

MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE GUERNSEY DISABILITY ALLIANCE

In response to the publication of the Update on the Disability and Inclusion Strategy in the November 2015 Billet.

Shelaine Green, Chair of the Guernsey Disability Alliance said:

“There is a real willingness across the States and the community to make Guernsey more inclusive and supportive of people who have some form of impairment or health condition. It has led to some promising developments in the last two years, like four accessible taxis and extra care housing. But in terms of what should have happened by this point, this Update Report is a sobering reality check, full of references to lack of resources.

“The most obvious sign that all is not progressing as intended is that disability discrimination legislation has been delayed. In addition, better information about support and services is still in development and there haven't been any government awareness-raising campaigns, despite deputies' emphasis on the importance of both these areas in the 2013 States debate.

“Something very special happened in 2013 and States members are right to be proud of their unanimous support for the Disability & Inclusion Strategy that day. But the report is clear that there wasn't sufficient realism at the time about the civil service and other resources needed to make it happen. Some progress is being made but we must now look to the next States to support the Chief Executive's planned reforms and truly deliver on all that the Strategy promised.

“In the meantime, discrimination on the grounds of disability still goes unchallenged in Guernsey, disabled adults and children aren't fully included in island life, and islanders caring for family members still struggle to access the support they deserve.

“As Martin Luther King said, “A right delayed is a right denied”.”

A brief summary of the Update Report is on the GDA website here:
www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog.

The full Update Report is at www.gov.gg/billets (November 2015).

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