

# DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE



## Members Update – Edition 12

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

We have started to progress two new projects this month 'Raising Awareness About Disability Amongst Children & Encourage Positive Attitude' and 'Increasing Disabled People's Attendance At Sporting Events'; please see the New Project item below for more.

As usual we have published a number of Alliance News items and Good News Stories on our website the month; these celebrate members achievements and share news of forthcoming events and/or activities.



We celebrated a significant milestone when the DAA reached its 300<sup>th</sup> member! Considering the Alliance was first formed around 18 months ago this is a great achievement! Membership has steadily grown month-on-month and members have access to a vast array of organisations with specialisms, expertise and experiences all with the same aim of making changes that improve the lives of disabled people.

Please continue to promote the Alliance to any organisation you feel would be good members and encourage them to join. Prospective members can click on the 'Join Us link in our website [www.disabilityactionalliance.org.uk](http://www.disabilityactionalliance.org.uk).

15 new organisations have joined the Alliance since our last Newsletter was published in June; this brings our total membership up to 306 organisations.

# DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE

## New Projects

We have begun to set up two new project ideas that came from the 'Ideas Event' held in January.

### Raising awareness among children & young people –

The aim of this project is to promote awareness about disability with children and young people, and to encourage their positive attitudes towards disability. We have had initial interest from Brittle Bones Society, Media School Birmingham, KidzAware, BID Services and Sky Badger – and we know that Action on Disability and Work UK, Disabled Golf and Independent Lives are also interested in being involved. We have had an initial meeting but are planning a further telekit to scope what the project outcomes could be, specifically around sharing existing good practice, and how Members involved can work together.

We will send further information about this project but if you do want to get involved from this early stage please contact us.

### Increasing disabled people's attendance at sporting events –

The aim of this project is to increase opportunities and ability for disabled people to attend sporting events of all nature. Involved so far are: Level Playing Field, Brittle Bones Society, Smiling Cat Ventures, Dimensions, Dial Peterborough, Disabled Golf and Action for Blind People and an initial meeting touched on potential outcomes being some kind of 'Inclusive Toolkit' that gives advice on all aspects of attending events – from Match Buddies, to buying tickets on line.

We are planning another meeting to scope out next steps and again, if you want to get involved at this early stage please let us know.

## Key Project Updates

### Volunteering –

This project looks at supporting disabled people into volunteering roles. Work continues to develop a Volunteer Charter with a set of principles organisations and employers could be asked to endorse and construct a Knowledge Bank where case studies and examples of good practice can be deposited.

### Inclusive Communities –

Disability Right UK are due to publish their report later this summer, aimed at increasing the understanding of what makes an inclusive community and what activities can be undertaken to achieve/support this.

# DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE

## Transport –

Success has already been achieved in Blackpool with introduction of the 'Safe Journey Card' and disabled people being involved in how driver training is delivered. Plans are now to extend these good practices to other parts of the country.

## Good News Stories

Since the last Newsletter we have published six 'Good News Stories' to showcase the achievements of our Members. They are set out below and more info can be found [here](#).

**Bournemouth University** launched a '*Seen but Seldom Heard*' project which seeks to challenge perceptions of disability through poetry and performance. The project uses live performances and on-line media to empower young disabled people with a 'voice' and teach the necessary creative skills to challenge stereotypes and engage in conversation about attitudes, issues, policies and practices which affect them in their daily lives and their future aspirations.

**Thomas Pocklington Trust** worked in partnership to develop Local Vision Strategies (LVS) for all 32 boroughs across London. LVS deliver key insights about the needs of people with sight loss and can drive commissioning of services in ways which bring better results for people with sight loss, delivering their views directly to Public Health Directors and others providing local services

**Blackpool Transport** have improved the content of all driver training courses by inviting disabled people to share their personal travel experiences during delivery of the Diversity and Disability Awareness module. This enables drivers to understand their role in providing a quality service to disabled people, recognise various types of impairment, and have a better knowledge of how to support disabled travellers.

**The Tennis Foundation** inspired school children to play tennis under Big Ben. They are running a tennis programme of activity with the Lawn Tennis Association to promote tennis as a sport for all ages and abilities, and encourage people to maximise their personal potential through the sport.

**Aspire** have worked with YMCAfit to develop a FREE InstructAbility gym instructor course open to disabled people. The Sport England funded programme provides unemployed disabled people, who are over sixteen years old and have some gym user experience, with gym instructor training

# DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE

and qualifications. Graduates are also allocated an industry placement where they will work to encourage more disabled people in the local community to participate in fitness and exercise sessions.

**Money Advice Service** launched Care and Disability on-line information on their website for people who develop a health condition or become disabled. It provided information about support for disabled people in work and study; and access to loans, mortgages and insurance for disabled people.

## News Updates

Since the last Newsletter we have published several news stories - here is a quick re-cap in case you missed them; full stories can be found [here](#).

- **Sky Badger** shared details their Primary School's Disability Awareness Programme & School Awards which will allow all primary schools in the UK to explore disability and special educational needs in a fun and exciting way.
- **The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)** published their evidence based report 'Encouraging People to be Active Together' on how to provide sport or physical activity opportunities for disabled and non-disabled people to take part together.
- The Government has made £1.2million for the **Autism Innovation Fund** to improve local autism services and increase awareness. Applications are invited from Local authorities, NHS, third sector, commercial and voluntary organisations by **5pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014**.
- **The Tennis Foundation** celebrated the success of Jordanne Whiley who became the first British Woman to lift a wheelchair tennis trophy at Wimbledon as she clinched her third Grand Slam doubles title this year with Japanese partner Yui Kamiji.
- **Caudwell Children** issued a call for new volunteers with good life skills to help provide practical and emotional support, helping families to access equipment, treatment and therapy services by committing just two hours a week.
- **Attitude Is Everything** launched an on-line campaign promoting accessibility to live music for deaf and disabled fans at #MusicWithoutBarriers. It aims to encourage venues and festivals to give

# DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE

Deaf and disabled fans an equal chance to enjoy live music and see the bands and artists that they love.

- **Harrow United Deaf Club** launched their brand new website, which includes updates of news and events, inspiring role models Volunteer Opportunities, information about future activities and much more.
- **Sense** opened a survey on older deafblind people's experiences (65 years and older) of being in hospital. They are gathering information on deafblind people to feed into a HealthWatch England enquiry survey.
- **SENDPO** invited people to the launch of their new resource 'Confident Commissioning' on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The resource aims to build relationships between local authorities and disabled people's user led organisations.
- **Disability Rights UK** published the 39<sup>th</sup> Edition of their 'Disability Rights Handbook' which provides information and guidance on the benefits system. It is written in plain English, is user-friendly and is designed for both claimants and their advisers.
- **Disability Rights UK**, also issued invited people to a free one-day Independent Living Conference on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014. It aimed to reach a common understanding of what independent living is today with topics covered including Advocacy, Housing, Transport, Employment, Choice in Support, Right to Control, Inclusive Communities, Education, Sport and Voice and Co-production.

## Members

Since the last newsletter in early June, 15 organisations have joined the Alliance bringing the number of members to 306. Our newest members are:

- Aspire (InstructAbility Programme)
- Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- BlueAssist UK Ltd
- Bradford Disability Sport and Leisure
- Connect (The Community Disability Network)
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
- Learning Disability Carers Community
- Media School (Bournemouth University)
- MiFinder
- Monmouthshire County Council

# DISABILITY ACTION ALLIANCE

- Royal Strathclyde Blindcraft Industries
- SEMPA CIC
- Stay Up Late
- Wandsworth Independent Living Forum
- West Yorkshire Sport

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**