

States Champion for Disabled People 2012 - Manifestos

Deputy John Gollop

Proposed by Jennifer Smith
and Karen Garnham



I have just been elected a member of SSD, and to Legislation. Being a team member at SSD will allow me to move the disability agenda forward. I may not be able to specifically campaign against policies or other specific issues but I can work in partnership, I hope, with greater understanding of welfare issues.

Key priorities for me as Champion will be:-

1. Inviting expert speakers from outside Guernsey to inform vision and best practice
2. Driving forward progressive legislation on disability discrimination and attitudes
3. Ensuring the new Autism and Communication Service at Education is fully empowered
4. Supporting Emily Yerby on 2020 Vision, Equalities, Health Wellbeing and Inclusion
5. Promoting a more integrated and effective Social Policy that cares and reforms

As a person with Asperger syndrome, I feel I know the issues personally and live with challenges and prejudice. I already connect and contact many people in the GDA community and reflect their unique perspectives.

I believe I can act as a beacon of hope, inspire Disabled People and stimulate partnership between the States and voluntary organisations. I will challenge complacency as any of us could be affected by disability constraints at any time.

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Deputy Lester Queripel

Proposed by John Buchanan
and Richard Cochrane



I've lived with disability all my life. I understand the needs of disabled people. My dear Dad was born with a deformed left leg and foot. He endured awful pain for the whole of his 74 years. He wore 'special shoes' to enable him to walk with what was known as a 'club foot' in those days.

He was a proud man. He was determined to work, and provide for his wife and family. Sometimes, I'd catch him quietly crying in a corner of the house at the end of the day because the painkillers weren't working.

Consequently, I always wanted to work with disabled people to try to improve their 'quality of life'. After 14 months of doing so, I reluctantly resigned, totally disillusioned. Why? Because every time I tried to encourage the creative side of disabled people, e.g. paint a picture or write a poem, I was told "Lester we don't have time for that".

Surely that sort of approach by governments needs to be addressed? If you elect me, I will consider it a privilege to represent disabled people in the States of Guernsey, and I would pursue and progress the Disability Strategy.

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States Champion for Disabled People 2012 - Manifestos

Deputy Arrun Wilkie

Proposed by Debbie Aldous
and Barry Brehaut



My interest in a better deal for disabled people stems from working with disabled employees during my years as a manager at Le Riches. This changed my view on disabled people for life. I considered a change in career at that time and applied to work in the health services. My employer made me offer I could not refuse so I continued to work in retail. (Plus I didn't get the health services job!).

I have been elected on to the HSSD department so I will be involved in bringing together the new Disability Strategy. I wish this to be the start of an ongoing programme of new policies to improve the opportunities and quality of life for all people with disabilities.

During my election campaign I heard many stories of frustration and anger over the lack of support, legislation and investment in the disabled community. I felt shocked and dismayed that my fellow islanders were being treated with such neglect. I vowed to make a difference and change a system which has been failing. I will continue that work over the next four years and if I am not voted your champion I will always be your friend.

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