



Minutes of the 2025 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 11th 2025 at Les Cotils

Board Members Present in Person

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

Those Present in Person

Cayleigh Bishop	
John Gollop	Living Streets & States Deputy, P&R
Suely Gilman	
Neil Inder (part)	Deputy
Claire Miles	GDA Website support
Gavin St Pierre	Deputy
Simon De La Mare	

Members Present via internet link

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

Jenny Flower	Member
Jamie Hall	Director
Rob Platts	Patron, GDA (proxy also received)

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.	

Item	Minute	Action
3.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toni de Kooker – Treasurer GDA, now Toni Mauger • Peter Hill-Smith - Proxy received • Philippa Stahelin • David Inglis • Gill Evans (States Disability Officer) • Deputy Peter Roffey • Ellen Pragnell • Nikki Ioannou-Droushiotis • Shelaine Green • Susie Gallienne – Wigwam and Mencap 	
4.	<p>Minutes from previous meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous AGM held on 13th February 2024 were taken as read. All those present approved. 	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the changing places at the Ron Short Centre, Beau Sejour– the toilet is open for access when the Ron Short Centre is open but the Ron Short Centre is waiting for money from the States for the positioning of cameras so that the toilets can be open out of hours. Deputy Gollop kindly offered to follow up internally with the States of Guernsey. 	JG
6.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was combined with the Financial Report and Social Policy Director's report, later in the meeting. 	

7.	Matters requiring ordinary resolutions		
		Ordinary Resolution	
	(i)	<p>THAT Catherine Hall be 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 Catherine Hall be elected as Chair of the Company.</p>	
	(ii)	<p>THAT the Toni de Kooker, now known as Toni Mauger, be elected as Honorary Treasurer 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 Mauger be elected as Honorary Treasurer.</p>	
	(iii)	<p>THAT Jamie Hall be elected as Secretary of the Company</p> <p>Proposed by Toni De Kooker</p> <p>Seconded by Carol Le Page</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via Teams link that Jamie Hall be elected as Secretary of the Company.</p>	
	(iv)	<p>THAT Rob Harnish be re-elected as a Director 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 Teams link that Rob Harnish be reelected as a Director of the Company. In addition he has agreed to be Vice Chair of the Company and this was agreed and resolved by those present and on line.</p>	
	(v)	<p>THAT Carol Le Page be re-elected as a Director of the Company</p> <p>Proposed by Toni De Kooker</p> <p>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 re-elected as a Director of the Company.</p>	
	(vi)	<p>THAT the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, together with the Treasurer's Report on those accounts, be received.</p> <p>Note: the audit waiver continues indefinitely, subject to any review by the Executive.</p>	

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>CLP summarised the accounts. We made a small loss but Carol Le Page went to a zero hours contract and we kindly received funding from Lloyds Foundation which is going to support her salary in 2025 when she returns from sick leave.</p> <p>It requires about £10,000 per year to support the organisation with printing, advertising, HR and other matters. GoMoMo do the online advertising for a fee. Kindly the office space is provided free of charge by Autism Guernsey.</p> <p>A small amount had been received from the Specsavers Liberation Tea Dance. The GDA was also one of 3 Specsavers charities of the year and they had sponsored the Access Audit course in 2024 and agreed to do the same in 2025.</p> <p>There was a volunteer to help with a flag day to increase income in 2025.</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 2024, together with the Treasurer's report are noted for subsequent approval by the Executive after independent review.</p>	
8.	<p>To thank the co-opted members</p> <p>Thanks were given to those members who are willing to stand for a further year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Read – Health Social Policy • Janina Almeida <p>As well as to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Sweet who is standing down 	
9.	<p>To thank the outgoing /changing Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary – Jane Wonnacott is departing the island and was thanked for a sterling job over last few years. Much has been done and Policies and Procedures are now up to date, amongst other matters. CLP presented JW with a gift in recognition. of her time with the charity. • Chair Thanks were also given to the Toni Mauger, the outgoing Chair of last 2 years but now to be Treasurer. 	

10.	<p>Election and update on Social Policy</p> <p><u>Election</u></p> <p>We are encouraging people to register to vote on 18th June to ensure that no one is disenfranchised as a result of a disability. We are also keen for prospective deputies to be aware of disability concerns. Those standing must also be on the electoral roll as well as anyone nominating candidates. There is promotion via the Youth Commission to ensure those 16 and over register to vote.</p> <p>Key dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral Roll registrations open now until midnight, April 30th • Candidate nominations open 09:00 12th May; close 14th May at 16:00 • Voting by postal votes early June; Election Day 18th May <p>We have also previously done hustings but it is felt too difficult with our lack of staff and due to now having the Prevention of Discrimination Ordinance in place. Hustings bring awareness of disability to those standing for election so that they can be prepared to champion relevant causes. This year we will aim to get all those from the third sector to present at a husting. Accessibility and Education needs are the big areas for the GDA to draw awareness and understanding of legislation that still needs to be extended. Sex and age have now been separated as phase 2 and sex discrimination will be considered first. Age can be discriminated against, rather than an impairment.</p> <p>Given the lack of funding in government, there is concern over reduction and rationalisation of services and how much the third sector will be called on to provide. We need to ensure that what is started by previous or current government continues for access and education etc. Deputy Gollop said that the details such as a change in eligibility needs to be watched to ensure that, if services are not cut, they will be squeezed. He also said that prospective deputies must be ready with their IT and manifesto as soon as the entry for candidate application is closed. Only £3,000 is given for any campaigning for candidates. It is illegal to finance beyond this.</p> <p>UNCRPD is still a key goal and it has not been a priority for the current States. We require UNCRPD to be extended to Guernsey. Rob Platts said, online, that the promise was made by government in November 2013 so it is long overdue and it could make a big difference to a lot of people.</p> <p>Gill Evans (States Disability Officer) has asked CLP to provide Deputy training. It may be training related to what comes up in this term such as sexuality, sex, gender and trans. Unconscious bias is also part of the training i.e. everyone has elements of that in the way in which they behave. Lived experience people are required to share their stories as it is anecdotes and true tales that bring the training alive.</p> <p>Deputy St Pier said that the training could be good as a myth busting exercise</p> <p><u>GDA Activities</u></p>	CLP
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2024 What had been planned

Rights and Inclusion (Staff, volunteers and contractors)

Access

- AccessAble
- CAE courses
- Purple Tuesday
- Access to nature

New Legislation

- Capacity Law – Deprivation of Liberty
- Education Law – Revised Policy Letter
- Phase 2 of PODO - Age discrimination

Website

- UNCRPD – evidence will be collected on website
- Identify areas where work is required for UNCRPD – target use by States members
- Repository of information for members and volunteers

New Social Policies from the States

- Reducing the cost of the public service/ GWP – implementation
- SLAWS
- Health and Social Care – Care Watch
- Education - implementation of NASEN Review and code of practice
- Transport – review 6 month pilot

Communications

- Combat Stereotypes
- Promote capabilities
- Contributions of people with impairments, carers and members

Current Rights, Services and Benefits

- Provide ad hoc advice
- Review up ratings and changes
- EEOS – Advice on making claims
- Prevention of Discrimination Ordinance – Review its introduction



2024 Highlights

- The Accessibility Audit course (CAE) was sponsored by SpecSavers and we raised money at their tea dance.
- Aurigny was criticised about access for passengers with a disability and this has been improved.
- Stephen Glencross has left as Director of the Employment and Equal Opportunities Service (EOSS) and no one knows who is taking over. It was believed that the handover period had been extended.
- States have put 11 disabled car parking more spaces around the island beaches. An offer was made to help with access to nature.
- NavILens had been introduced at the Museum and was now also available at the Ron Short Centre.

2025 Plans

2025

Rights and Inclusion (Staff, volunteers and contractors)

Access

- AccessAble
- CAE courses
- Purple Tuesday
- Access to nature

New Legislation

- Capacity Law – Deprivation of Liberty and other parts
- Education Law – Legislation
- Education to be included in PODO Sept 25
- Phase 2 of PODO

Website

- UNCRPD – evidence will be collected on website
- Identify areas where work is required for UNCRPD
- Repository of information for members, volunteers, and election candidates

New Social Policies from the States

- General election in June 2025 likely to bring new policies
- Health and Social Care
- Education - implementation HSC joint working
- Transport

Communications

- Hustings for election candidates
- Manifesto for anyone affected by disability – UNCRPD
- Deputies training
- Continued promotions of capabilities

Current Rights, Services and Benefits

- Provide ad hoc advice
- Review up ratings and changes
- Challenge adverse cuts



CLP,
CM

<p>Claira Miles is going to help with the website which will be a repository for UNCRPD compliance to highlight what businesses, government etc are doing towards it. The website is going to be a better key resource for all members.</p> <p>Cayleigh Bishop volunteered for Wellbeing in Nature Support which would be great as Liz Sweet has left. Rob H said that the Ron Short Centre has done work in this area and would be pleased to have a chat. It could be tied in with Social Prescribing.</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>Last year the report was positive with a Civil Service person appointed to address transport commissioning. There is now another commissioning officer appointed but no clarity on the way forwards.</p> <p>There has been work to bring in SME Employers to talk to them and address attitudes towards addressing disability in potential employees such as access.</p> <p>Agreement had been given by Environment and Infrastructure to put a Policy Letter to this States to revise the rules for Cat D minibus licenses for third sector organisations. This would mean that charities could use drivers with normal car licenses to drive minibuses with more than 8 seats.</p> <p>There is great wastage and many solutions are unaffordable due to the lack of money and investment. The Purple Pound matters and inefficiency hurts. There is a new set of levers to work on – Rob H is cynical but still optimistic. In terms of transport it is over 7 years since work began and an independent review was filed on 31st December 2024. The GDA contributed but have yet to see the final report. It is believed that there is still distrust of the third sector. Community Transport Strategy should be in place by year end but likely to be 2028 until it is effective. SoJ was already using the software that UnLtd commissioned.</p> <p><u>Health</u></p> <p>MR said it would be good to be optimistic, but things are not moving as fast as they should, to save money. The States language ‘Sustainable Health & Care Services’ is not clear and it is hard to tangibly see what change has been made.</p> <p>CareWatch (independent lay members, chaired by Roger Allsop) was set up to join in the policy discussions with HSC for modelling the future quality and funding of care and the delivery of new services, including how to adapt to make work better in the future. This liaison worked for the first 2 years and has now been ‘in the wilderness’. Bella Farrell has raised the profile and got a new website. Current emphasis is on Primary Care. CareWatch was asked to survey Primary Care in 2022/23 costing £10,000 but nothing has been taken forwards. Signs are there of what needs to change to match health and inequality but there remains a lack of investment in early interventions.</p> <p>In addition to the Primary Care input, the GDA has provided significant input into the review of Section 10 of the Income Support (Guernsey) Law relating to the funding of disability related equipment, aids and adaptations. The weaknesses in the current system are acknowledged but to date limited progress has been made to progress this work.</p> <p>The Supported Living and Aging Well Strategy (SLAWS) is fundamental to our demographics. This has stalled and there are diverse amendments which means that it will be delayed and go to the next States.</p>	<p>RP</p>
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Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Phase 1 of the Hospital Modernisation is almost complete but the funding and timeline for the larger Phase 2 remains uncertain. Delay will place significant pressure on already stretched services.</p> <p>Guernsey and Alderney Wellbeing Survey and the Dr Brink, Medical Officer of Health report 2023 – 2024 were published in the last few weeks painting a similar picture across the Bailiwick. The current model for health and social care is unsustainable, with significant investment required in prevention and early intervention to flatten the demand curve and begin to tackle increasing health inequality across the Bailiwick</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>CH sits on an Autism Framework Steering Group with no Autism individual as a member. Issues arose from the steering group as it separated early intervention and autism which does not fit/work. Members keep changing so work is carried out and then redone. Still working on 2016 strategy in December 2023</p> <p>Education is working towards more inclusive education provision. All the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) review was accepted and implementation is on-going. There is recent, new Guidance for staff and a new SEND Code of Practice but these are still based on the old legislation which needs to be updated. One of its recommendations was to work closely with HSC but is not working and requires further effort.</p> <p>The Education Law was enacted in 1970 with terminology and an approach that was rooted in the 1940's. A 1987 amendment to the Law provided for pupils with special education needs. The revised law is due in September but may be delayed due to the election and new priorities. Any delay in the Education Law revision should not delay the introduction of the protection against discrimination to pupils due in September 2025.</p> <p>An Education Billet for new governance arrangements in schools went through on 5th February of this year.</p> <p>Special Needs has been relabelled as Additional Learning Needs to highlight the barriers but the definition with the Code of Practice does not match this which reflects the definition in the Law. The Equality Ordinance has not yet been extended to Education so there is no external means of complaint. It is not just meant to including children in schools but all education.</p> <p>Neurodiversity is probably underdiagnosed or mis-diagnosed in Guernsey when compared with the UK statistics. Equally Guernsey could be a statistical outlier.</p>	

Item	Minute	Action
11.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Platts wished to say that everything that the meeting had discussed and talked about on progress adds to compliance with the UNCRPD which is supposed to be a practical toolkit for governments that can be followed with the principal of progressive realisation. The recent Discrimination Law was a prerequisite from the UK for UNCRPD. We are losing sight of this when developing health, education and transport if everyone does not have their eye on CRPD to make sure that nothing is missed. He recommended that education on UNCRPD would be invaluable for government. • Deputy Gollop said that today, February 11th, he had been to a celebration and unveiling of a blue plaque commemorating the life and work of Jessie de Garis, 1918 – 1984, who pioneered the teaching of children with special educational needs in the island. The teacher's life saw her being appointed in 1948 as the head teacher of Floraville School for Handicapped Children in Vauvert. • Don't forget to register to vote! 	
12.	<p>Date of next AGM</p> <p>February 2026</p>	

The meeting finished at 19:40