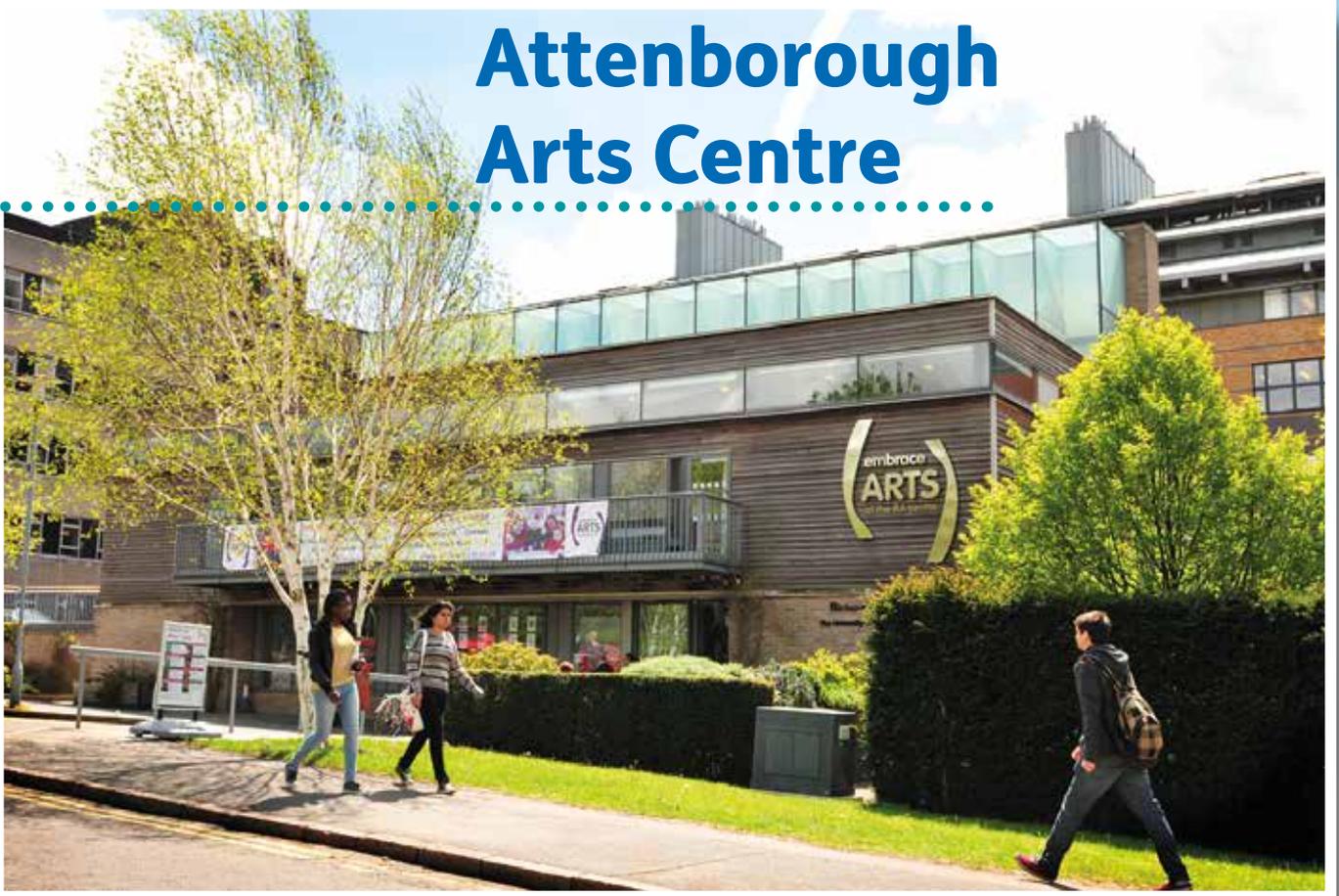




# Changing Places

## case study

### Attenborough Arts Centre



#### Background

The University of Leicester's Attenborough Arts Centre is a pioneering arts centre designed to include everyone. It offers courses, workshops, contemporary art, performance, dance and live music, and accessibility has always been a top priority.

Since 2012 Leicester city council has worked with disabled people and organisations to install Changing Places facilities in key locations. Attenborough Arts Centre is one of four Leicester arts and theatre venues with a Changing Places facility.

## Identifying the need

A few years ago Attenborough Arts Centre realised the existing toilet facilities were not adequate to accommodate the disabled people visiting the centre.

It was reported that some disabled people were being changed on the toilet floor.

So enquiries were made about how a Changing Places facility could be installed.

They also wanted to attract high quality disabled arts and dance companies to Leicester.

A short breaks programme and the



families they worked with helped the centre to refine the provision - from the development of the facilities to the size, design and layout of the space. The involvement of 'mosaic', a local organisation shaping disability services, secured a height adjustable changing bed. The changing Places

facility was installed in 2013. The facility is situated next to the café, by other toilets, and does not use a key system because it is in regular use throughout the day - about 30 percent of all visitors use it.

## Increase in visitors and bookings

The installation of the changing places facility resulted in an increase in visitors and groups using the centre. By 2014 the centre's audience had grown to 57,000 people, and visitors are set to rise again when a new £1.5m contemporary art gallery, opening in Autumn 2015, doubles the size of the existing building.

The Changing Place facility has attracted regular bookings from local community arts groups who would not have otherwise been able to stay for workshops or sessions. More SEND schools and NHS groups also

use the centre. The space has been most effective in supporting children and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).

The installation of this facility was also a fundamental asset in attaining a three year BBC Children in Need grant.



*'You have given us back our dignity.'*

A PARENT



More details about Leicester's Changing Places facilities:  
[leicester.gov.uk/changingplaces](http://leicester.gov.uk/changingplaces)