

Guernsey Disability Alliance

10 Years
2008 - 2018

Equality - Dignity - Inclusion

26th March 2018

Dear

No doubt you are aware of the strategic challenges and funding issues the GDA has been processing. In January, following a failure to reach consensus within the committee about our future strategy and structure, GDA Chair, Robin Le Prevost, resigned. We would like to thank Robin for his past service.

It is important to note that despite the funding and organisational difficulties our core role of representing disabled people within the States Disability and Inclusion Strategy workstreams continued unaffected and included a number of significant successes.

The GDA Committee has re-grouped and agreed a future strategy designed to cover the essential operations for the next two years. This strategy includes putting more effort into fund raising.

Three major Disability & Inclusion Strategy related projects are due to be completed, or substantially in place, within this time span:

- (1) measures to prevent disability discrimination (including legislation),
- (2) the establishment of an Equality and Rights Organisation (ERO), and
- (3) initiatives to raise awareness of and change attitudes towards disability within all levels of society.

It is vital (and required by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UNCRPD) that disabled people are consulted and actively involved, through their organisations, on all matters of legislation and policy relating to disability. The GDA board will remain focused on its consultative and guiding roles, representing GDA members within the States Disability & Inclusion Strategy Project team and within the various other States' sub-groups, with a particular focus on the three major projects mentioned earlier.

For the time-being, unless self-funding, the GDA will not embark on further We All Matter, Eh? (WAME) campaigns. However, we are developing a business case which may use the WAME brand to offer training for business and possibly to assist the States with their duty to raise awareness.

Equality

Dignity

Inclusion

We are very grateful that, following requests for assistance, member charity, the Guernsey Society for Physically Disabled People (Ron Short), has kindly approved the gift of eight hours per week of management time to assist with GDA central roles within the States Disability and Inclusion Strategy Project team from their Manager, Dr Rob Harnish. Rob has already started in this role and is proving to be a valuable asset. Rob is an existing committee member and has also recently been appointed Vice Chair (Elect) Social Policy. Rob is establishing a new Social Policy Impact Assessment Group – further details to follow.

Although funding for the Executive Director's role comes to an end in April, fundraising efforts so far will enable us to continue to benefit from Karen's expertise and drive through our 10th Anniversary year. During that time, Karen will be developing her new and exciting part time role as Partnership Director. We are pushing hard to make sure that we have the funds to roll over her contract.

We are pleased to report that we have recently attracted funding to cover the part-time Member Services Officer role for one year. Previous funding for its predecessor-role ended in 2016. Until recently Karen has been trying to cover this role as well.

The attached table summarises how GDA plans to cover its various duties. We understand that member groups are busy delivering services to disabled people and that most do not have capacity to tackle the issues that the GDA tackles on their service users' behalf. We recognise too, the restrictions many member groups have on both availability and permitted use of funds. We are, therefore, asking all member groups and individual members if they might assist in other ways, some ideas are attached. For example:

- Pay a "voluntary Annual Membership" (Guide amount £300 for a member group or £10 for an individual member) or a one off 10th Anniversary donation
- Member groups to write to their members and service users asking them to, in turn, write to their family, friends and business contacts asking for support, either to:
 - donate to the GDA, or
 - Join the Friends of GDA fundraising team, or
 - Become a Friend of the GDA (annual membership £20).

We will be grateful for your support and the return of the enclosed form.

Yours sincerely

Rob Platts MBE
Founder and Equality Advisor, Guernsey Disability Alliance
info@disabilityalliance.org.gg
Mail: Freepost GU264, St Peter Port, GY1 5SS

Equality

Dignity

Inclusion