

October's independent living technology news

Here's what's new in the world of independent living technology this month.

Public policy, legislation and campaigns

First part of the public sector website accessibility regulations becomes law

New regulations on [the accessibility of public sector websites](#) have come into force. The regulations mean that new websites created by public sector organisations on or after 23rd September 2018 must meet accessibility standards. Older websites and apps will need be made compliant by September 2020 and June 2021 respectively.

AAATE Bologna declaration calls for better access to assistive technology

The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe has [published a declaration](#) calling for access to assistive technology to be improved as a way of realising the human rights of disabled people. The Bologna Declaration can be signed by organisations and individuals on the AAATE website.

Think tank examines social care in the age of automation

The technology-focused think-tank doteveryone has produced a report on [Better Care in the Age of Automation](#) that argues for better technology training, cultural change and improved mechanisms for the collection and use of data to enable the social care sector to harness the latest innovations.

Researchers to assess the impact of artificial intelligence on independent living

Academics at Loughborough University and the social enterprise Social Action Solutions have partnered in a new project examining the [advantages and risks of using artificial technology](#) to support disabled people to live independently.

Technological developments and innovations

Samsung develops Morse Code communication app for deafblind people

Samsung has developed a two-way communication app called [Good Vibes](#) that allows deafblind people to send and receive messages to their smartphones through Morse Code.

Headband controls electric wheelchair through thought

Researchers from the University of Kent, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Wichita State University have [created a headband](#) that enables electric wheelchair users to propel themselves using brain signals.

Five button smartphone design offers alternative handset and computer control

A British mechanical engineer has created a [gestural smart phone keyboard](#) based on five buttons built into the sides of the user's handset. Designed with amputees, hemiplegics and blind people in mind, the TypeCase system also allows users to operate a computer or another smart device using their phone.

Assistive technologist wins prestigious prize for inclusive designs

The British Land Celebration of Design Awards has given its Emerging Design Medal to an engineer whose work is dedicated to making physical environments more inclusive for

disabled people. [Ross Atkin's work](#) includes designs for accessible road signs for people with sight loss and responsive street furniture to aid disabled pedestrians.

These stories were originally published in the dispATches newsletter – a free monthly e-mail about assistive technologies that empower disabled and older people to live more independently. [Click here to sign up for dispATches.](#)