



MEDIA RELEASE

July 2016

Guernsey Disability Alliance to visit Alderney

Guernsey Disability Alliance (GDA), working in conjunction with Accessible Alderney – a long-term member of the GDA – will be visiting the island on 14 and 15 July to meet with interested parties, groups, businesses and associations to discuss a number of disability-orientated topics.

Representatives from GDA, Wigwam, Access for All and the States of Guernsey disability officer will hold a meeting on 14 July at 7.00pm at the Alderney Methodist Hall, which is open to the general public. Over the two days they will also meet with St Anne's school, local politicians and civil servants, the Youth Commission and the local business community to discuss issues such as inclusion in education, access and equality.

Tony Yates, who is currently vice chair of Access for All will be using his time in Alderney to review access at as many island venues and public buildings as possible, drawing on his experience as former Building Control manager where he was responsible for ensuring new buildings were accessible for all and advising on how to improve accessibility for existing buildings.

GDA executive director, Karen Blanchford, said:

'The GDA is a collective voice for disabled islanders and carers, bringing disability issues up the political agenda in Guernsey and improving awareness of disability and the day-to-day challenges faced by so many disabled people in the island. We are delighted to have this opportunity to discuss ideas and thoughts with people in Alderney who are dealing with similar issues. We have a busy meeting and presentation schedule over the two days, including holding an open meeting to answer questions from the general public.'

Debbie Aldous, Chair of Wigwam Support Group is looking forward to meeting parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities to find out more about the issues they face and their support needs. Debbie will also be visiting St Anne's school to discuss inclusion in education.

The following people will be travelling to Alderney:

Karen Blanchford – executive director GDA; Tony Yates – vice chairman Access for All (a group established to improve accessibility in all its forms in Guernsey) ; Caroline Mullins – States of Guernsey disability officer; and Debbie Aldous – chair of Wigwam Support Group (supporting families of children with disabilities).

Ends.

For further information please contact Trish Grover: email trish@collaboratecommunications.com; tel 01481 715222

Notes to editors:

Websites:

www.gda.org.gg

www.access.gg

www.matter.gg

www.wigwam.org.gg/

www.signpost.gg (States of Guernsey website for parents and carers of children with disabilities)

About the GDA

The Guernsey Disability Alliance was formed in 2008 and is a collective voice for individual disabled islanders, their family members and more than 38 local disability charities.

Its mission is equality of opportunity for disabled islanders and carers in Guernsey which it aims to achieve through

- Campaigning for greater respect for the rights and dignity of disabled islanders and carers.
- Influencing policy and practical change in a manner consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Engaging and empowering members so that their individual voices are heard.
- Building momentum to change social attitudes to disability.