



DAA NEWSLETTER: February 2015

14th Edition

NEW MEMBERS

The DAA has nine new members that have joined us this February 2015. For information on new members, please see links on page 3.

CALLS FOR ACTION

- 1. Send your logo and information** – In preparation for the new DAA website we have asked all members to send through:
 - Your organisational logo, 50 words about your organisation and confirmation of your website address, and
 - Upcoming events that you would like to publicise on the new website - include your event name, location, price of ticket, contact details for those interested, and 50 word summary of event.

If you have not already done so, please send this through by 13th March.

- 2. Join the Commissioning Project** – We are looking for more DAA members to get involved in the Commissioning project. This project is aiming predominantly at influencing commissioners to take greater consideration of the needs of disabled people in the design of services. If interested in joining, please do contact us via the email below.

- 3. X-Card survey** – The X Card survey will close on 16th March 2015. A report will be published later in the spring. If you haven't already, please do complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X-Card>

- 4. News Stories** – A reminder that the DAA Secretariat are still keen to receive news stories from DAA members. We would love to have stories that link with the following celebration days in March:

- 20th March – International day of Happiness
- 21st March – World Down Syndrome day

If you have any news stories relevant to these days, please get in contact with us: FULFILLING.POTENTIAL@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

HEADLINE PROJECT UPDATES

Volunteering – 38 organisations have now pledged to the Charter, but the project group continues to promote the benefits of volunteering and the Charter. Next steps include continuing to establish links with a number of major organisations and Cabinet Office.

Transport – This project originally started by concentrating efforts on improving disability accessibility and awareness on buses. The project is now also looking to share its learning with train networks.

Commissioning – The project team is working to increase the level of disability awareness amongst those responsible for commissioning. This includes linking up with the Commissioning Academy to see how members of the DAA can further support inclusion of disability related considerations in their programme.

Raising Disability Awareness Amongst Children – The project has pulled together materials for use by schools and other clubs. These will be put on a resource page that will be available with the new website.

UPDATES ON GOVT POLICIES/CHANGES TO PUBLICATIONS

Government response to the PIP and WCA Independent Reviews:
In December 2014 Paul Gray published his independent review of Personal Independence Payments (PIP). The Government has now published its response to the review. Click [here](#) to read the response.

In November 2014, Dr Litchfield published the 5th and final independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). To read the recently published Government response, please click [here](#).

Accessible Britain Challenge (ABC) announces shortlist:

The ABC recently announced those nominations that have been shortlisted for the ABC awards. Sixty-six nominations were received in total. From these a judging panel drew up shortlists for each of the four categories. For more information visit the [shortlisted nominations](#) page.

New DAA Members

- The Disability Community: <http://www.disabilitycommunity.org.uk/>
- Visualise Training and Consultancy:
<http://www.visualisetrainingandconsultancy.com/>
- Whitton Community Association: <http://lgn1399908636.site-fusion.co.uk/>
- Worcester Volunteer Centre and Council for Voluntary Service:
<http://www.worcestervolunteercentre.org.uk/>
- Northern Ireland Cross Community Angling: <http://www.NI-CCA.com>
- Voluntary Action with Kent: <http://www.vawk.org.uk/>
- Trio Supported Holidays: <http://trio-sh.weebly.com/about.html>
- Enham Trust: <http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk/>
- Age UK Runnymede and Spelthorne:
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/runnymedeandspelthorne/>