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GDA Update for October

Thank you to every one who attended or watched our AGM 3rd October. You can watch the video on Facebook or YouTube and find the presentations and handouts on our new blog [here](#). Please contact us if you would like a paper copy. Thank you to our presenters from Employment & Social Security (ESS) who are the lead committee for Equality & the Disability & Inclusion Strategy Deputies Michelle Le Clerc and Emilie Yerby, and Ed Ashton, Head of Operations ESS and lead on the Disability & Inclusion Strategy. Their presentation can be followed on video or the slides in our [blog](#). The presentations outlined the prioritisation of Equality & Inclusion as a top 5 project for ESS and also Policy & Resources.

The timeline of the strategy from 2013 was shown and an update on the legislation project.

Although the challenges and proposed solutions were highlighted, it is fair to say there is still frustration about the continued delay of the flagship projects of a Disability Legislation and an Equality Rights Organisation (ERO). We actively encourage our members to feedback to ESS on the points critical to you. Ed Ashton asked for our feedback on the highlight reports, gave an update on the workstreams.

A formal welcome to our new exec members Rob Harnish and Alan Bain, Treasurer. Alan presented our finalised accounts. Fundraising remains a critical factor for the GDA, our main fundraising day is 1st December see www.matter.gg

Besides the AGM we have been extremely busy on 'Think Differently about Disability' campaign, raising awareness and changing attitudes.

Welcome to the GDA Executive

We are very pleased to welcome Alan to our team, he will be our new treasurer, and was officially appointed at the AGM. Alan hopes to bring his business knowledge & financial expertise in assisting the GDA in fulfilling its short and medium term objectives and putting something back into the Guernsey community that has been his family's home for the last 10 years. Read more [here](#). A copy of the GDA financials can be found on [website](#).



We welcome Rob Harnish to the team, Rob is the new(ish) centre manager of the Ron Short Centre bringing a wealth of experience and energy. Jackie Sholl was re-elected as secretary, we thank Jackie for her continued service.



Robin Le Prevost Chair comments on AGM

Robin stressed that much of the work we have done this year has been behind closed doors. Robin reiterated that the GDA are watchful of timelines slipping and potential corners being cut giving a less than perfect solution emerging from political pragmatism. Robin emphasised that if there are issues with the final legislation, this will give a lasting legacy. The GDA need to act now. He added how the GDA needs to improve resources for funding. Robin thanked Karen and Rob for the fantastic work they do and their commitment. Robin speech can be found on our news blog [here](#).



This month's GDA meeting, newsletter and printing is kindly sponsored by Donate, Keeping It Local. Thank you.
/Donate-Keeping-it-Local-880912118662974/

DIFERA Launch



Liberate invited Guernsey organisations to join them 29 September 2017 for their launch. DIFERA is the first accreditation in the Channel Islands to award organisations with a quality mark that demonstrates to employees (past, present and future), to clients and suppliers that your organisation places Diversity, Inclusion, Fairness, Equality, Respect and Acceptance at the heart of what you do. Guest speakers were Vic Tanner Davy from Liberate Jersey, Karen Blanchford from the GDA, Kerstin Neason from the Youth Commission and Dave Sauvarin from Northern Trust. Further information can be found [here](#).

Saffery Rotary Walk Thank You

A big thank you to Saffery Rotary Walk for our cheque and for supporting so many of our member groups. This photo shows a small selection of us: Access for All, Wigwam and Headway. In all, over 900 people raised a record £85,430. Save the date 9th June 2019. <https://www.safferyrotarywalk.com/>



Your feedback is needed:

- * Do you read the [States Disability & Inclusion Highlight reports](#)? If so how do you know about them? If not why not and how could they be improved so you would access them?
- * Have you accessed DisabledGo [website](#) to review a location for access needs? What do you think? How could it be improved?
- * Have you tried to access the [free disability awareness training](#) through Disabled Go?

Assisted Dying Debate

The GDA has been asked for its view on the debate around assisted dying. We feel this is an intensely personal matter for each individual so will not be making a collective comment. But please feel free to contact Sarah Griffith direct if you would like to share your views.

Disability Officer Update

Working and caring - Are you thinking about leaving work or do you want to know more about combining work and a caring role? For more information visit this [link](#).

Visiting the Princess Elizabeth Hospital - If you have an appointment or you are visiting someone and would like to know about accessibility please follow this link to the factual guides. [LINK?](#)

Information and awareness raising - The States of Guernsey have embraced the Dementia Friends' training with a number of trainers delivering sessions across a variety of service areas. These sessions have evaluated well and more are planned.

Autism Awareness Training has been delivered by Autism Guernsey to the States Information Technology Service. This interactive session was well received, providing practical hints and tips on becoming more inclusive. States services have nominated key individuals to attend the Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE) training to increase awareness on making States environments more accessible for customers and employees.

DisabledGo are attending the Access For All's AGM on 7 November, to provide an update on accessible guides published on DisabledGo Guernsey. You will also be invited to join DisabledGo in December when they will explain what is involved in an accessibility guide review. This will include the option of working with DisabledGo to undertake a review of small venues in Guernsey to be published on the [website](#).

Disability Awareness Training - To understand more about how to make the small changes that could help individuals feel welcome at a social event, as an employee, in a restaurant or shop please take time to look at the Disability Awareness [free online training](#). To date 1,421 people have started the training and 985 people have completed all six modules.

If you would like an update on where we are with the Disability and Inclusion Strategy or to provide feedback about www.signpost.gg please contact Caroline who is happy to attend any of your meetings. Visit [here](#). Tel: 01481 732557



Think Differently about Disability

We are encouraging the Guernsey community to get involved to raise awareness.

'Think Differently about Disability'. We want to take an active and inclusive part in



the community, to do this we need you to #MakeAChange. Maybe its access, or staff training, editing your recruitment procedure or making our web site accessible. We provide over 20 change cards at www.matter.gg. Visit YouTube to watch the videos [here](#).

UN International Day of Persons with Disability



Observance of the [International day of Persons with Disabilities \(IDPwD\)](#) day is 3rd December and aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life within our communities across the world.

Mental Health & Well-being Plan

Health and Social Care HSC have launched their new Mental Health & Well-being plan. This is the result of wide consultation led by MIND Guernsey. Please find Deputy Heidi Suslby statement [here](#). A copy of the plans objectives and priorities are [here](#)

Activities for Special Needs and Disabilities

Karen Lenormand is a registered independent activity leader with a background as a trained nurse and music teacher. She is passionate about touching people's lives through meaningful moments using pet therapy, music therapy and other well-being activities for holistic well-being. Karen.lenormand@gmail.com or tel: 07781 128 139 or read more on our blog [here](#).

Change Cards

For the past few weeks we have launched the following change card; Accessible Tourism; Disability Awareness training and Web & print accessibility



This week we launch our 'Building and Design' series in partnership with Create Chartered Architects and Surveyors.

30th October we launch our Business series.

Look out for us in Chamber of Commerce Contact magazine and Business Brief.

Check out the change cards at [here](#).

Envelope Art Competition

In the lead up to the UN Day of Disability on 3rd December we are running an art competition to design the front of our fundraising envelope.



Three envelope winners artwork will be distributed to 10,000 homes each on 28th November. One of the winning designs is specifically for school entrants.

The website has a poster and the entry form. We would welcome submissions from everyone by 31st October. Visit the website [here](#) and 'Think Differently about Disability and #MakeAChange.

Awards

The Awards are the celebration, aiming to honour and recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals, teams and organisations that have improved the lives of Guernsey and contributed to increased recognition of equality and inclusion for all the community.

Nominations are simple just email matter@gda.org.gg stating why you nominate a person, team/group or organisation for an improving inclusion in Guernsey for disabled islanders and carers and we will be in touch. Visit our [blog](#).

See and Learn Early Intervention

On Friday October 20th, the Guernsey Down Syndrome Group will be welcoming Becky Baxter to Guernsey to provide training for their parents in the See and Learn Early Intervention communication, reading and maths packs.

If anyone would like more information and possibly join us for the training day, please contact Kim Marquis @ kimmymarquis@yahoo.com (places are very limited).

<https://www.seeandlearn.org/en-gb/>

<http://www.letsougok.org/rebecca-baxter-certmrslt/4576125274>

New faces

We welcome Dominic McCarthy new Chair of Longevity ([here](#)) and Bella Farrell CEO Health Information (more details [here](#) and [Facebook](#)).

Forthcoming Events

- 16th Oct GTA Working for a Charity event
- 20th Oct [Autism Guernsey Fashion Show](#)
- 20th Oct [Guernsey Down Syndrome training](#)
- 26th Oct [Wigwam](#) Swim & Lunch Beau Séjour
- 29th Oct [Wigwam](#) Social Les Ozouets
- 31st Oct Guernsey Community Foundation [awards](#) 4.15pm

[November Macular Society Conference](#)

- 1/2nd Nov [CAE Access's training](#)
Day 1 Grand Courtil, Day 2 La Nouvelle Maritaine
- November - 4 years since the Disability & Inclusion Strategy was unanimously approved by the States
- 3rd Nov 1/2 day practical CAE Access session at Ron Short Centre, Beau Séjour, and Airport. The morning will be a

Access Training



The 2 day [Access training](#) (1&2 Nov) with the Centre of Accessible Environments is now full with a waiting list but you are welcome to register for the March session 2018.

Friday 3rd November is a practical review for anyone who has completed the CAE training in the past. At Ron Short Centre 9:30am, Beau Séjour 10:30am. The 2:30pm session at the Airport is by invitation.

Breathe - A Film at The Mallard

There will be a screening of Breathe, a film about the devastating effects of polio on 14th November. Tickets especially for GDA members available from Jannine Birtwhistle. Please email paulandjannine@me.com, or call 07781 450725 at the Rotary Club of Guernsey or visit our blog [here](#). Please let Jannine know if you have any access requirements.

Email your event dates to info@disabilityalliance.org.gg

- 3rd Nov practical session.
 - 3rd Nov Bright Tights Day [here](#)
 - 7th Nov Art competition panel - review of the submissions for the envelope design 6.30pm - 7.15pm
 - 7th Nov Access for All AGM for 7:30-9pm La Nouvelle Maritaine, Rue Maritaine, Vale, GY3 5QD including presentation from DisabledGo
 - 18th Nov [Cheshire Home Gala Dinner](#)
 - 1st Dec **Key fundraising day for Guernsey**
 - 1st Dec **Awards Ceremony**
 - 3rd Dec **UN observance - International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPwD) - [here](#)**
- <https://matter.gg/make-a-change/un-day/2018> **GDA 10th Birthday**

GDA Contacts

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