

## Disability Action Alliance Steering Group Meeting 22/09/15

### Attendees:

Liz Sayce (chair)	Disability Rights UK Chair
Stephen Brooks	Disability Hate Crime Network
Cam Nicholl	Digital Accessible Centre (Telephone)
Chris Smith	Disabled Golf Association
Naomi Marek	Sky Badger (Telephone)
Charlie Willis	Independent Lives (Telephone)
Julie Jaye Charles (& colleague – name tbc)	Equalities National Council
Ray Ashley	English Federation of Disabled Sports (EFDS)
Claire Wickham	ADWUK on behalf of Andy Rickell
Theresa Hodge	SENDPO on behalf of Carol Pearson
Dan Summers	Signature
Stephanie Harvey	Office for Disability Issues (ODI, DWP)
Kerry Williams	Disability Action Alliance (ODI, DWP)
Maxine Thompson	Disability Action Alliance (ODI, DWP)
Jacqui Wyatt (note taker)	Disability Action Alliance (ODI, DWP)

### Apologies

Carol Pearson	Surrey Coalition
Andy Rickell	ADWUK
Jim Edwards	Signature

### **Welcome**

Liz welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Previous Action Points (AP): paper 1**

APs discussed:

25/02/15 AP14: Maxine thanked the steering group for their comments on a first draft. It was agreed that the draft was not easy read, but a useful plain English version. The plain English version of the “about us” section is now live on the website and Maxine is working on the other key sections.

Claire Wickham offered to review this work as she teaches the use of plain English.

08/04/15 AP9: The group agreed that the secretariat should not pursue this request as the focus of his remit is on the internal civil service and therefore less relevant for the DAA.

30/06/15 AP12: The secretariat team are currently in discussions with the LGA to secure a representative on the steering group, therefore the mini open recruitment is now on hold.

**AP1:** Maxine to send Claire Wickham the new plain English versions to review.

### **Project Updates: paper 2**

### Public Appointments

Stephen explained that the first project meeting was held on 16 September and a series of potential work strands were identified. A quick win could be around the appointment of school governors. SGOSS provide a match making service between people interested in becoming school governors and schools themselves. SGOSS are keen to promote their service, which includes a helpline on the DAA website. We will work with them to produce guides for disabled people and schools. It was mentioned that in Bristol there is a local forum supporting disabled people to be school governors.

**AP2:** Stephanie mentioned that she will be writing to our regional reps in DPULOs networks on behalf of another project, and could also ask if they are aware of any other local forums.

### Raising Disability Awareness amongst Children

Naomi explained that there had been a good meeting with new group members. Currently the group is working on building up two useful documents on disability awareness resources for schools. These will include support, advice and content for lesson plans that is available to them, and organisations local to them that they can contact for support. The aim is to publish on 20<sup>th</sup> November which is Universal Children's day.

### Volunteering

Kerry said that the focus of the project group was to get more organisations to sign up to the Volunteer Charter between now and Christmas. Currently 74 Organisations have pledged. The plan is to publish a series of case studies on some of the organisations that have pledged to illustrate the impact the charter has made. The charter will be a year old on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, so the plan is to publish on this day (3<sup>rd</sup> December). The project group has identified a gap in support for small organisations who want to put some of the key principles of the charter into practice. Some of the project members are going to put together a joint bid for funding in order to provide a support offer for small local organisations.

### Digital Inclusion

Cam said that the Digital Inclusion Survey deadline had been extended by one week, the number of responses have increased over the last few weeks from 96 to 300. Cam has met with the head of online content at Channel 4. They were keen to increase the amount of audio and subtitle programmes they broadcast. C4 would like the DAA to conduct a survey asking members what type of programme they would want to see audio described and subtitled.

**AP3:** The DAA secretariat team to promote Channel 4 Survey through DAA channels once received.

### Commissioning

Liz and the Secretariat team will meet with Sarah Yiannoullou (project chair) to discuss next steps.

### Intersection

Stephanie explained that the project team were waiting for suggestions from the steering group on experts the project team could contact about creating the guidance.

**AP4:** Stephen will circulate contacts for the black barristers group in the CPS to Charlie and Stephanie.

### Transport

Stephen explained that the Blackpool project continues to go well. One of the major barriers to rolling out this approach across the country has been the misconception of train operating companies that they will need to pay thousands of pounds in consultancy fees to obtain disability awareness training. Stephen has written to explain that this type of training should be sourced from local disabled led organisations and that this approach will be much more cost effective.

### **X-Card Event**

The event will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> October. 32 people have been invited but there are a number of responses outstanding. There are 7 speakers lined up, most of whom run access card schemes. The event is 10.45-3.30pm and is a networking event to share good practice and build partnerships, unfortunately because of the nature of the event there will not be an opportunity to dial in.

### **Physical Activity and Sport – Event Update**

To support a key aim of the project, (which is to engage the non-sport sector), EFDS, in conjunction with the project group, is arranging a mini conference on the 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Central Methodist Hall between 10 am – 1pm. Ministers have been invited to speak. The event is aimed at disabled people's user led organisations. It will provide opportunities to network and take away useful tools and information on how to put on physical activities in their local area, including who to contact and how to build partnerships.

There was discussion around the idea that one of the issues preventing disabled people from taking up physical activity is concern over whether it will affect their welfare benefits, and how this might be addressed.

**AP5:** Stephanie to take back comments about perceived barriers to physical activity.

The project group also identified a gap in guidance for the non-sport sector. The group will aim to develop a non-sport resource, educating the non-sports sector about providing more opportunities for physical activity. The Lancashire county sports partnership has agreed to pilot a virtual sports network on the DAA website.

**AP6:** Secretariat team to work with DWP colleagues and Ministers on a positive statement about encouragement of physical activity.

### **Work Project Update**

The project group have met twice, (July and August). The work is split into two strands, short term and long term. The short term strand is looking to provide advice to DWP and the long term strand is looking at developing a wiki type resource on the website providing information from disabled people. The group is in the process of finalising the group's contribution to DWP for the short-term project.

## **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

It was agreed that the DAA should use International Day of Persons with Disabilities to promote the successes of the DAA, i.e. a short film about the Blackpool transport project and case studies following up organisations that have signed up to the Volunteer Charter.

It was agreed that the DAA should not hold a specific event as there are already a number of these planned. Instead the website and Twitter account could promote events that members are holding. It was also agreed that the DAA should only promote events that include disabled people - "nothing about us without us".

It was also agreed that the DAA channels should be used to promote Hate Crime week beginning 12 October.

**AP7:** Steering Group members were asked to send in any information they have on event's that they know of for Disability Hate Crime week.

## **Steering Group Ways of Working**

It was agreed that the steering group would now meet on a quarterly basis, but that meetings should be extended from the current length (11am – 1pm). Meetings will be more strategic with a more in-depth review of the projects. The new meeting cycle will begin next year. It was agreed that the next meeting in November would test the new format and therefore the meeting will be extended. December's meeting will be cancelled.

**AP8:** Secretariat team to make arrangements for the new meeting format and meeting dates.

## **Secretariat Update: paper 3**

Maxine advised there are now 404 DAA members. She advised she will be amending the paper template for future meetings, so a comparison can easily be made between the current and previous month's information. August's key website/social media activity trends were:

- No of pages viewed increased by 270.
- No of visitors to website increased by 245.
- No of returning visitors increased by 2.2%.
- Largest ever number of page views (123) on 26<sup>th</sup> August (from which 77% were for the Blackpool transport story).
- 31 more Twitter profile visits, 11 more twitter mentions & 13.9K more tweet impressions.

## **AOB**

Theresa invited members to the SENDPO conference in Winchester on 29 October.

Liz said that on 5th November Disability Rights UK is holding its AGM and a seminar on the future of disability rights. DR UK is also holding a series of road shows to engage disabled people on the new DRILL programme (independent living research led by disabled people).

Maxine said that the Comms and Marketing group hopes to meet in October.