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## Welcome from GDA Executive Director

Welcome back after the summer break. It certainly has not been a slow start. We had an excellent turn out for our first meeting 5th September with over 65 people present. The report from that meeting is located on our website [click here](#). Deputy Gavin St Pier introduced us to Deputy Jane Stephens, Policy & Resources Committee, who gave us a Social Policy update, followed by an update from the new department

responsible for the Disability and Inclusion Strategy, Employment and Social Security (ESSC). The principal reporting officer, Ed Ashton, took questions from 8 members, discussing the delay to the strategy and next steps. I am now sitting on the project board with the next meeting on 29th September when we will provide more feedback.

Thanks Karen

## Chair Introduction - Robin Le Prevost

This is my first contribution to our newsletter, and to date there has been a fantastic amount of high quality work completed. May I reassure you that my committee, Shelaine, Rob and of course our more than capable ED Karen, are there to support me.

Karen represents us on the ESSC (Employment and Social Security) project board, and has taken on the job of getting the Disability and Inclusion strategy going, as we are fully involved in the relaunch of this initiative. At the recent presentation by Policy and Resources and the ESSC at the last members' meeting, I saw that there is tension and criticism from many members, at the failure of the strategy under the previous States. There were robust talks

within the Executive Committee as to what we should do when approached by ESSC to sit on the project board. I felt that the aims of the project board should dovetail exactly with our stated objectives and we had to be involved with renewed energy and determination. You will be given frequent updates on the progress of that board and my committee, will hold them to vigorous scrutiny on your behalf.

I would like to thank the many members who have wished me well in my new role, a role I am looking forward to immensely and as always if you have any issues you wish to discuss with me then please do not hesitate to drop me a line.

Robin - [chair@gda.org.gg](mailto:chair@gda.org.gg)

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## Hidden Disabilities Campaign

We are excited to announce we have finished all the filming for the hidden disabilities campaign and will launch the 7 groups of impairments 3rd October with two a week finishing 22nd October. ITV and BBC have confirmed they will support the launch and we are hoping you will see case studies in the press too. To find out more check out [www.matter.gg/our-stories/hidden-disabilities/](http://www.matter.gg/our-stories/hidden-disabilities/)

## Disability Champion Update



Good news! Deputy Sarah Hansmann Rouxel is the new States' Champion for Disabled People and is a fresh face in the States, representing the Vale, and she sits on the Committee for Environment and Infrastructure. Please contact Sarah:

1. If you need help resolving disability issues with the States.
2. To help her represent the views of disabled islanders and carers in States debates.

Email: [SarahHansmannRouxel@deputies.gov.gg](mailto:SarahHansmannRouxel@deputies.gov.gg) or call 07911 765863.

Islanders are being asked by the States to complete an online customer service form which can be accessed at [gov.gg/customerservicesurvey](http://gov.gg/customerservicesurvey). The survey will close at end of 30th October 2016

## Social Policy Update by Shelaine Green

After a long pause for the April election and the summer holidays, things are waking up again on the Social Policy front. The new States inherited lots of hefty strategy documents that had been agreed but not yet actioned. The current focus is on setting up the "boards" who will oversee the implementation of each strategy. A Disability and Inclusion Strategy Project Board has been created by the Committee for Employment and Social Security. It includes five civil servants, plus Deputy Emilie Yerby as the representative from the ESSC political board and the GDA's Karen Blanchford. You can see the membership in full here. The Board is led by Ed Ashton, Chief Operating Officer for ESSC, and the first meeting was on 5th September. A new Children's Executive will oversee the Children and Young People's Plan on behalf of the Committee for Health and Social Care. As in the last States term, the voluntary sector will be represented by Wayne Bulpitt from the Guernsey Community Foundation. Debbie Aldous from Wigwam (our GDA rep for CYPP) will continue to work closely with him. Deputy Jane Stephens will chair the Children Executive and also another new group - the Supported Living and Ageing Well Supervisory Board. Both will meet for the first time on 29th September. Ageing Well in the Bailiwick will be a permanent member of the SLAWS Supervisory Board and Vanessa Spiller from the Guernsey Community Foundation will represent the rest of the voluntary sector, including the GDA. Shelaine - <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog>

## New Member The Guernsey Macular Society



The GDA welcomes its newest member, the Guernsey Macular Society, launched in June 2014 by Bill Gardiner and Tilly Fischen. It is a self-help group for islanders who are coping with the difficulties presented by macular degeneration. Through the opportunity of joining with the GDA it is hoped that additional support and awareness can be gained, especially through the We All Matter Eh? Hidden Disabilities initiative. The group meets

on the second Wednesday of every month at St Martins Community Centre from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Contact: Bill on 07781 130772 or [billandvivg@cwgsy.net](mailto:billandvivg@cwgsy.net). for more information go to the following link: <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog>

## WIGWAM Update - Chair, Debbie Aldous

We are excited to announce: Andy Graham as Operations Manager, Elizabeth Richards as Family Support Worker. They will join the GDA at their temporary office. for more information go to <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog> and contact details for Andy and Elizabeth [www.wigwam.org.gg](http://www.wigwam.org.gg)

## Access for All Update - Richard Evans

The main focus for Access for All over the past few weeks has been arranging a training course run by the Centre for Accessible Environments. The course aims to improve the knowledge and understanding for people involved in designing and assessing facilities. It is being held on 1st and 2nd November.

The team continues to provide guidance for accessibility issues and are working on developing an electronic resource to support accessibility assessments and guidance.



## Assistance required for canvassing

Simon De La Mare is standing in the Vale by election (19th October). Simon would like some assistance with door to door canvassing in the day, if you can read the electoral roll of names and read a map and would like to assist could you please contact Simon Direct on [simondelamare@hotmail.com](mailto:simondelamare@hotmail.com) or Mobile: 07781 131184 Follow the link below. <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog>

## Forthcoming Events

27th Sept	Saffery Rotary Walk presentation of cheques at Government House!	8th Oct	Headway Quiz
28th Sept	Robert Titterington presenting to the ESSC project board	12th Oct	Access for All meeting
29th Sept	Children's Executive and the SLAWS Supervisory Board	13th Oct	World Sight Day
29th Sept	Mindfulness 6-9pm Les Cotils	17th Oct	1st States Audit steering group meeting with BDF
30 Sept - 1 Oct	Guernsey Down Syndrome conference	19th Oct	Vale By-election
3rd Oct	We All Matter Eh - Hidden Disability Campaign	19th Oct	Lloyds Foundation Group director visit
5th Oct	Members meeting chaired by Peter Hill Smith	20th Oct	Wheelchair football
5th-9th Oct	More details <a href="http://swimarathon.org/">swimarathon.org/</a>	20th Oct	Disability and Inclusion Strategy Project Board meeting (2nd)
6th Oct	Youth Commission AGM	1/2nd Nov	Access Course with CAE, Rosaire Court
6th Oct	Third Sector Development Group meeting	10th Nov	Cheshire Home Le Friquet Shopping Evening 6-8pm
		27th Nov	Cheshire Home Afternoon Tea at the OGH – Tickets £19.50. Contact: <a href="mailto:cmcmillen@cwgsy.net">cmcmillen@cwgsy.net</a> and 07781 130683

## GDA welcome Chris Le Page to the Executive Committee



GDA welcomes Chris Le Page, Board Apprentice to the GDA Executive Committee, Chris has over 26 years of experience in the financial services industry.

To find out more about Chris please see our blog  
<http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog>

The GDA were proud to be involved in the judging of the first Equality and Diversity awards. Congratulations to all nominees and winners, especially Guernsey's HUB.

## GDA Contacts

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