

Vote to #MakeItReal

“ We call on candidates for Election 2016 to prioritise the Disability Strategy and #MakeItReal for everyone affected by disability ”



In November 2013, States members unanimously voted in favour of a Disability and Inclusion Strategy.

A budget of £250,000 was agreed to complete the first set of projects by the end of 2015.

Two years later, progress is slow and only 30% of that funding has been spent...

Islanders with disabilities face barriers

We want to:

- work and pay taxes
- buy from local shops
- use local services
- take part in activities
- go to events
- be free from discrimination
- have our rights respected

But we can't because:

For many of us, barriers stand in our way. Other people's attitudes and assumptions. Lack of support and services. Difficulties navigating the system.

Guernsey has a limited population that is ageing fast. To face the future with confidence, it's vital that every single person in our community has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Disability isn't just wheelchairs and white sticks

Disability can result from any condition. Think about the people in your extended family. Does anyone have difficulty communicating? Or have a mental health condition? Or autism? Or have lung disease? Or have had a stroke?

Think too about the things that make life harder for them. Attitude and prejudice. The way that services, buildings, transport and information systems are designed.

These are things that the States has a responsibility to change.

Disability affects every family in Guernsey



- There are **13,000** people with a physical or mental condition in Guernsey.
- 4,000** of these 13,000 islanders experience significant difficulties in day to day life as a result of their impairment.
- More than **2,000** islanders provide care and support for a family member or friend.

Our island lags behind the rest of the world

99%

99% of people live in countries that have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

1%

Guernsey is in the remaining 1%, alongside Somalia and Kosovo.



How you can #MakeItReal in 2016-2020

1. Make sure disability projects are prioritised.

Overall, the Disability Strategy is about changing how Guernsey thinks about disability.

Within it are specific projects, such as:

- a. **Introducing disability discrimination legislation** - with the States leading by example and plenty of support to ensure everyone understands it.
- b. **Creating an Equality and Rights Organisation** - to promote positive attitudes and protect the rights of all groups at risk of discrimination.
- c. **Extending the UN Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Guernsey.
- d. **Developing an Information Service** to help disabled islanders and carers to navigate the system. Plus running government awareness campaigns.

2. Establish true leadership. Push for one senior politician to be responsible and accountable for delivering the Disability Strategy. Ask that person for evidence of progress. Are attitudes changing? Are more disabled people in employment? How much respite care is available?

3. Improve services that are important to disabled islanders and carers - like respite care. Hold your colleagues to account for delivering long-term strategies like 'Supported Living and Ageing Well'. But also look for practical changes that can improve people's day-to-day lives now.

4. Talk to disabled people, their families and the people who support them. Be informed. Help your parishioners overcome any difficulties accessing the support they need. Take advantage of diversity training for new deputies.



About the Guernsey Disability Alliance

The GDA is a collective voice for individual disabled islanders, their family members and more than 30 local disability charities.

Our mission is equality of opportunity for disabled islanders and carers in Guernsey.

- 1.** We campaign for greater respect for the rights and dignity of disabled islanders and carers.
- 2.** We aim to influence policy and practical change in a manner consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 3.** We engage and empower our members so that their individual voices are heard.

Go to www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/election to hear our members views.

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