

## GDA SEPTEMBER Newsletter

If you would like a large print version of this newsletter please contact Karen on 07781 467316 or [info@disabilityalliance.org.gg](mailto:info@disabilityalliance.org.gg)



**Emily Litten**  
Executive Director

### Guest Speaker - Guernsey Mind

Mental health accounts for 33% of visits to local GPs and as many as 1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem in Guernsey in any given year. September's Guest Speaker, Emily Litten from Guernsey Mind, spoke about their creative approach to managing mental health. The "Mind Employment Service" have trained over 700 people from 17 businesses on how to cope with Mental health issues in the workplace. To see the different services Mind Guernsey offers visit [www.guernseymind.org.gg](http://www.guernseymind.org.gg)

### Guernsey Mind's Top 5 Priorities

To create a local culture for mental wellbeing where:

- Businesses make staff wellbeing a priority
- We feel confident to discuss mental wellbeing
- We know how to access services and what we are entitled to
- We recognise symptoms and have a practical toolbox of solutions
- We have the data and knowledge to create the right solutions

See the slides at [www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/)

### Have you registered to vote yet?

If you want things to change in Guernsey for disabled islanders and carers, it's really important that you register to vote. Please fill in the form that came through the post or go to [www.election2016.gg](http://www.election2016.gg) to register online. It just takes 5 minutes.

#### Do you have a legal guardian?

Make sure you fill in the second part of the registration form to ensure your name is added to the register.

\*Compulsory for 18 year olds, otherwise optional.

The rules about who is able to vote are changing. If you have a legal guardian or are receiving treatment in hospital for a mental health condition, you will be able to vote in the 2016 General Election but not in 2015. If this applies to you, please complete the section below in order that you can be added to the Electoral Roll as soon as the law changes.

| Surname | First Names | Date of Birth* | Signature | Date |
|---------|-------------|----------------|-----------|------|
|         |             |                |           |      |

Telephone / Email you do not have to give these but it does help us resolve any queries quickly

Please return to Electoral Roll Office, FREEPOST GU 306, Guernsey, GY1 555

Copies of the Electoral Roll will be made available for inspection and will be provided to candidates standing for election.

### States Community Survey

Would you like the opportunity to comment on customer service across all States departments including:

- Housing
  - Social Security
  - Health
- and more...

If you want to express your views on States customer service contact Karen to join one of our meetings.

Or complete the online survey at the following link:  
[www.gov.gg/feedback](http://www.gov.gg/feedback)

## Top 5 Priorities

| GDA members past Top 5 priorities |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1                                 | AIMS<br>More disabled people in EMPLOYMENT   |
| 2                                 | RESPITE CARE<br>available according to need  |
| 3                                 | Accessible, affordable HOUSING   |
| 4                                 | A person-centred COMMUNITY CARE and support system   |
| 5                                 | An adequate standard of living for those reliant on BENEFITS<br>(in all its forms (buildings, processes, services, recruitment, education, etc)) |

We would like to know what matters to you! We are reviewing the GDA's top 5 priorities and asking all our members to tell us their top 5 things which they would like the GDA to focus on.

So whether Respite, Information or Employment is top of your list it is important to let us know soon so we can link it to the Community Survey and work with everyone to make improvements.

Tell us your top 5 by email, at the monthly meetings or by speaking to Sam your new member representative on 07781 163 967.

See the form at [www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/)

## Shelaine in the States



### Disability Strategy

Deputies will receive a formal update on the Disability Strategy at the States meeting at the end of November and everyone will see what progress has been made in the last two years.

Sadly, Carol Le Page (Strategic Social Policy Officer), left the States at the end of August. Her departure will effect progress, particularly for disability discrimination legislation where she was the lead civil servant.

### Education

Guernsey's Education Department was recently inspected by Education Scotland who highlighted "inclusion" as an area of weakness.

The Education Department is keen to make changes and invited the GDA and other representatives from the voluntary sector to talk about a new approach to working together.

There is a group discussion about inclusion (and education for children with disabilities in general) on October 6 at 7pm. Please contact Karen.

## Get Involved

To get involved with any discussions please contact Karen 07781 467316 [info@disabilityalliance.org.gg](mailto:info@disabilityalliance.org.gg)

### Discussions

- Wheelchair Users Review
- Education
- Transport
- Aurigny consumers
- HSSD Equipment Library

### Surveys to complete

- Secondary Pensions
- Community survey

[www.gov.gg](http://www.gov.gg)

## Diary Dates

### 3 October 2015

Awareness in bereavement care course

### 6 October 2015

Education Discussion

### 14 October 2015

GDA member meeting at Ron Short Center, 7pm.

### 11 November 2015

GDA member meeting at Ron Short Center, 7pm.

### 17 November 2015

MS Guernsey Cake off Finals

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/GuernseyDisabilityAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/GuernseyDisabilityAlliance)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/GDA\\_Disability](http://www.twitter.com/GDA_Disability)