

## Disability Action Alliance Steering Group Meeting 11/08/2015

### Attendees:

Pat Russell	Director Office for Disability Issues DWP
Stephanie Harvey	Office for Disability Issues (ODI, DWP) Chair
Stephen Brookes	Disability Hate Crime Network
Liz Sayce	Disability Rights UK (Telephone)
Cam Nicholl	Digital Accessible Centre
Chris Smith	Disabled Golf Association
Naomi Marek	Sky Badger
Charlie Willis	Independent Lives (Telephone)
Julie Jaye Charles	Equalities National Council (Telephone)
Ray Ashley	English Federation of Disabled Sports (EFDS) (Telephone)
Pamela Thompson (Observer)	DEFRA
Kerry Williams	Disability Action Alliance (ODI, DWP)
Maxine Thompson	Disability Action Alliance (ODI, DWP)
Adrian Reed (Observer)	Office for Disability Issues (ODI, DWP)
Theresa Hodge	SENDPO
Dan Summers	Signature
Sarah Yiannoullou	NSUN
Jacqui Wyatt	Disability Action Alliance (ODI,DWP)
Huw Meredith	DWP
Trieca Huggins (Observer)	DCMS
Deborah Roberts (Observer)	Digital Accessibility Centre

### Apologies

Jim Edwards                      Signature  
Carol Pearson                    Surrey Coalition

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Stephanie welcomed everyone and explained that she would be chairing the meeting as Liz would be dialling in on this occasion.

### **Previous Action Points (AP)**

APs discussed:

25/02/15 AP9: Cam updated that the pack is still being created.

25/02/15 AP14: As a result of difficulties in finding funding to create easy read versions of elements of the website, Maxine offered to review and update previous easy reads to circulate for approval from the steering group by the end of August. This was agreed.

30/06/15 AP4: Naomi to share website links on the work by Sky Badger, on raising awareness amongst children, with the Secretariat, so they can ask members to share this around their networks (4817 downloads of materials so far).

30/06/15 AP7: Stephen and Naomi to write the proposal for a new project on hostility towards disabled children to discuss at the next meeting.

## **Project Updates: paper 2**

### Intersection

Charlie and Julie – are building a list of people to invite into the group to develop the guidance that will complement the checklist. Currently they are halfway through reviewing this. Once the invites have gone out, the project hopes to hold a meeting. It was agreed it would be beneficial to circulate the list for steering group members to add suggestions.

**AP1:** Stephanie will send list to Steering Group for suggestions of people to invite – 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

### Public Appointments

There is a meeting that is happening shortly with someone from the commissioner for public appointments' office. Good links are being made to start addressing the low numbers of disabled school governors. Stephen spoke to Trieca about a possible contact in DCMS, as DCMS have been held as strong on this sort of thing in the past.

### Transport.

Stephen announced that Tanni Grey Thompson is now on the Transport for London (TFL) board. There is a possible upcoming meeting with Jane Cole (Blackpool Transport) and Stephen to look at how TFL can use Blackpool model of training.

### Work.

Meeting straight after this one, looking at what is measurable and achievable as group is large. There is a possibility of feeding into some DWP early policy development.

### Raising awareness children.

More members have joined to support pulling together resources that can be published on the NASEN Gateway. Additionally there is scope to work with NASEN to deliver a combined SEN awareness week in November.

## **Devolution and Localism**

Huw Meredith gave the group an updated overview of what is happening at a government level on around devolution and localism agendas. He spoke of legislation and pilots taking place. Key points include:

- Scotland Bill is currently going through parliament regarding powers for devolution. Some DWP benefits, including power to create employment and support programme for disabled people, would be devolved, there would be a transfer of Social Security Tribunals, and some Universal Credit rules may differ.

- Wales Bill expected next year and is not likely to go as far as the Scotland Bill.
  - Northern Ireland status quo continues.
- England – The Conservative manifesto sets out the context for this work, which includes devolving power to large cities where they have an elected mayor. Greater Manchester very involved in this agenda, especially as they have started the process to elect a mayor. There are opportunities to include greater localisation of employment support through this work. The Cities and Local Devolution Bill provides the legislative framework and is currently going through Parliament.

Comments from the steering group included both concern and feelings that this presents opportunities. It was noted that there is concern in Preston, Lancashire that Greater Manchester will soak up funding with the result that there is less for nearby regions.

It was also noted that there may be opportunities for more pilots related to disabled people in the areas where power has been devolved. It was suggested that the steering group could think about how disabled people's organisations could get involved so as to be able to suggest better models/support provided. This was cited as a potential opportunity to try something different, demonstrate that it works and then spread the news to other areas.

As a DAA steering group, it was agreed that this is an area of work that we should explore to both spot if any of the risks mentioned begin to appear and to take advantage of any opportunities that arrive. Huw mentioned a contact that Stephanie can make links with; then the steering group can look at any potential engagement in this area.

The TLAP project was mentioned as they have pushed co-production with councils. It was noted that there is significant evidence to say that benefits can be had from greater localism, and that the key is to involve local people.

**AP2:** Stephanie to think about how we might keep an eye on these areas – by 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

Huw continued to explain that initiatives are emerging from some local authorities to increase localism. Examples locally include building on the Universal Support model, greater co-location and delivering in partnership. There was discussion of local leads (usually LA or Health) as multi agency support role; this provides opportunities to unlock resources and increase outcomes. Work is also underway to pool data.

Work and disability outcomes for people and groups may be improved by localism as it can drive innovation and creative solutions. Effective evaluation will be important to identify what works best.

A discussion was had around funding mechanisms for smaller grass roots disabled peoples' organisations wanting to bid as providers for local support provision. A concern was raised that model that only paid once outcomes had been achieved might not be suitable for such organisations. It was noted that Cabinet Office/DCLG are interested in social bonds and it would be useful for the DAA to explore links get involved if not already.

**AP3:** Stephanie to make links with Huw's contact to explore how the DAA can get involved in this agenda – by 22 Sept.

## **Future Direction of DAA**

Stephanie thanked the group for agreeing to hold off of discussion of Stephen's paper until a later date. This is to ensure that such a discussion is well informed. An update was provided from ODI. Discussions then centred predominantly on work undertaken by and ways of working with in the secretariat.

**AP4:** Any further suggestions of ways to work going forwards, please send to Stephanie – by 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

## **Alliance update - Paper 3**

Stephanie highlighted the key findings in the paper for the website and twitter. DAA members were pleased with the upward trends, especially the increase of returners to the website and the increased number of webpages visited.

A question was raised about the devices that the website is accessed on – it was agreed that the comms and marketing group could investigate this.

**AP5:** Maxine to take this up with the group.

Maxine has asked for members if possible to re tweet from our twitter page to further increase our reach. It was suggested that we all make sure that we have the member tag at the bottom of our email addresses and that the DAA twitter name be recirculated.

**AP6:** Stephanie to circulate the tag and twitter name for steering group members to add to their email signature. – completed.

## **AOB**

Stephen agreed to email Julie regarding the public appointments project.

Liz thanked Stephanie for chairing the meeting.

Digital Engagement project asked steering group members to promote the Survey