## ■ 7. Hashtags

You can keep update with events by following a 'hashtag'. This is label that people use to help identify messages to a specific topic. For example, #accessibility, #rights, #welfarereform. When you click on a specific hashtag Twitter shows you all the other people that are posting about that topic. Of course, you can also use the search box to search for words as well.