



## Media Release - The Future of the GDA

12<sup>th</sup> February 2018

The next two years are possibly the most important in the GDA's history, as three major projects of the Disability and Inclusion Strategy (the development of disability discrimination legislation, the work to establish an Equality and Rights Organisation (ERO) and work to raise awareness of disability at all levels of society), are finally gaining momentum.

In some ways, the timing could not be worse. The GDA have never received any funding from the government, and financial support for the role of Executive Director expires at the end of April. In other ways, the timing is ideal. There is a need for the GDA to evolve to meet the changing times.

The Executive Directors role will be split into two parts as the team grows to meet expanding expectations.

### **We All Matter Eh Services (staff with a chargeable model)**

Karen Blanchford will continue to play a key part, with a particular focus on the development of training and services needed to support businesses and the wider community as the new legislation comes into force. Key to these changes is a member's service coordinator, whose role will be crucial to the communications and support of the membership (40+ member groups) as we move into the new phase of working. We are currently seeking funding for our services model.

### **GDA influencing government policy (voluntary)**

Rob Harnish will head the social policy team, with ongoing input into the implementation of the Disability and Inclusion Strategy. Rob is seconded 1 day a week from the Ron Short centre. Karen and Rob have already developed a strong working relationship under the banner "two heads are better than one". And, of course, the guiding hand of the GDA's founder, Rob Platts, will continue to inform and support all our work, especially around legislation

The GDA will continue to be the public voice of people with disabilities and will maintain its focus on guiding the States of Guernsey's implementation of the Disability and Inclusion Strategy, including the realisation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As projects develop, the demands on the GDA will increase. We will therefore be seeking more support from our members, and will be seeking to raise more funds to support our efforts throughout this crucial period. We are confident that islanders will come forward with their usual generosity to ensure our vital work can continue.



Notes:

## **GDA Guernsey Disability Alliance**

The Guernsey Disability Alliance was formed in 2008 and is a collective voice for individual disabled islanders, their family members, carers and more than [40 member-charities-list](#).

Their mission is equality of opportunity for disabled islanders and carers in Guernsey. We want to change how Guernsey thinks about disability.

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

Website: [www.disabilityalliance.org.gg](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GuernseyDisabilityAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/GuernseyDisabilityAlliance)

Twitter: [@GDA\\_Disability](https://twitter.com/GDA_Disability)

## **We All Matter Eh?**

Web: [www.matter.gg](http://www.matter.gg)

Twitter: [@WeAllMatterEh](https://twitter.com/WeAllMatterEh)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mattergg>