

## GDA DECEMBER Newsletter

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

### Carers Meeting

Decembers Member meeting focused on the importance of Carers and there was a lot of discussion about the difficulties and issues which carers face on the island.

There were four topics which were discussed by the groups during the evening, with points being made about both the Carer and person being cared for.

1. What does being a Carer mean.
2. Access to information.
3. Respite services.
4. Does being a carer change over time.



The responses given were written down on the evening and they will be made available on the GDA website.

A draft of a Carers Directory was handed out and is available to view at the following link: [www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/carers-flyer-draft.pdf](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/carers-flyer-draft.pdf)

If you are a member of a charity and want to change the description please let us know. Also if you have any information which you would like to add please send it to [info@disabilityalliance.org.gg](mailto:info@disabilityalliance.org.gg)

### SLAWS Discussion

After the consultation this Summer, the States will publish a new Supported

Living and Ageing Well Strategy (SLAWS) next year. AWB and GDA would like to give you the opportunity to discuss this as a group, and consider how we should respond to it on Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 6pm.

We expect the Strategy to be released early in 2016, and will share more information with you as soon as we can. Meanwhile, please hold the date! If you wish to attend please contact Emilie on 748056 or [emilie@foundation.gg](mailto:emilie@foundation.gg)



### Vote Flo!



Island FM and La Fraternelle are holding a competition to win £1,000 to be donated to a local charity. Flo is looking for people to vote for her house in La Grande Rue, St Martins. If she wins she will donate the prize of £1,000 to the Guernsey Blind Association.

You can vote for Flo by visiting the following link [www.islandfm.com/win/](http://www.islandfm.com/win/)

## We need your help

The GDA is currently working with the Adult Disability Service, Guernsey Police and the Disability Officer to review these two possible schemes:

1. Safe Places.
2. Business Kite Marks eg. A autism friendly cafe.

If you have any information or experience of either of these schemes and would like to give your input then please contact Karen.

## Caroline - Disability Officer

I'm delighted to tell you that the first phase of [www.signpost.gg](http://www.signpost.gg) will be launched in January 2016. This site will be a one-stop-shop, bringing together information and relevant web links and contact details for parents and carers of children with a disability.



It's really important to hear from as many of you as possible, what you think of the site, what needs to be added or improved before it goes live so that we can have your insight and make sure we are getting it right. So, I am happy to arrange a suitable venue so that you can test out the site yourself and give me your thoughts and feedback. Alternatively, I can come and see you when and where is most convenient for you.

You can contact Caroline on 717098 or by email [caroline.mullins@gov.gg](mailto:caroline.mullins@gov.gg)

## DisabledGo

DisabledGo are in Guernsey surveying the 180 venues you asked to be covered, these include the Hospital, New Oberlands Centre and signage. The surveys will be featured on their website, [www.disabledgo.com/organisations/guernsey/main-2](http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/guernsey/main-2)

## Shelaine in the States



Thank you to everyone who came to watch the States discuss the progress of the Disability Strategy - there were about 20 of us overall. We were expecting a "sobering reality check" in terms of where Guernsey should have got to after two years and that's certainly what we got. But, rest assured, we will keep going!!

The next big topics for deputies to debate are the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and the Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy (SLAWS). Both of these could have a big impact on the services for adults and children with disabilities. Many of you contributed to the consultations and on 8th January 2015 we will see the results when the February Billet is published.

January will also be the month when the States reports on its review of the Supplementary Benefit/Rent Rebate system. We're hoping this will include a proposal to start taking into account some of the "extra costs of disability" when calculating Supplementary Benefit.



# Your Voice

## 1. States Community Survey

Last week we provided a summary GDA response to the Community Survey. As well as our response we decided to include all of the consultations that took place over the same time period that related to customer service.

### The GDA Response included:

1. Encourage our individual and charity members to complete the survey
2. Round table discussions in our GDA monthly members meeting
3. Focus group meeting for charity
4. Focus group with individual members
5. Use our own GDA review of the Top 5 priorities to feed into the report
6. GDA Carers Group
7. Ask for ongoing feedback

### Consultations & workshops included:

1. Disability & Inclusion Strategy Update
2. Support Living & Ageing Well Strategy
3. Children & Young People's Plan
4. Disability Sector Inclusion in Education
5. Wheelchair Service Review
6. Non-Emergency Transport review
7. Election 2016 (By Election Dec '15)
8. Housing discussions (supported living)
9. Transport work groups
10. SSD discussions

## 2. Voting: By-Election & Election 2016

Did you vote at the St Peter Port By-Election? We would love to hear from you on how it went. The Home Department has asked us to assign them to make elections more accessible. The voting ballot was in larger print for this election, we provided guidance on the postal voting and attending a polling station. We also attended both polling stations at Waitrose Skills Centre at Admiral Park and Beau Sejour to check accessibility and be available if needed.

Factsheets on postal voting, attending a polling station and a draft of making manifesto more accessible can be seen by clicking the links below:

[postal voting](#) | [attending a polling station](#) | [making manifestos more accessible](#)

## 3. Inclusion in Education

We were invited by Education to join a discussion on Inclusion in Education hosted by Karen Hazzan and Nick Hynes on 2nd December. Nick presented to everyone before we broke into smaller groups to discuss key issues. Each charity has agreed to refer back to their members for more comments.

The results of the meeting can be viewed at

[www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/9-diamond.pdf](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/9-diamond.pdf)

## 4. Consultations

Wheelchair service review update - Peter Hill Smith, [phs@mail.com](mailto:phs@mail.com)

Non-Emergency Transport - Karen, [karen@disabilityalliance.org.gg](mailto:karen@disabilityalliance.org.gg)

## 5. Top 5

We have 2 weeks left to get your Top 5 in please. Current responses based on 45 responses:

1 Employment	77	4 Access	58	7 Information	41
2 Rights	77	5 Respite Care	57	8 Housing	40
3 Community Care	62	6 (Higher) Education	45		

## Viewing the St Peter Port Christmas Lights

The Environment Department is reminding members of the public that it is again offering permission to drive through some prohibited streets in the Town area to view the Christmas light for the benefit of elderly and disabled islanders.

Permission is granted on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6pm - 10pm between 6th December - 3rd January. Drivers are permitted to travel in either direction along Smith Street, but drivers must only travel in the direction of the Town Church when driving along Le Pollet or the High Street. Drivers are also reminded that the above listed roads are all subject to a 12mph speed limit." For transport more information visit: [www.facebook.com/Active-Travel-gsy-984025878280657/](http://www.facebook.com/Active-Travel-gsy-984025878280657/)

## Diary Dates

### Christmas Carols, supporting Cheshire Home

16 December, 7pm  
St James

### Cheshire Home Property Lottery Draw

31 December, 3.30pm

### GDA Mental Wellbeing Tips

13 January, 7pm  
venue tbc

### Carers in Mind

13th January, 6.15pm (8 week course)  
PEH, Institute of Health and Social Care  
Studies

### AWB SLAWS Discussion

19 January, 6pm to 8pm  
the Cotils

### GDA Members Meeting

2 February, 7pm  
Ron Short Centre

### Karen

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