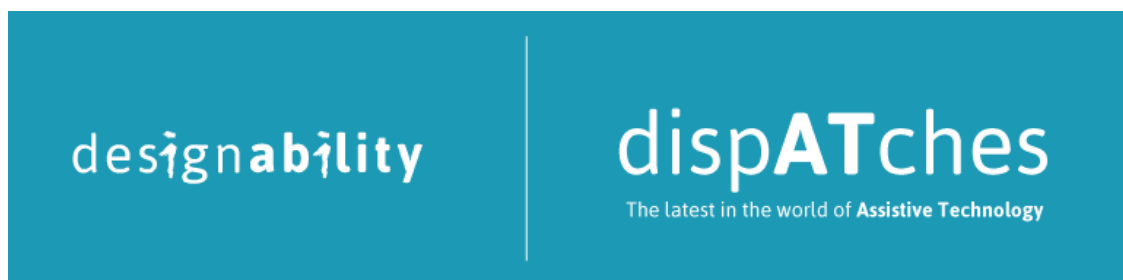


# DispATches - August 2017

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**August 2017:** Low cost telecare to reduce bed-blocking, a new app to help visually impaired interpret environments and robots supporting social care

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## Public policy, legislation and campaigns

### English councils awarded investment to improve social care services with digital technology

The Local Government Association and NHS Digital have announced the [winning proposals](#) for a joint investment programme to support councils to use digital technology to improve social care services.

### Low cost telecare shown to expedite discharges from hospitals

A series of [telecare trials](#) around the UK has found that a new mobile device can help alleviate hospital bed-blocking.

### AbilityNet rewards individuals and organisations harnessing technology to improve lives

The assistive technology consultancy service AbilityNet has named the winners from its [sixth annual Tech4Good awards](#) which recognise organisations and individuals who use digital technology to improve the lives of others.

### New app aims to assess the age friendliness of public and private spaces

The University of Stirling's Dementia Services Development Centre is [launching a collaboration](#) with construction experts Space Group to develop an app that can digitally assess the suitability of workplaces, public buildings and homes for older people and those living with dementia.

## Technological developments and innovations

### Microsoft app uses artificial intelligence to help blind and visually impaired people interpret their environment

Microsoft has released an [iPhone compatible app](#) that uses computer vision to describe the world for people who are blind



## Training & events

### [One Big Day](#)



### Saturday 12th August

#### Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate

Information about accessible cars, adaptations, scooters, powered wheelchairs and other accessible vehicles.

### [The Communication Matters Annual AAC Conference 2017](#)



### Saturday 10th -

