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## GDA January 2018 Update

2018 is an exciting year for the GDA. It is our 10th anniversary – a time for reflection, celebration and change, whilst evolving to ensure that we are ready to assist the community and businesses to understand and adapt to the situation ahead. Over the next few months, Rob Harnish (the manager at the Ron Short Centre) will be working alongside Karen on the Disability and Inclusion Strategy with the aim of freeing up more time to develop our future resources. We are in the process of finalising changes to the

Executive Committee and to our work-streams in order to ensure that we are fully prepared for the exciting times ahead.

It's not been a slow start to the year, we have already made good progress on a number of States projects including the ERO project, see Siriol Evans ([here](#)), an update on the Disability & Inclusion strategy & extra resources ([here](#)) and on 31st Jan a scrutiny meeting on the Disability & Inclusion Strategy will take place. More details here on the 31st Jan a scrutiny meeting on the strategy [here](#). Karen, Executive Director

## GDA 10th Anniversary in 2018

It's 10 years since the GDA was formed by Dave Purdy, Rob Platts and Shelaine Green in response to the States of Guernsey request for one point of contact on disability matters.



**Phase 1** - getting a strategy 2008 - 2013. Building momentum The first few years were spent building the more robust data, research and campaigning for the strategy.

**Phase 2** - implementing the strategy 2014 - 2018/19 - the last four years have been the most frustrating period as progress on the strategy and it's workstream we're painfully slow, especially in 2015 with the key resource not replaced and a lack of urgency & expertise for the key legislation project. The new assembly and committee (ESSC) May 2016 took some time to get up to speed but has now taken full ownership of the strategy, providing momentum, new expert resources for the legislation project and urgency for the ERO. These projects are 2 of the States

23 key priorities for this term.

**Phase 3** - monitoring the strategy and building momentum in the community and businesses.

## Discrimination Legislation Update

The GDA founder and Equality Advisor, Rob Platts has provided an update on the Legislation project. Responsibility for developing legislation to protect people against discrimination by reason of disability passed by the Committee for Employment and Social Security in May 2016. A project team had been assembled, including representatives from the GDA and the Equalities Working Group. It was recommended that Guernsey's legislation be modelled on existing legislation from elsewhere and amended to suit Guernsey. ESSC identified six possible jurisdictions upon which to base Guernsey's legislation, and have recently advised that a good response to the tender process has been received and that a decision will be made shortly. You can read it in full on our news blog [here](#).

We are seeking a new sponsor for our newsletter which is distributed to over 450 members, stakeholders and supports plus their membership, 15 hard copies are distributed to local venues by clients of adult disability services and also on our news blog, and social media. Please get in touch to find out more matter@gda.org.gg or contact Karen. We welcome your support.

YOUR  
LOGO

## Disability Officer Update

Good feedback received on Hidden Disabilities lanyard scheme launched on 1st Dec 17, at Guernsey and Alderney Airports.



The free lanyards are available from the Airport Information Desk, Health Information Guernsey, Wigwam, GDA, Guernsey Blind Association and other charities.

Two workshops have recently been held, the first on the possible scope, functions and remit of an Equality & Rights Organisation (ERO) which you can read about on this page below right. The second workshop is about promoting more positive and inclusive attitudes towards disability in the community.

The Committee for Employment & Social Security has identified the need for some expert policy and legislative advice to help the Committee to select legislation from another jurisdiction on which to model our own legislation. The next stage, with the help of a specialist, will be to develop proposals on how to tailor the model legislation to fit Guernsey.

Following the release of the polymer £5 note, the new £10 note, released in September 2017, is the most accessible yet. The Bank of England worked closely with RNIB to build accessibility into the design of the new £10 note.

In line with the Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy, the States is developing a Carers Action Plan which will focus on the needs of people who care for or support family members and friends on an unpaid basis.

The States are currently seeking carers' views. You can complete a survey through this link [here](#) or if you would prefer



a paper copy, please email [carers@gov.gg](mailto:carers@gov.gg) or phone 732546. (Deadline for 7 February 2018). To read the full report visit our blog [here](#).

If you would like further information visit [www.signpost.com](http://www.signpost.com) or contact Caroline.

Visit [here](#). Tel: 01481 732557 or 07839700425.

## Scrutiny Hearing



The Scrutiny Management Committee's has advised the GDA that they will be holding a forthcoming public hearing regarding progress made on the implementation of the Disability & Inclusion Strategy will take place between 2-4pm on 31st January 2018 in the Moulin Huet & Petit Port Rooms, St Martins Community Centre. Press release from the States due soon.

## Statement from President of the Committee for Employment & Social Security



To read Michelle Le Clerc's statement in full, On the Disability and inclusion strategy here please follow the link [here](#).

## Fairness for all: Developing Guernsey's ERO

The States' Disability & Inclusion Strategy includes a resolution approving an equality and rights organisation (ERO). EROs are independent, statutory bodies designed to foster inclusion and prevent discrimination.

The resolution approves establishment of an ERO in principle, with implementation dependent on an approved business plan, funding and prioritisation. The Committee for Employment and Social Security commenced the workstream last year. The ERO Project Team includes GDA Executive Director Karen Blanchford representing the Equality Working Group (EWG), DIFERA/Liberate, Deputy Emilie Yerby and others.

The task at hand now is to engage stakeholders and develop the business case for an ERO suitable for Guernsey. A stakeholder input workshop was held in December 2017, and was preceded by an "ERO Primer" presentation by GDA Founder Rob Platts. Karen and Rob participated in the workshop, as did representatives from Citizens Advice Guernsey, Liberate and Safer, among others. Siriol Evans (lead officer for the ERO project) Policy and Communications Officer, ESSC



## Members' Voice

### Mental Health and Well-being Plan

There will be a meeting on 28th February at Les Cotils for the Mental Health and Well-being Plan, with Association of Guernsey Charities. Mind Guernsey, States of Guernsey and GDA. There will be a presentation by Dr Bishop, Clinical Lead, Adult Psychiatry and Emily Litten of MIND Guernsey.

### CYPP Included and Respected

Wigwam represent disability on the CYPP Included and Respected Workstream, a group that meets every two months to update on progress. If you would like to contact Wigwam in relation to any disability and the CYPP please call 521678 or email [support@wigwam.org.gg](mailto:support@wigwam.org.gg)



### Carers' Plan

The States of Guernsey is currently developing a Carers' Action Plan. The Plan will focus on the needs of people who care for or support family members and friends, unpaid, (referred to as 'carers') and will set out the improvements to the services and support that carers can expect.



To inform the Carers Action Plan we are currently seeking carers' views on the services and support that they currently receive, or would like to receive in the future. We have put together a short survey which should take no more than 10 – 15 minutes to complete. Anyone who carries out (or has carried out in the past) informal caring responsibilities, or works with or is closely involved with carers, is invited to complete the survey. Please visit our website here to follow the link [here](#) to the questionnaire.

### Thank You DONATE

Thank you to Donate keeping it local for their invaluable support for the past two years in sponsoring the GDA newsletter and member meetings.



Find out more about Donate [here](#) and [here](#).

### Social Policy - Carers' Representative for SLAWS

It's an exciting time for Carers at the moment with the States developing the Carers Action Plan and the Guernsey Community Foundation launching a new carers charity. Link [here](#)

The GDA is looking for a Carer to represent disability on the Carers Group with the States and many other community groups please contact Karen to find out more.

### GDPR by Guernsey Training Agency

The arrival of 2018 brings us ever closer to the enforcement deadline for GDPR (25 May 2018). If you are looking for support in preparing for GDPR, don't miss our final GDPR Implementation Series starting 9th February, 2018 (details here), which is packed with invaluable guidance and tools. Link to GTA website [here](#).

### Association of Guernsey Charities

Association of Guernsey Charities (AGC) funding deadline for 2018 applications is 31st January. Go to the link [here](#).

### Co-Op Helping Hands

Co Op Helping Hands applications for Funds are due 12th February, more info [here](#)

### Fundraising - Friends of the GDA

We are looking for a few dedicated volunteers to join Gez Overstall on our friends of the GDA fundraising team. To find out more please email [friendsof@gda.org.gg](mailto:friendsof@gda.org.gg).

### Equal Adventure Visit



Gary Dovey from Le Murier has arranged for Suresh Paul from Equal Adventure [www.equaladventure.org](http://www.equaladventure.org) to come to Guernsey.

They produce kit to enable people with disabilities to access the outdoors. He's been using their kit for years to enable the students to access outdoor activities. He's booked Le Murier school hall for Saturday 27th Jan 12.30 - 4.30 for people / organisations to come along and see what they can offer. Please do come, it will be a fantastic day.

## Autism Guernsey news

Winter Wonderland

Everybody had a wonderful evening at the Winter Wonderland which kindly hosted by the Bachmanns.



This particular evening was

for children and

adults with autism and their immediate families in order that those with sensory difficulties could enjoy a crowd-free environment. The Inner Wheel kindly supplied food and hot drinks and the Rotary Club manned the gates and car park. Father Christmas also handed out presents.

Amazing Clubs - CT Plus took the Amazing Clubs on a bus tour of the Christmas lights which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children were also busy at the Clubs making a Christmas Tree out of branches (photo attached).

Autism Guernsey Flag Day: Saturday 31st March, 2018. Volunteers wanted. For further information please contact Autism Guernsey.

## WIGWAM news

Wigwam are using the turn of the year and the fact that Family Support Worker Elizabeth Richards will be returning to the UK at the end of January as an opportunity to focus on the development of a new Strategic Plan.



Like many small charities Wigwam is acutely aware of the challenges it faces meeting need whilst running on very limited resources, and is exploring all avenues to best manage these challenges. This month Wigwam is contacting members and external stakeholders to better understand current and future needs. Additionally Wigwam is proactively exploring link ups with other local providers to explore how resources could best be used. If your organisation faces similar challenges, you would be interested in linking up or simply want to chat about how resources could be shared generally please contact Wigwam on 521678 or support@wigwam.org.gg.

**Email your event dates to**  
[info@disabilityalliance.org.gg](mailto:info@disabilityalliance.org.gg)

## Forthcoming Events

### 2018 GDA 10th Anniversary

25th Jan [Young Adults Chocolate Making WIGWAM](#)

[27th Jan Equal Adventure Visit](#)

31st Jan Disability & Inclusion Strategy Scrutiny Hearing

[31st Jan Closing date for AGC Lottery Funding applications](#)

3rd Feb [Wigwam Saturday Social Drop In La Moye](#)

[6th Feb GDA Members Meeting Les Cotils](#)

7th Feb Survey of Carer's Views [deadline](#)

12th Feb [COOP helping hands deadline](#)

13th Feb [Pancake Day Fundraiser Cheshire](#)

### [Home](#)

15th Feb Carers' Action Event Les Cotils

17th Feb [Wigwam Young Adults Cinema TBC](#)

21st Feb [Wigwam Half Term Aquarium Visit](#)

24th Feb Guernsey Hard of Hearing coffee mornings starting at 10am La Villette

28th Feb Mental Health and Well-being meeting Les Cotils with AGC, Mind Guernsey and the States

21-23rd Mar Next CAE course

[21st March Café Bridge at OGH for Gsy Cheshire Home](#)

31st March Autism Guernsey Flag Day

9th June [Saffery Rotary Walk](#)

## GDA Contacts

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### Facebook

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