



Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Members

Guernsey Disability Alliance (the "GDA") (Company Registered No: 51102)
(Registered Charity No: CH41)

Meeting of the AGM on Tuesday February 13th 2024 at GROW Ltd

Board Members Present in person:

Catherine Hall	Vice Chair GDA & Education Representative, Social Policy and Chair of the meeting
Jane Wonnacott	Secretary
Carol Le Page	Social Policy Director
Mike Read	Health Representative, Social Policy
Rob Harnish	Director, Transport Representative

Those Present in person

Tania Dorrity	Carers Guernsey
Gill Evans	States of Guernsey Disability Support Officer, ESS
John Fernandez	Guernsey Mencap, BBC
Jenny Flower	Member
Susie Gallienne	Wigwam
Deputy John Gollop	Living Streets & States Deputy, P&R
Nikki Ioannou-Droushiotis	CEO Guernsey Employment Trust
Ellen Pragnell	Committee Secretary, ESS
Deputy Peter Roffey	States Deputy, President ESS
Chantelle Tucker	Guernsey Blind Association

Members Present via internet link

The following attended on Teams for all or part of the meeting:

Rob Platts – Patron, GDA (proxy also received)

David Inglis – Chair, Age Concern Guernsey

Mark Torode

Deputy John Gollop (Joined on line when left the meeting)

Minutes

Item	Minute	Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting. 	
2.	Chair of the AGM & Quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Hall acted as Chair and opened the formal AGM. The assembly was quorate. 	

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3.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toni de Kooker – Chair GDA • Jamie Hall • Rob Platts MBE – Patron – Proxy provided – joined on Teams • David Inglis – Chair, Age Concern Guernsey – joined on Teams • Dr Rachael Major • Karen Blanchford – Grow LTD • Jo Cottell - Chief Executive, Guernsey Mind 							
4.	<p>Minutes from previous meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous EGM held on 31st May 2023 were taken as read. All those present approved. 							
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to P&R re toilet access at the Ron Short Centre, Beau Sejour– there is no update on the status of this. It is not known if TdK and CLP wrote the letter. It is hopeful that there will be a favourable States decision imminently and a letter of support will be written from the GDA. 	CLP						
6.	<p>Chair’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was combined with the Social Policy Director’s report, later in the meeting 							
7.	<p>Matters requiring ordinary resolutions</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="269 1252 1281 2016"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="269 1252 368 1308"></th> <th data-bbox="368 1252 1281 1308">Ordinary Resolution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="269 1308 368 1603" style="text-align: center;">(i)</td> <td data-bbox="368 1308 1281 1603"> <p>THAT Toni De Kooker be re-elected as Chair of the Company</p> <p>Proposed by Jane Wonnacott</p> <p>Seconded by Carol le Page</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via video link that Toni de Kooker be reelected as Chair of the Company.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="269 1603 368 2016" style="text-align: center;">(ii)</td> <td data-bbox="368 1603 1281 2016"> <p>THAT the Honorary Treasurer of the Company is approved by the Board once all relevant paperwork has been undertaken by a suitable candidate which will be either Jamie Hall or Samson Mbilinyi.</p> <p>This is a change to the original proposal and it was asked for everyone to approve that a Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to be elected by the Board and not at a further EGM</p> <p>Proposed by Jane Wonnacott</p> <p>Seconded by Carol Le Page</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Ordinary Resolution	(i)	<p>THAT Toni De Kooker be re-elected as Chair of the Company</p> <p>Proposed by Jane Wonnacott</p> <p>Seconded by Carol le Page</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via video link that Toni de Kooker be reelected as Chair of the Company.</p>	(ii)	<p>THAT the Honorary Treasurer of the Company is approved by the Board once all relevant paperwork has been undertaken by a suitable candidate which will be either Jamie Hall or Samson Mbilinyi.</p> <p>This is a change to the original proposal and it was asked for everyone to approve that a Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to be elected by the Board and not at a further EGM</p> <p>Proposed by Jane Wonnacott</p> <p>Seconded by Carol Le Page</p>	
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		<p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via video link that the Board will elect an Honary Treasurer and a Deputy Treasurer.</p>	
	(iii)	<p>THAT Jane Wonnacott be re-elected as Secretary of the Company Proposed by Toni De Kooker Seconded by Carol Le Page</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via Teams link that Jane Wonnacott be reelected as Secretary of the Company.</p>	
	(iv)	<p>THAT Catherine Hall be re-elected as Vice Chair of the Company Proposed by Jane Wonnacott Seconded by Carol Le Page</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via Teams link that Catherine Hall be reelected as Vice Chair of the Company.</p>	
	(v)	<p>THAT Rob Harnish be re-elected as a Director of the Company Proposed by Jane Wonnacott Seconded by Carol Le Page</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via Teams link that Rob Harnish be reelected as a Director of the Company.</p>	
	(vi)	<p>THAT Carol Le Page be re-elected as a Director of the Company Proposed by Toni De Kooker Seconded by Jane Wonnacott</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via Teams link that Carol le Page be reelected as a Director of the Company.</p>	
	(vii)	<p>THAT the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, together with the Directors' Report on those accounts, be received.</p> <p>Note: the audit waiver continues indefinitely subject to any review by the Executive.</p> <p>The lack of funding was pointed out as the funds will not extend beyond the end of the year unless we gain further funding. The GDA is very dependent on grants and member charities are not willing to pay membership.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Lloyds Foundation for funding for three years of the Social Policy Directors salary up to the end of 2023</p>	

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	<p>and to Janet Cotteril's friends and family for money in lieu of flowers following her death.</p> <p>Some funding had been secured for 2024 with The Guernsey Community Foundation providing £20,000 towards salary costs and the Saffery Rotary Walk providing £2,000 towards the ongoing costs of social media support. SpecSavers had recently announced that the GDA would be one of 3 charities it would be supporting in 2024 and will underwrite the CAE accessibility courses.</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members here present in person and via Teams link, that the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, together with the Directors' report are adopted.</p>	
8.	<p>To thank the co-opted members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Read – Health Social Policy • Janina Almeida • Liz Sweet <p>who are willing to stand for a further year.</p>	
9.	<p>To thank the outgoing Hon. Treasurer Vivien Nemeth - Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We thanked Vivien for her period as Treasurer. 	
10.	<p>Charity update</p> <p>Carol Le Page gave a presentation. Over the course of this year the GDA revisited what our strategy should look like for the next 5 years, assisted by Lloyds Bank staff as part of its Skills Exchange scheme. This followed on from feedback at last year's AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vision</u> – Achieve equality of opportunity for anyone affected by disability in Guernsey. (We elected to stick with Guernsey and not include Alderney at this stage). • <u>Mission</u> – Raising awareness, campaigning and influencing to reduce barriers to inclusion and protect the rights and dignity of anyone affected by disability in Guernsey • <u>Purpose</u> providing a voice for anyone affected by disability in Guernsey • <u>Values</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ inclusion; ○ partnership working; ○ working in accordance with the principles of the UNCRPD; ○ 'nothing about us without us' <p>Carol also said that Steve Glencross from Employment & Equal Opportunities Service (EEOS) will work more closely with us going forward.</p> <p>Over the year the GDA covered the areas of Access, the launch of the new legislation, our website, new social policies from the States, communications and rights, services and benefits.</p> <p><u>Transport</u> – Rob Harnish reported that there is now an officer in the States who is proactively moving things forward. We are working closely with Jersey</p>	

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	<p>whose legislation is further ahead. In Jersey, no charity gets financial support for its own van. On 7th March there will be a meeting for collaborative working on the island transport scheme. The GDA has had substantial input on the ideas being put forward. Any integrated transport scheme must be safe with shared standards and data protection at the fore. Everyone is welcome to the meeting and there is a guest speaker from Jersey.</p> <p><u>Health</u> - Mike Read talked about the importance of CareWatch, founded in 2017 a part of the Partnership of Purpose to support the transformation programme. No progress was made for a number of years. Last September, Bella Farrell was appointed as Chair and is supported by the Committee for HSC. CareWatch now has funding and sponsorship to allow it to be independent. A new website is imminent and will have a 'Have your Say' area for HSC and MSG so that our community can freely report on their experience. The two way communication will be monthly with the senior management team, quarterly meeting with the political board and quarterly meeting with the executive. CareWatch has been involved in the patient experience feedback on patients and their lived experience of NICE TA. Emphasis tends to be all about cost rather than the value for families and the community and the individual's quality of life. Feedback is positive on the customer experience. There will be a policy letter and public consultation on the HSC proposals. In addition, MR asked for feedback on any bad experiences of patients and their interaction with admin staff, particularly if they have an impairment or are of limited means.</p> <p>In 2025 we would like the new States to sign up to the UN Convention. During 2024 we will look towards the next election and set up hustings with other charities; keep promoting transport; review Education law and guidelines; and continue to review policy and legislative changes.</p>	ALL
11.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB</p>	
12.	<p>Date of next AGM</p> <p>February 2025</p>	

The meeting finished at 18:54

The Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy (SLAWS)

A community long term care model that is fit for the future

Peter Roffey, President of ESS, gave a presentation about SLAWS, a States' workstream that is close to his heart and extremely important for the health and wellbeing of islanders. This is a States workstream that is a most crucial and pressing challenge for this term – to find a care model for Guernsey and Alderney that is fit for the future. There are no easy answers or any that do not avoid cost and someone paying more than they do now.

At present we have an ageing demographic and demand for care provision is expected to more than double between now and 2063. We have a Long-Term Care Insurance Scheme which was set up in 2003 and is funding mostly through Social Security contributions and provides benefit to islanders to help them pay some of their care costs if they are in a care home.

Cost of care is very expensive and hard to afford. Annual care home provision was between £60K and £85K in 2023 with home care is £25 - £40 per hour. Recruitment challenges exist because care workers are in a globally competitive market. While we do have programmes on island underway to train up local people as care workers, a lack of affordable housing in Guernsey exacerbates this issue. We need to pay care workers more money and that means that long term care fund needs to provide more generous payments.

In 2021 the Assembly agreed to increase social security rates by 0.4% over four years to keep the existing scope of the scheme and not meet additional costs for new model or its long-term sustainability. Critical funding decisions are necessary to ensure sustainability and fairness as we move forwards and population demographics shift. We have a perfect storm of a fund needing to pay more per individual, at a time of rising demand but with contribution income curtailed by the predicted fall in economically active islanders.

Community long term care model that is fit for the future is required and it needs to be fair, affordable and sustainable. A new rate of benefit for complex care has to be built into the long term care insurance scheme. The States has agreed, in principle, to extend the scheme so that it helps to cover some homecare costs and this is a big improvement. It is well documented that the provision of more homecare provides tremendous wellbeing benefits for the individual. It allows them to live as independently as possible and allows them to stay close to their loved ones and their community. The States has also decided to introduce a new rate of benefit for complex care as the need for care of a more complex nature is also increasing as people live longer.

The new model has to:

- Encompass the prior States' Resolutions regarding provision of benefit for homecare and complex care
- Ensure those receiving care are safeguarded, supported and can live as independently as possible
- Foster the stability and growth of the care sector as a whole, including a straightforward and robust commissioning system
- Be funded in a fair and affordable way both to those receiving care and to all islanders and across generations

During 2023 ESS has engaged with groups such as the GDA, Ageing Well and CareWatch and worked with key stakeholders including HSC, third sector and private care home and homecare providers. States Members have been briefed.

At the end of 2023, Island Global Research conducted four focus groups independently. Two of these mirrored the population demographics as a whole, while the other two were made up of islanders who had sought out or experienced long-term care, either for themselves or someone else – some of these were informal carers. The aim is to get a policy letter to the States this year. ESS is collating all the input from stakeholders and focus groups and will issue a public survey as well as hold public meetings. This will help develop options for the future model. No decisions have yet been made.

Peter asked for those present to engage with this process, to ask questions and make their views known. www.gov.gg/SLAWS has the information.

Update on other ESS work

Deputy Roffey gave an update on two of the Committee's long running policy projects that are now coming to fruition after many years of hard work.

Discrimination Ordinance

Implementation of Phase 1 of the discrimination ordinance came into force on 1st October 2023. He said that this major milestone was the result of lots of hard work from many people, including the GDA over the last two decades and thanked the GDA for all their patience and support which was instrumental in getting the Ordinance approved.

Policy proposals for Phase 2 on age and sex discrimination is due in this States. The Access to Work scheme will give people funding to overcome barriers of entry to work. This is £5,000 per person in 12 months. It is not intended to absolve employers of their responsibility under the ordinance to make reasonable adjustment to provide access, however, it is hoped to enable those with disabilities to enter, remain in and return to employment and to help the wider economy, addressing the skill and labour shortage.

The Employment and Equal Opportunities Service (EEOS) has replaced the Employment Relations Service (ERS) as recognition of its expanded function with the new ordinance. It is independent of the States. It provides advice on a range of matters to resolve employment discrimination issues, ideally before reaching a tribunal. EEOS.GG is the website and has a lot of information. The EEOS is running under the leadership of its first director, Stephen Glencross, who is working hard at meeting people including Carol and the GDA.

Secondary Pensions

Secondary pensions are about to become mandatory. The date for employers to enrol their employees depends on the size of the company but starts on 1st July for all those with 26 or more employees and those with 1 employee on 1st October 2025. Employees can opt out of the pension fund but they will be losing out if they do so. 'Your Island Pension' (YIP) is a States facilitated secondary pensions scheme run by Sovereign Pension Services (CI) Limited and is designed for everyone including small employers. It is now open in Alderney and Guernsey for employers on a voluntary basis as well as those who are self-employed. It will be a benefit to islands for decades to come.

Other Committee Projects

'La Vielle Plage', which will provide 14 purpose built apartments for adults with learning disabilities are being built at Sandy Hook to replace their current home in the Duchess of Kent. It is expected to complete in mid 2025.

Phase 3 of Supporting Occupational Health and Wellbeing Programme (SOHWELL) is a government work plan initiative for the early intervention of support with those with illness, injury, disability and other health issues to prevent them becoming long term conditions with the inability to work. Active and preventative occupational health measure are often an important tool in preventing common health issues from becoming long-term. Case managers are now offering support to individuals and employers to help people stay in work to return to work more quickly. Initial results are positive with overall spend on sickness and incapacity benefit being down and the volume of new incapacity claims (those of over six months) is now at its lowest level in five years. While the people in receipt of incapacity benefits has been static, it would have grown had it not been for this intervention from the SOHWELL team.

At the end of 2023, the States approved a £10 increase in the weekly amount of carers allowance, disregarded under the income support means test. This means that a carer had an increase of £10

a week on top of other payments and it is hoped it will be improved in the next few months. It would be better if it were more but every little helps.

Questions from the audience

Mike Read asked where the work was to provide equipment in their own homes and under section 10 and Peter agreed to find out and provide feedback.

A question was raised on commissioning services – what are these likely to be under SLAWS. States Rates beds were covered by the long term care insurance scheme and the individual's contribution. But there were now few States rates beds available requiring people to make top up payments for the available beds. ESS want to expand the number of beds that are affordable as well as the number of care home beds. A contract with care providers is a possibility.

Another question about the standards in care homes and the number of qualified carers or nurses available which is deteriorating. HSC are responsible for care home and nursing home quality standards. Care/nursing homes are not profitable and some have folded as there is not enough profitability in the system, which is a worry.

The status of preventative health care was asked as a coordinated future is needed. Again, payment for it is difficult and HSC and ESS are working together.

Deputy Roffey was thanked very much for coming and for his detailed presentation.

Meeting ended 19:30