



Living Well North Tyneside

Supporting Health and Wellbeing

On Thursday, **15 May 2025**, we observe the **14th annual Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD)**. This day is dedicated to promoting digital access and inclusion for the more than 1.3 billion people worldwide living with disabilities or impairments. The 2025 theme, “**Committing to Change**”, emphasises the need for individuals, organisations, and communities to take actionable steps toward creating a more accessible digital world.

Understanding GAAD

GAAD was initiated in **2012** by web developer **Joe Devon** and accessibility professional **Jennison Asuncion**. Their goal was to encourage conversations and learning about digital accessibility, ensuring that digital platforms are usable by everyone, regardless of ability.

The Importance of Digital Accessibility

Digital accessibility ensures that websites, applications, and digital tools are designed and developed so that people with disabilities can use them effectively. This includes considerations for screen readers, keyboard navigation, captioning, and more. Accessible digital environments not only support inclusivity but also enhance user experience for all.

How to Participate in GAAD

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Educate Yourself and Others:** Learn about digital accessibility principles and share this knowledge within your community or organisation.
- **Evaluate Digital Platforms:** Assess your website or app for accessibility compliance using tools like the **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)**.
- **Host Workshops or Webinars:** Organise events to discuss the importance of digital inclusion and share best practices.
- **Engage on Social Media:** Use the hashtag **#GAAD** to join the global conversation and spread awareness.
- **Support Accessibility Initiatives:** Contribute to or volunteer with organisations dedicated to promoting digital accessibility.

Local Resources in North Tyneside

If you're in North Tyneside and wish to learn more or get involved:

Recite Me: Based in nearby Gateshead, Recite Me provides accessibility tools and resources to help organisations create inclusive digital experiences.

Final Thoughts

Global Accessibility Awareness Day serves as a reminder that digital inclusion is essential for a fair and equitable society. By committing to change and taking proactive steps, we can ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, has equal access to digital resources and opportunities.

Related Links

- [Global Accessibility Awareness Day Official Site](#)
- [GAAD Foundation:](#)
- [WebAIM's Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool \(WAVE\):](#)
- [Recite Me](#)

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