disability action alliance

# DAA NEWSLETTER:

## December 2015

**22nd Edition**

## CALLS FOR ACTION

1. **Members** – Please do keep sending us your news stories and events so we can add them to the website in the new year!

## HEADLINE PROJECT UPDATES

The **Public Appointments project** launched a new guide on 3rd December, (International Day of Persons with Disabilities), to encourage disabled people to take up the opportunities available to them to become school governors. Information is included to highlight the support that disabled people can receive to find school governor roles, as well as busting some of the myths surrounding what school governors do and any perceived barriers disabled people may have to getting involved. You can view the document in word and PDF formats on the project page here.

During December, the **Digital Inclusion Project** published its survey report. The Project team hope you find this report useful. It is available to view and/or download on the project page, both in word and PDF versions. The Project group is currently considering the findings with a view to developing some help sheets to address some of the IT issues highlighted in the report during the first part of 2016. Do watch out for this on the projects web page here.

The **Volunteering Project** was pleased to share some new Volunteer Charter Case studies with members to help celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December and the 1st anniversary of the Charter. The case studies are from 3 organisations who pledged to the charter, sharing their learning and experiences. You can download them from the project page in both Word and PDF formats.

You may have noticed the **Raising Disability Awareness amongst Children project** developed a new resource documents for teachers and teaching assistants to use in classrooms to raise disability awareness, which they published on Universal Children's day (20th November). It was originally added to the Disability Awareness amongst Children resource page and SEND gateway, but was also added to the TES website at the end of November.

## UPDATES ON GOVT POLICIES/CHANGES TO PUBLICATIONS

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs launched a consultation on 17 December on their "guidance and data reforms: costs, benefits and early feedback". The DEFRA reforms are expected to make it easier for businesses, so they are interested to hear about the effects on businesses so far. The consultation closes on 10 February 2016 12:00am. To find out more, or respond to the consultation visit this web page.

The Cabinet Office published its "Open Government Partnership: UK national action plan 2016" on 23 September, and updated it on 14 December 2015. They are seeking views on potential commitments to advance transparency, accountability, participation and technological innovation in the UK. You can find out more, or respond to the consultation by visiting this web page.

Members may also be interested to read the "Setting the mandate to NHS England for 2016 to 2017" consultation outcome on this web page on Gov.uk.

## WEBSITE NEWS

We hoped you enjoyed reading all the member news stories we published to celebrate International day for people with disabilities (3rd December). Hopefully you have also had a chance to look at the new resources mentioned above on School governors and Volunteering.

We are continuing to work with our website experts to develop our three new DAA networks. More information about these will be forthcoming, but do contact us if you are interested in these.

## VOLUNTEER CHARTER – PLEDGERS KEEP ON INCREASING!

We are pleased to share that, following recent Volunteering events, even more organisations have signed up to the Volunteer Charter! Thanks to these new pledgers. We are working though these requests and will be in touch shortly. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading the new case studies on the volunteering project page mentioned above.

If your organisation is interested in pledging to the Volunteer Charter they can do so via the Volunteering Charter webpage.