

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed till 6am Friday 25th July 2014

Deputy Arrun Wilkie is the new States' Champion for Disabled People

Deputy Arrun Wilkie has been appointed as the new States' Champion for Disabled People and will jointly chair the Disability and Inclusion Strategy Steering Group alongside Jane Stephens.

Deputy Wilkie replaces Deputy John Gollop who stepped down in June after his appointment to the Environment Board.

As well as being a driving force behind the Disability and Inclusion Strategy, the Disability Champion is a political voice for disabled islanders and carers and helps individuals to resolve issues with States departments.

Deputy Wilkie said:

"It has been an absolute pleasure to assist Deputy Gollop over the last two years and I look forward to working closely with his predecessor, Jane Stephens. The challenge for the States is to turn its unanimous vote for the Disability and Inclusion Strategy into actions that make a real difference in people's lives. My focus will be to make sure the States honours the promises made on that watershed day in November 2013.

"I wish to see an inclusive society in Guernsey that recognises every islander for the individual they are. My motivation for standing as a Deputy has always been to improve the lives of my fellow islanders and that primary ideal will be at the core of everything I do for the disabled people of Guernsey."

Speaking on behalf of the Social Policy Group, Chief Minister, Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq said:

'I'm delighted that Deputy Wilkie has taken on the role of Disability Champion. Having worked with him on the Home Department board, I know how interested he is in helping Islanders who are experiencing difficulties accessing services or information. I'm sure he and Jane Stephens will work well together in driving the Disability Strategy forward.'

Shelaine Green, Chair of the Guernsey Disability Alliance, said:

"It's been clear from the emails and phone calls we've received from deputies in the past few weeks that there is widespread support for Deputy Wilkie as Disability Champion.

“Since coming second in the Champion election of 2012, Deputy Wilkie has worked closely with Deputy Gollop and demonstrated true commitment to disabled people and their families. He has supported numerous individuals in their dealings with the States and successfully amended the Disability Strategy when it was debated in November 2013. We were therefore very pleased to recommend to the Social Policy Group that he be appointed.”

The States’ Champion for Disabled People is an official States role, ratified by the Social Policy Group of the Policy Council (SPG). The Guernsey Disability Alliance facilitates the election process on behalf of the SPG.

Editor’s Notes:

1. Media contact is Shelaine Green, shelaine2000@yahoo.co.uk, 07781 451310