

CALLS FOR ACTION

1. **Website Survey** - Please complete our short website survey. It will enable the [DAA Steering Group](#) to consider how the website can be further improved to provide increased functionality for [members](#). It closes on 8th April – so please do take a few minutes to share your views with us. You can [access the survey here](#).
2. **Consent Form** - We wrote to members about the next stage of the development of the Disability Action Alliance (DAA) in February and sent you a consent form in early March to ask you to agree to share the information we hold about your organisation with DRUK (who will be deliver the secretariat function on behalf of the DAA from April 2016). The deadline to return completed consent forms was 1st April, but we will accept your form if it is with us by **11th April 2016** (to give you a little extra time due to the Easter holidays). A copy of the consent form is attached to the covering email accompanying this newsletter, for ease of reference.

NEWS

1) Message from DAA Chair

DAA Steering group members are quite excited about taking the alliance out of government in order for Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and partner organisations to take more control of how the alliance continues to develop.

The DAA has made a good start, achieving new collaborative projects both locally and nationally. We will be building on this through engaging the members of the DAA in deciding on top priorities for the next three years and enabling the wider membership to link up with each other more easily, to get most benefit from the alliance.

The unique thing the DAA does is act as a catalyst. It brings organisations that don't know each other together, across different sectors, linking people with good ideas to others who can 'open doors', with practical results. For example, the non-user-led English Federation of Disability Sport has brokered new relationships with local DPOs which have linked more disabled people into opportunities for accessible physical activity. And in Blackpool, and nationally, improvements have been made to transport services through

inclusion of disabled people in training of bus drivers, train drivers, conductors and through the wider input of DPOs.

The alliance acts in some ways as a matchmaker – putting people in touch with each other to increase disabled people's equality of participation. It's great that disabled people are setting the direction, with many allies, and that organisations led by disabled people are strongly represented on the Steering Group. I look forward to working with the DAA's members to forge a successful future for the DAA, enabling collaborative work that leads to strategic and practical change and ultimately to greater participation of disabled people across society.

Liz Sayce
DAA Chair

2) Invitation to a DAA Member Event

Disability Action Alliance Strategy Session

On: Friday, 6th May 2016

At: 10:30 - 13:30

Venue: Barclays , 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

DAA members are invited to this meeting to discuss the next stage of the Alliance's evolution. At this meeting you can find out more and help the steering group develop a long term strategy.

Liz Sayce, chair of the DAA, and other members of the Steering group will host the meeting. They will also answer any questions you have about how the DAA is going to work in the future.

An electronic Invitation will be sent out shortly to all members.

We hope to see you there!

For further information please contact:

Pippa Nolde (Barclays Events, Roadshows & Hospitality)

Phone: +44 (0)203 555 4098

Email: groupevents@barclays.com

HEADLINE PROJECT UPDATES

The **Transport project** launched a new video on 24th February to promote the successes of the project around the UK. This video is a collaboration between Stephen Brookes (Steering Group member & Transport Project Chair), Blackpool Transport, the Office for Disability Issues, and volunteer trainers. [Find out more here.](#)

The **Public Appointments project** launched a new guide on 21st March called “Public Appointments for Disabled People”. This guide is for use by disabled people interested in taking-up a public appointment, and is split into two sections. Section 1: Questions and Answers, and Section 2: Taking on a Public Appointment – a personal account from Asif Iqbal MBE (Public Appointments project member). You can view the guide in word and PDF formats on the [project page here.](#)

UPDATES ON GOVT POLICIES/CHANGES TO PUBLICATIONS

Defra is looking to recruit two new Trustees to join the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Board. The campaign is now open with a closing date of **19th April 2016.** [Information about these public appointments can be found here.](#)

Also, don't forget you can find out about government consultations which are open for responses by visiting the [Gov.UK website here.](#)

WEBSITE NEWS

We hope members have had a chance to look at our new Member webpages launched on 30th March. These were developed as we have an increasing number of members, and were having some technical issues with the old page. You can view each of the pages using the links below:

[Members home page](#)

[Members \(A-H\)](#)

[Members \(I-Q\)](#)

[Members \(R-Z\)](#)

Volunteering Charter

Did you know... You can still pledge to join [the Volunteer Charter](#) by visiting the [Volunteering Charter webpage.](#)