

# **DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE**

## **Members Update – Edition 11**

### **Dear Members of the Disability Action Alliance**

In the last few weeks we have been going through a selection exercise for new Steering Group members and we have listed below which organisations were successful.

We have also started to progress the new projects and have published a number of news items and achievements on our website.

And ten new organisations have joined the Alliance!

### **Steering Group Refresh**

We received 25 applications from members wishing to join the Steering Group and we would like to thank everyone for their interest. We can confirm that the following six members were selected:-

- Action on Disability & Work UK
- Disabled Golf Association
- English Federation of Disability Sports
- Independent Lives
- Signature
- Sky Badger

We look forward to working with the new Steering Group members.

### **New Projects**

We will have initial meetings in June on two of the new projects – to raise awareness about disability with children and young people in schools; and to increase the number of disabled people attending sporting events.

We will provide regular updates on activities and progress over the coming months. It's not too late to participate so if you would like to get involved in any of the projects please let us know.

### **Good News Stories**

We published two 'Good News Stories' which showcase the achievements of our Members. They are set out below and more info can be found [here](#)

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In May **Living Options Devon's Countryside Mobility Scheme** won a Highly Commended award in the 'Access for All' category at the prestigious **VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2014** Ceremony. This achievement places Countryside Mobility in the top five businesses for excellence in their category in England.

Alliance member, **Inspire Peterborough**, was awarded £277k by the Sport England Inclusive Fund to increase opportunities for disability sport in Peterborough, and enable more opportunities for disabled people to play sport. Inspire Peterborough will use its funding to become the leading disability sporting partnership in Peterborough, improving the mental and physical health and well being of everyone involved.

## News Updates

This month we have published several news stories - here is a quick re-cap in case you missed them and full stories can be found [here](#).

- **DWP** published the latest edition of their 'Aspire 2' online magazine for disabled young people. This edition has a 'Getting into Work' theme.
- **HearFirst UK**, have shared their free top tips for working with and supporting deaf and hard of hearing colleagues
- **Disability Dynamics** have just re-launched their website which is easier to use and includes useful information and resources, and regular News updates
- **Disability Dynamics** also shared what progress they have made on particular projects which have a focus on employment.
- **Include Me Too** produced a music video to raise awareness of and promote positive attitudes and respect towards disabled people.
- **The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA)** launched a national survey for powered wheelchair users and carers to share experiences of obtaining and using powered wheelchairs.
- **The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)** is recruiting new Trustees to lead and grow the charity to support disabled people to be active for life.

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- **The English Federation of Disability Sports (EFDS)** also advertised the Disability Sport Events National Junior Athletics Championships (12 & 13 July 2014).
- **The Money Advice Service** launched a new tool to help people deal with the impact of money worries when they have poor mental health.
- **The Legacy Rainbow House** shared their A – Z of Fundraising on their website which lists countless great ideas on how to raise funds.
- **Cauldwell Children** held their annual Butterfly Ball on Thursday 15th May, 2014 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, to raise money to transform the lives of disabled children and their families across the UK.
- **Essex County Fire & Rescue Service** is offering free home fire safety visits.
- **The English Federation of Disability Sport**, published news of the first World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge 2015, which will take place at London's Copper Box Arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park between 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October.
- **The English Federation of Disability Sport** also released their 'Motivate Me' report, about what motivates disabled people to take part in sport and physical activity
- **The Wales eAccessibility Forum** have set up an eAccessibility Wales Directory which brings together all the Assistive Technology into one site creating a 'one stop shop' for accessible software, hardware and computer settings to make your computer easier to use.
- **The Harbour Challenge Outdoor Education Centre** has been awarded a £191,886 boost from Sport England's Inclusive Sport Fund, to open up more opportunities for disabled people to get involved in sport.
- **The Department for Transport has announced** new appointments for Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).
- **Virgin Media** has launched its new Video Relay Service, helping deaf and hard of hearing customers get the most out of their next generation broadband, TV and phone services

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- **The Digital Accessibility Centre (DAC)**, formally received confirmation of their accreditation as a Living Wage Employer and so joins the growing number of responsible Living Wage employers nationwide.
- **Harrow United Deaf Club (HUDC)**, are marking their 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by holding an event on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the C & L County Club, West End Road, Northolt, UB5 6RD between 12.45pm – 5.30pm.
- **Older People's Advocacy Alliance (UK) OPAAL**, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support have recently produced '**Every Step of the Way**' which includes 13 stories illustrating the difference independent advocacy support makes to older people affected by cancer.
- **Football People Event Grants** announced that a pool of €30,000 is being made available by the **Fare Network** to fund up to ten events that tackle discrimination and address social exclusion as part of the Football People action weeks in October 2014.
- **Supporting Employers Managing Personal Assistants (SEMPA) CIC** has provided some very useful links which aim to support disabled, elderly and other people to live independently.
- **The Plunkett Foundation** welcomed applications for the Plunkett Foundation Rural Community Ownership Awards from community enterprises across the UK and Ireland, to celebrate best practice within the community enterprise sector.
- **Hire a Hero**, is seeking volunteers to help support servicemen and women as they adjust to civilian life after leaving the armed forces.

### Members

Since the last newsletter in April, 10 organisations have joined the Alliance bringing the number of members to almost 300. New members are;

- Autus
- Campaya
- Carlson Rezidor Hotels
- Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service
- Disabled Holiday Directory
- Dyslexia Association of London
- Hao2.eu
- Proudlock Associates

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- Solid State
- The Centre for Workplace and Community Health, St Mary's University.

The full list can be found [here](#). 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.

### **Contact Us**

- There is a '[Contact us](#)' link on the Alliance website
- You can also email us on [fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
- And don't forget to follow us on twitter **@DisActAll**