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Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019.

Following the move to GDA Core at the end of last year, there will now be approximately 3 Newsletters and 4 GDA Meetings per year. This does not mean we have not be continuing to represent members in a variety of groups, updates of which are all featured in this newsletter.

Due to fewer newsletters but the same amount of information, we have tried to condense updates as much as possible and include links to more in depth information on our website so you can read more on the pieces that you are most interested in or are most relevant.

If you are reading this Newsletter as a hard copy and would like more information on more specific areas please contact Trudi Kent on members@gda.org.gg or telephone 07781163967 and she will arrange to send you the relevant information. You can also contact Trudi if you would like the newsletter in any other format.

We welcome our new Chair Chris Le Page

We are delighted to announce Chris has agreed to take on the role as chair, acting in the role until the AGM. Chris is client director of Carey and came to the executive committee via the GTA board apprenticeship scheme more than two years ago. Chris brings a wealth of experience, strong governance background and leadership to the team at a time of change. Thank you Chris and Carey, who have been a strong supporter of the GDA and it's membership

Equality and Rights Organisation (ERO) update, Rob Platts

The GDA continues to represent our members (key stake holders) in the Disability and Inclusion Strategy Project Board's work to develop the business plan needed to establish the ERO.

The Committee for Employment & Social Security have recently considered the possible structure and accreditation of Guernsey's ERO and, while the results of this work are not yet in the public domain, work has now started on the first draft of the ERO Policy Letter.

For the full update including why we need an ERO and what some of the challenges of the Committee are [see here](#)



Rob Platts

Disability and Inclusion Strategy update, Rob Harnish

While there is still a red flag hanging over the whole Disability and Inclusion Strategy, it is perhaps better to see it as a call to action rather than a source of frustration. The Committee for Employment and Social Security seem to see it that way and are working to keep the pro-ject moving forward, and to ensure that the proposed discrimination legislation is brought to the States before the end of this political term.

The Project Board are also looking for ways to highlight areas of concern where completed policy work has stalled at the implementation phase.

The Project Board has also taken responsibility for the support of the States Disability Champion and are looking at ways of ensuring that the Disability Champion can be made a more effective political voice by being better in-formed and supported. The GDA is working hard alongside the Project Board to help identify appropriate structures for that crucial work.

For the full update including more information on the States Disability Champion and some changes in membership of the Project Board please [see here](#).



Rob Harnish



Education Update, Catherine Hall

The Committee for Education, Sport and Culture (ESC) and Andrew Warren met with GDA representatives Rob Harnish and Catherine Hall

The GDA's concerns regarding the development of the two school model and the lack of any prior consultation were put to the meeting and it was agreed by ESC that it might have been better to consult before this stage.

ESC explained that there were two separate work streams:

- 1) Planning the infrastructure for the new school
- 2) Reviewing special education needs and disability (SEND) provision as part of a wider review of the Education Law

The review of SEND is scheduled for late spring and ESC have agreed that this will involve consultation. No detail of what form the consultation will take has as yet been provided.

The GDA expressed concern that plans for the two school sites should not be finalised until such consultation had taken place. ESC however are of the opinion that the facilities will be sufficiently flexible to accommodate any changes to SEND provision. They have

proposed a meeting between GDA and the Director of Education and the Executive Head of the new school to better inform the GDA about the planned facilities.

We have not yet been given a date for this proposed meeting.

When the one school model was approved by The States, ESC were also directed to develop an overall behaviour management policy and a policy as to how the needs of the most able pupils would be supported.

Both these policy directives have now been developed and published. Both do have implications for children with SEND, but unfortunately neither policy make any specific reference to SEND. This is of particular concern in the case of the behaviour management policy.

It is hoped that it will be possible to rectify these omissions following the review of SEND provision.

Equality Guernsey

Equality Guernsey facilitated a session with Education and many GDA members on Tuesday 30th April 2019 you can see the slides and Inclusive Education paper that was referenced on our [GDA Blog](#)

Do you want to become a Member of the GDA?

Members update

The individual membership forms and forms for Charity Groups have now been amended slightly to comply with data privacy requirements. Both forms can be found on the Join Us link on our website www.disabilityalliance.org.gg

Becoming a member of the GDA means that you will receive all documentation regarding current consultations and will also be asked to engage in consultations. This is very important if you have views, thoughts and opinions on any issues relating to disability to ensure that through us, your voice is heard and represented.

If you do not wish to become a member but would just like to receive the updates, newsletters and open to all meetings information then you can contact Trudi and be placed on the general mailing list for email or post if you do not have access to email.

Join the GDA

You can join the GDA by visiting www.gda.org.gg/join or by calling Trudi on 077811



Current Consultations

Voluntary Car Service

Health Connections have been discussing with Health and Social Care (HSC), St John Guernsey (SJG) and other 3rd sector colleagues the possibility of working together to centralise and improve our their Voluntary Car Service. Health Connections (HC) wants to develop their Voluntary Car Service (VCS) into a social model to include travel to appointments, activities and support which helps people live healthier, happier and more fulfilled lives, in line with the social (community) movement in health.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on this please contact Trudi



General Election 2020

The GDA have been invited to attend meetings with States Assembly and Constitution Committee (S.A.C.C.) along with Access for All, Age Concern and the States Disability Officer to discuss how to make the General Election as accessible as possible. This includes discussing how to support prospective candidates, how to manage hustings, ensuring manifestos are accessible as well as the actual voting process. The first policy letter can be seen by clicking the link above which also has contact details for the Assembly if you wish to offer some thoughts and ideas. Alternatively you can let Trudi know and she will represent your views at the next meeting



Equality Legislation

We are expecting the consultation on the Equality legislation this summer. Please check our social media and website for an update.



Current Consultations

Adult Learning Disability Review

The consultation phase of the review of Adult Learning Disability Service has been complete with the final sessions taking place on 8th February. A key part of the consultation involved gaining the views of people with learning disability using Talking Mats which is a way of using pictures and symbols to ascertain a person's views on a topic (see image). A total of 66 Talking Mats were completed by adults with learning disabilities. In addition, 10 public consultation sessions took place on topics such as healthcare, day time opportunities, accommodation options and support for family members. The report is currently being written and feedback sessions will take place for those interested in the content. If you want more information you can contact Will Jones (Community Learning Disability Team Manager on 230000 or will.jones@gov.gg)



Carers Action Plan

As part of the Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy (SLAWS) the States of Guernsey made a strategic commitment to 'recognise the value of informal carers and seek to ensure that they are supported'. In fulfilment of that commitment, the States of Guernsey developed a Carers Action Plan which outlines the priority actions that need to be undertaken to support people in Guernsey and Alderney who support family members and friends. The Carers' Action Plan was published on 30th April 2019.

You can view the plan and survey result documents on the [States of Guernsey website](https://www.statesofguernsey.gg)



Celebrations and Thank you's

Happy Birthday

2019 is a big year for some of our Member Groups, look out for how these organisations are celebrating these big anniversaries throughout the year.



Wigwam are celebrating 20 years



Guernsey Deaf Children's Society are celebrating 40 years



Guernsey Blind Association are celebrating 100 years



Citizens Advice Bureau are celebrating 80 years

Thank you Autism Guernsey



We would like to say thank you to Autism Guernsey for inviting us to join them in their new office space. We now have a lovely room where and the Team there have made us feel very welcome.

Our new postal address is:

First Floor (East) Island House
La Grande Rue
St. Martins
Guernsey
GY4 6RU

Thank you PeloTour



Thank you to the PeloTour for fundraising over £1,000 for the Guernsey Disability Alliance.

Check out more information and photos on our [GDA blog](#)

Introducing

States Disability Officer Gill Evans

I am a “Yorkshire lass”, who moved to Guernsey nearly 30 years ago, to take up a position in the Health Service. During my time in Health, I worked with many people with disabilities and their carers. I took up the role of the Disability Officer at the end of 2018. My role is to support the States Committees and departments to become disability friendly. This is a diverse role, and a new challenge for me, which I am looking forward to. A big part of this role is helping to change attitudes through awareness and knowledge, working to enable everyone to participate equally in Guernsey life.



Gill Evans

Claire Cathcart

Claire came to our last Meeting to introduce herself. She has recently started working at BBC Guernsey as a Communities journalist. This is a new role at the BBC and part of her work will be to ensure that the BBC are covering all areas of life in the Bailiwick and all communities, reflecting a wide range of voices.



Claire Cathcart

Thank you to the Association of Guernsey Charities (AGC) for funding the renovations to our websites so that they can be more accessible. First up is www.matter.gg highlighting two of our key projects:

New Accessible Activities for children and the arts

We All Matter, Eh is partnering with Access for All, Lets Go Mobility, SOPM Julia Jager, Cheshire Drama Academy to deliver a new series of Accessible Activities for 2019, sponsored by Butterfield

You can view more on the events, starting with the Mini Olympics on 2nd July at Beau Sejour on our website www.matter.gg



Butterfield

Saffrey Rotary Walk 2019

We All Matter Eh? is one of the beneficiaries of this years walk so it would be great to see lots of you joining us. Our members Cystic Fibrosis Guernsey, Dementia Friends Guernsey, Grow Ltd and the Guernsey Alzheimer's Association have also been chosen as beneficiaries for the walk so lets all support each other.

For more information and to register with the GDA please go to our [blog](#)



Equality Guernsey

WAME and GDA are active partners in the Equality Guernsey project with the Equality Working Group. We are working together from January to July 2019 with a large network of partners to deliver 6 workshops and a full day Equality conference 4th July.

#StartTheConversation and check out our online resources and events at www.equality.gg



Diary of Dates

June

Wednesday 5th June

Special event for GDA member and supporters as we meet Great Britain's first disabled air display team. Watch social media and our website for more information

Thursday 6th June

Guernsey Air Show

www.guernseyairdisplay.com

Sunday 9th June

Arts Sunday

Tuesday 11th June - Wednesday 12 June

Access for All and GDA in Alderney

Saturday 15th June

Saffery Rotary Walk. Accessible route starts 1.30pm at Bordeaux

Monday 10th June – Sunday 16th June

Carers Week

Sunday 16th June

Guernsey Dairy Father Day half marathon including our new chair Chris Le Page in a Hippo suit! Please help him fundraise

[AGC Giving website](#)

Monday 17th June, 12-2pm

GDA member charity meeting at Autism Guernsey offices

Monday 17th June – Sunday 23rd June

Learning Disability Awareness Week

July

Tuesday 2nd July, 10.30 – 2.30pm

Lets Go Mobility Mini Olympics, Beau Sejour

Thursday 4th July

Equality Guernsey Conference. Book your ticket www.equality.gg

September

Friday 6th September, 12-2pm

GDA meeting, Carol Hines Room, Les Cotils

Tuesday 10th September, 7-9pm

GDA members meeting, Carol Hines Room, Les Cotils

October

Tuesday 15th October - Wednesday 16th October

CAE Access Course. Please email places@access.gg to book your place.

Thursday 17 October

Access onsite review, please email places@access.gg to book your place.

Tell us about your event

Do you have an upcoming event you would like to list in our Diary of Dates? Then Email Trudi on members@gda.org.gg and we will include it.