

## **Message from the DAA Chair**

Since the publication of the last DAA Newsletter the Secretariat function has successfully transferred from the Office of Disability Issues to Disability Rights UK, under the watchful eye of the Project Co-ordinator, Roland Chesters ([roland.chesters@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:roland.chesters@disabilityrightsuk.org)), who also monitors and responds to messages to the DAA email address: [DAA@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:DAA@disabilityrightsuk.org).

It has been a busy few months whilst we have been seeking the views of the DAA membership on the future direction of the Alliance. An online survey about the DAA's website and another about future strategy were complemented by a very successful Future Strategy Workshop in early May. The workshop was well attended by DAA members who found it a useful experience to be able to air their views on what the Alliance means for them and how they would like to see it operating in the future: the big message was that people want the Alliance to be a gateway to link organisations together, so people can pool ideas on good practice and find new collaborations and partnerships. A write up of the surveys and of the workshop is given below. We were very grateful to Barclays for hosting the workshop.

It is now also time to refresh the membership of the DAA Steering Group. Plans are being put in place and an invitation will be extended to all DAA members shortly to apply for a position on the Steering Group. This is your opportunity at this exciting time for the DAA to be at its leading edge as it strides forward. Please look out for the message regarding Steering Group membership when it lands in your inbox. We aim to have the revised Steering Group in place for its next meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.

The May meeting of the DAA Steering Group focussed not only on the Governance and Structure of the Group but also on the key theme that should underpin the work of the DAA following the members' feedback. The Group agreed that the theme will be Disabled People's Leadership in Public Life. We aim to put members in touch with each other to

collaborate on a range of issues, and DAA nationally will focus our activity under this theme and make links with DAA members to take it forward.

Please do keep on sending in your news stories to Martin Inch (martin.inch@disabilityrightsuk.org) for sharing on the DAA website. The website is due for a potential refresh and this will be on the agenda for the August Steering Group meeting.

In the meantime if you have any other queries regarding the DAA please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, or with Roland.

**Liz Sayce**

**DAA Chair**

## **DAA Future Strategy Workshop and Online Survey May 2016**

Just under 40 DAA members attended the Future Strategy Workshop kindly hosted by Barclays plc. After an introductory welcome from Mark McLane, Managing Director, Head of Global Diversity and Inclusion, Liz Sayce (Chief Executive DRUK), Stephanie Harvey (ODI) and Stephen Brookes (DAA Steering Group) gave an update on the current DAA position. Delegates were then invited to look at 5 questions concerning the future of the DAA:

- 1 Where should the DAA be in 12 months' time?
- 2 If nationally it is going to focus on one or two key themes, what should they be?
- 3 What should the DAA be doing?
- 4 How can the DAA add value and not duplicate what is already being done?
- 5 How can DAA members be involved and contribute

Those questions were also sent out to all DAA members to respond to online.

Respondents wanted the role and aims of the DAA to be clearly defined with a specific focus, eg building a gateway for disability issues through partnership working.

They felt the DAA should enable collaboration and direct connection between members through a new interactive website, building up evidence through case studies and evidence to inform, improve and

empower. This would assist in increasing membership and support a more active membership.

The themes most respondents want the DAA to focus on are

- empowerment
- access and inclusion (including digital access and inclusion).

Responses from the Strategy Workshop and from the survey fed into the DAA Future Strategy discussion that was on the agenda of the May Steering Group meeting.

## **DAA Website Survey March 2016**

A survey of the DAA website was carried out in Feb/March 2016. Below is an analysis of the results of that survey.

51 people completed the survey (31 DAA members, 20 non-members).

The main thrust of their responses was that they see the website as a potential tool for greater collaboration and networking as long as it can provide the opportunities to do so (eg Discussion Boards, direct Member contacts etc).

The News page and the Projects Update pages of the website were the most popular. An overwhelming majority of respondents want the website to enable linking up with like-minded organisations ('to enable more collaboration, interaction and innovation between members') with increased information on members and an automatic way to contact other organisations.

The results of the survey also fed into the DAA Future Strategy discussion at the May Steering Group meeting.

## **News from DAA Members**

- [National Association of Deafened People \(NADP\) conference 2016](#)
- [Take the GOV.UK 2016 assistive technology survey](#)
- [Disability Rights UK Get Yourself Active website is launched](#)
- [Joint reports suggest peer support could boost disabled people's employment prospects](#)
- [Blackpool disability and tourism initiative](#)
- [Tennis Foundation unveils brand refresh](#)
- [Deaf Unity Announces The Deaf and Disability Careers Fair 2016](#)

- [Be part of Disability Sports Coach's summer festival a month before Olympic and Paralympic festivities begin](#)
- [APPG invites submissions on halving the disability employment gap](#)
- [PIP joins Video Relay Service trial for BSL users](#)
- [Metro Anniversary Athletics](#)
- [Healthwatch Blackpool survey](#)
- [Members Awards News](#)