

DAA Newsletter Edition 10 (Word Version)

Members Update – Edition 10

Dear Members of the Disability Action Alliance

This month we have some exciting news about new project ideas and the Steering Group refresh.

New Project Ideas

The 'Broadening Out' event we held in January resulted in lots of good ideas for new projects. It has taken us a while to pull them together but this week we have sent out the first five new ideas and are asking Alliance members to consider whether they could get involved in taking them forward.

Please have a look and consider whether you'd like to work on these projects, or even if you'd like to help coordinate one of them!

Steering Group Refresh

The DAA Steering Group is made up of member organisations from all sectors, predominantly disabled people's user led organisations. We are now looking to expand and there are 5 vacancies. If you are interested in being considered for the Steering Group please let us know.

We emailed details about becoming a Steering Group member or getting involved in new projects but you can also find info on the news page [here](#)

Good News Stories

In March we published about Ann Johnson, Chief Executive of Alliance member Wave-length, who wrote a personal and honest article on her own experience of disability for an organisation called Sesame Access. Sesame Access has since joined the DAA and you can read the full story [here](#).

News Updates

We have published lots of news and updates for members – a quick re-cap is below and you can find the full articles on the news page [here](#).

- Metro Blind Sport announced their **Athletics Championships** will take place on Saturday 14th June and feature a full track and field competition. Entry forms are now available!

- Campaya have prepared a detailed **info-graphic to show how to make a rental holiday home more accessible** for disabled and older holiday makers in the UK.
 - National Survivor User Network (NSUN) launched their new **Mental Healthwatch handbook** designed to help local communities improve mental health together.
 - The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) published **Access for All: Inclusive Community Guide** which aims to support more disabled people to get involved in sport and physical activity.
 - Disability Rights UK shared their new guide **'Into Apprenticeships'** which includes individual stories of the experiences of doing an apprenticeship.
 - National Survivor User Network (NSUN) and Together are hosting a **International Service User Leadership and Peer Support Festival**, to showcase international best practice from people with experience of mental health conditions. The festival will take place on 9th June in South London.
 - **A New Disabled Access Review Website** – EuansGuide.com was launched in April, which allows users to post reviews of any venue and rate them on their accessibility, anywhere in the world.
 - **A Public Transport Guide for older and disabled people** – was published by the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA), which gives an overview of the accessibility of a variety of public transport modes and provides consumer research.
 - Dosh, published its **banking guide: Making Banking Easier**, which helps people speak to banks and get the support and access they need. Alongside this there is a short help sheet for people to carry with them.
 - The Health and Safety Executive have provided guidance on **gas safety for disabled people** which we posted onto the website.
 - The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA) published a **Public Transport Guide** for older and disabled people, which gives an overview of accessibility of a variety of public transport modes, to help people plan and prepare their journey.
 - Waveney Stardust has **two volunteer roles** that need to be filled, by applicants situated anywhere within a twenty mile radius of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads
- **The new Inter-departmental Ministerial Group agreed that the UK will launch a 'UK Day of Activity' on 4th September, which will challenge local communities to show what they are doing to be more inclusive and accessible for disabled people.**
- Greener Journeys will be coordinating **Catch the Bus Week** to promote more sustainable travel from 28 April to 04 May.
 - CHANGE asked members to 'save the date' for a **national free event in Leeds** for all people with a learning disability. The event will take place on 26 June and CHANGE would like other self advocacy organisations to join with them in planning and leading the event.
 - Dimensions asked organisations to help them develop an **Accessible Meeting Toolkit** and ran a workshop on 08 April 2014

· **Shaping Our Lives will launch the 'Beyond the Usual Suspects' findings on 28 April 2014 – showing how people can be more involved in shaping their lives and the services they use**

- Level Playing Field ran a **Week of Action** event in March which enabled clubs, Disabled Supporter Associations and fans to highlight the positive work they do for disabled fans
- Clinks **Transforming Rehabilitation Helpline** went live earlier in March
- **Leonard Cheshire Disability** – launched 'Change100', a national campaign to find talented disabled undergraduates to work in some of the UK's leading companies as paid interns this summer.

Members

We now have over 270 members! Since the last newsletter in February, the following organisations have joined;

Adapt North East

Amplifon Hearing Centre

Attitude is Everything

Better Days

Cabinet Office

Canterbury and District Mental Health Forum

Centre for Social Futures

CHANGE

Cheshire Fire Officers Association

Chief Fire Officers Association

Community Navigator Services

Community Service Volunteers

Decipha

Demand

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Disabled Golf Association

Disability Wales

Elbow Grease Cooperative Ltd

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Inspire Peterborough

Leicester Fire and Rescue Service

Key Outcomes

Manchester Disabled People's Access Group

Metro Blind Sports

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service

Recovery Partners

Sesame Access Systems Ltd

Scope

Sky Badger

Smiling Cat Ventures

STAGETEXT

The Legacy Rainbow House

The Tennis Foundation

Thomas Pocklington Trust

Waveney Stardust Trust

WellVine

West Midlands Fire Service

Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale Disability Action

Workers Educational Association

The full list can be found on the website – Alliance Members. We have added links through to organisations' websites to help you find out more about them and/or make contact if you want to.

Please do promote the Alliance to any organisation who you think would be interested and/or let us know so we can invite them to join.

And finally.....

The DAA Secretariat would like to say farewell and thank you to two of their team, Stewart and Kath. Stewart moved on to another role within DWP while Kath left to try life outside the Civil Service – we wish them both lots of luck for the future.

Contact Us

There is a 'Contact us' link on the Alliance website

- You can also email us on fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
- And don't forget to follow us on twitter **@DisActAll**