

Disability Action Alliance Steering Group Meeting 19/05/2015

Attendees

Stephen Brooks	Disability Hate Crime Network (Chair)
Ray Ashley	English Federation of Disabled Sports (EFDS)
Sarah Yiannoullou	NSUN
Jim Edwards	Signature
Chris Smith	Disabled Golf Association
Naomi Marek	Sky Badger
Claire Wickham	ADWUK
Charlie Willis	Independent Lives
Julie Jaye Charles	Equalities National Council
Carol Pearson	Surrey Coalition
Kerry Williams	Disability Action Alliance
Maxine Thompson	Disability Action Alliance
Lee Garfoot	ODI

Apologies

Liz Sayce	Disability Rights UK
Andy Rickell	ADWUK
Cam Nicoll	Digital Accessible Centre

Welcome and Introductions

Stephen welcomed Maxine Thompson who has joined the secretariat team.

Previous Action Points (AP)

AP discussed:

25/02/15 AP9 – Work to produce an additional disclaimer on the accessibility of the website is still on-going as the content continues to be reviewed.

25/02/15 AP14 – Discussions are on-going to investigate corporate sponsorship.

08/04/15 AP6 – Stephen has contacted Andy about the public appointments project group work and is awaiting a response.

08/04/15 AP7 – Steering Group members were sent information about Public Appointments to review. This will be picked up at the June meeting.

08/04/15 AP9 – Secretariat has invited requested guest speaker to attend a Steering Group meeting and is awaiting a response.

08/04/15 AP11 – Ray confirmed over 70 sporting bodies who are DAA members have signed up to the Charter for Change and suggested the project group now needs to look at adding non-sporting bodies.

08/04/15 AP12 – Good practice guides and disabled ambassadors will be discussed at the first sports and physical activity project meeting on 16th June.

08/04/15 AP13 – Now Purdah has ended the Secretariat will be adding the 'work' project to website and add project volunteers to group list, by 8th June.

08/04/15 AP15 – Naomi confirmed she has spoken with “Pimp My Cause”, who have worked with the DAA previously and they are likely to support the DAA again.

Action 1: Maxine to provide an update on the role of DPULO ambassadors.
NB: To confirm that the DPULO programme closed at the end of March 2015 and the ambassador roles also ended at this time.

Project Updates

Commissioning

Have agreed dates with commissioning academy for DAA members to speak at events – the first will be on 28th May. Inclusive communities’ material is now on the commissioning academy resource bank. The group continues to work with PSTN on resources.

Communications and Marketing

Maxine will now lead on this area. Progress was restricted during the pre election period; these restrictions have now been lifted.

Employment Support

The first project meeting will take place in July. This will give members the opportunity to review the paper and options proposed by the project leads. The project is looking to utilise members’ knowledge and experience to help develop evidence based solutions. A follow up meeting is due to take place after the August Steering Group meeting. Naomi suggested inviting Jane Hatton from Evenbreak.

Action 2: Kerry to invite Evenbreak to employment support project meeting – deadline w/c 22 June.

Public Appointments

Due to the restrictions of the pre election period, discussions with key stakeholders from public organisations were put on hold. Stephen is working with a number of local authorities looking to raise awareness and increase disabled peoples opportunities to take up public appointments. Julie-Jaye Charles expressed an interest in being involved in this project. .

Raising Disability Awareness amongst Children

Sky Badger’s schools project is nearly at the end of the first round of awards and they have been overwhelmed by the responses. Aimia, (who manage many loyalty programmes including Nectar Card), are supporting the project in progressing a strategy. The DAA project group continues to engage with DfE.

Action 3: Maxine and Naomi to arrange a date for the next project group meeting – deadline early June.

Sport and Physical Activity 16th June has been set for the first project meeting.

Transport

Stephen confirmed that Stagecoach, who are bidding for the North West contract, have been engaging with the transport group to learn about the approach taken in Blackpool.

Volunteering

A number of events have been planned during Volunteering Week to promote the charter. These will be publicised via the website and social media.

Intersection

Charlie provided the group with a copy of the draft intersection checklist and invited members to provide feedback. The project group wants the checklist to be easy to use: a guidance document is to be developed to assist people when using the checklist. References, links and signposting are all to be considered when developing the guidance.

Action 4: Charlie - Section 1 point 5 is to remove the word 'negatively' – deadline 30th June.

Action 5: Charlie - Section 1 point 4 is to be reviewed as not all characteristics will apply to all groups – deadline 30th June.

Action 6: Charlie - Section 1 descriptor: The word 'protected' to be removed and replaced with 'appropriate' – deadline 30th June.

Action 7: Steering group - To review the checklist and provide feedback to Charlie and Julie – deadline 30th June.

Future of DAA

Stephen introduced Liz's discussion paper titled 'Disability Action Alliance: Potential Future Direction', which she had shared with the group. He highlighted key points from the paper, providing a platform for discussion.

Summary of Points Raised

With the new government it was felt that this is a good opportunity to review the DAA, what the role of the DAA is and what the benefits of being a member are. It was felt that the DAA isn't yet achieving its full potential in that more could be done to reach/involve our wider membership. Questions such as 'How can we use more of our resources?' and 'How can we influence others?' were posed for consideration when developing ideas on the future of the DAA.

The Steering Group should consider issuing an update to members e.g. 1 year updates, including a forward plan. Ways to better promote what we do well, and continue building partnerships should be explored.

The group considered whether the secretariat function should remain in its current form and how it could be separated from the communications and/or project support roles.

There were concerns that having the secretariat function delivered by a non-governmental organisation would present no additional advantage for the DAA and its members.

The secretariat was commended for the work they do. It was felt that the fact that the ODI host the secretariat function sends a clear signal to DAA's strategic partners that DWP is committed to the DAA. It was also felt that the current arrangement allows for good cross government connections. The point was made that it is also important to continue to use the DAA as resource for ODI to gain advice, as well as DAA members receiving advice from ODI.

The consensus of the group was that the DAA should remain in its current state, which would mean the ODI would retain the secretariat function, if possible. The future of the DAA will be discussed again at the June steering group.

Action 8: Stephen volunteered to put together a business case proposal for the future of the DAA and circulate to Steering Group members for comment – deadline June.

AOB

No other business.