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GDA Update for September

The GDA is nearly 10 years old, can you believe that! There have been many ups and downs in that period, this last month has been a reflection of those years. During August and September I have consulted with over 200 members and presented to over 12 community & business groups. The latter is enthusiastic and welcomed our disability awareness sessions.

From a member's point of view I am really feeling consultations fatigue and a real need for action. The AGM on Tuesday 3rd October will give members the chance to hear from our politicians and civil servants on the progress of the Disability & Inclusion Strategy and its work-streams (in the room or watching via Facebook live).

During the summer the Matter team of volunteers have worked tirelessly to build content and sponsorship to launch our new We All Matter Eh? Campaign 'Think Differently about Disability' and **#MakeAChange**. You can find out more about

the campaign and fundraising events [here](#).

With a gap in legislation we have decided to raise awareness of the number of disabled islanders & carers, the diversity of disabilities, and highlight our right to be fully included in the community. Eating out, shopping, working, travelling, playing sport, being educated, doing activities - you name it!

We have done this by providing tips and Change Cards, find out more by visiting [here](#) - and calling businesses and community groups to action asking them to **#MakeAChange**

There are 100's of hours of volunteers time in this campaign and we welcome input from members and groups as we request information and videos to build it further over the next few months, ending on International Day of Persons with Disabilities IDPwD 3rd December and our key fundraising day Friday 1st December. Karen

Fundraising, Volunteers and Partnerships

Unfortunately we did not receive funding for the WAME member manager role which means Karen and volunteers are currently trying to fill these activities on a voluntary basis. We have started two new voluntary groups - Matter team and Friends of the GDA, but always welcome volunteers who are self-motivated and able to assist with a wide range of projects and tasks. We have started a number of partnerships that are also assisting us as we struggle with funding and resourcing. A huge thank you to Youth Commission & Wigwam re education, Create Architects & Access for All re the Access change cards. We will be reviewing what we can offer with limited resources this month and will report back with a GDA update.

GDA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on Tuesday 3rd October in the Harry Bound Room, Les Cotils, 6:30pm for refreshments for a 6:45pm start. We will kick off with Elections, including our new Treasurer Elect Alan Bain. This will be followed by an update on our June meeting - GDA review. The main talk will feature updates on the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and States Disability & Inclusion Strategy by: Deputies Michelle Le Clerc and Emilie Yerby; Employment, Social Security (ESS) followed by work stream updates by Ed Ashton and Legislation by Ellen Pragnell (Legislation lead). We will end with a Questions and Answers session. The AGM will be live streamed through Facebook so you can watch it at home. Book on Eventbrite [here](#).

This month's GDA meeting, newsletter and printing is kindly sponsored by Donate, Keeping It Local. Thank you.

www.facebook.com/Donate-Keeping-it-Local-880912118662974/

Disability Officer Update

If you are travelling off island take a look at DisabledGo Guernsey for factual information about accessibility at the [airport](#).

Are you thinking about a visit to Herm? Take a look at the [Herm Island Guide](#).

On 19th September 2017 the States of Guernsey and Access For All were invited to a seminar for the tourism industry. Our presentation was well received and provided an update on the Disability Discrimination Legislation Project and practical information and hints and tips to improve [accessibility](#) across a variety of venues in Guernsey.

The States of Guernsey has been working closely with a company called Business Disability Forum (BDF) to understand how disability smart the public services are. It is important that the States understands what is working well, and where improvements for disabled employees and customers can be made. To assist, BDF have written a number of reports with key recommendations and priority areas which will assist the States in becoming more disability smart.

If you would like an update on where we are with the Disability and Inclusion Strategy or to provide feedback about www.signpost.gg please contact Caroline who is happy to attend any of your meetings. Visit [here](#).

Contact: caroline.mullins@gov.gg or
Tel: 01481 732557

Headway Guernsey

Headway Guernsey are delighted to announce the appointment of Rosie Lesley as the new Assistant Psychologist working as a combined post with Headway, Pink Ladies and HSC. Read more on the GDA blog [here](#).



Guernsey DriveAbility

2017 has brought several changes to Guernsey DriveAbility, with a new drive assessor Maxine Armstrong, increase in voluntary support from Ken Diamond and admin support from Sue Vernon. Read more [here](#).
www.guernseydriveability.org.gg



Health & Social Care Transformation



GDA focus group on Health & Social Care in Guernsey.

The GDA invited members (individuals, groups and carers), Health and Social Care (HSC) staff, service users and the CareWatch team and other partners to join us for a focus group around the priorities in Health in relation to disability and carers. This took place on 12th September 2017.

Thank you to over 40 members, HSC staff and groups who attended the Health & Social Care workshop. We spent the session raising awareness to the HSC CareWatch team and Roger Allsop OBE as HSC board member of the positives, challenges and gaps in Healthcare for disabled islander and carers. The summary can be found on the GDA [blog](#).

www.disabilityalliance.org.gg

Guernsey Employment Trust



GDA partnered with GET Guernsey Employment Trust to present a session on Disability Awareness to 30 staff at the Guernsey Financial Services Commission (GFSC). You can view our presentation on the blog [here](#).

Active Guernsey



The activities held in Guernsey by Active Guernsey, supported by the States of Guernsey can be read about [here in the GDA blog](#).

Health Information Guernsey

HIG have a new CEO - Bella Farrell.

Bella is an accredited Executive Coach specialising in Resilience and Systemic Team Coaching HIG with over 25 years of experience working with people at their most vulnerable and resourceful. Read more on the GDA blog [here](#).





SAVE THE DATE 1st December



Please encourage your school, business or community group to get involved in our celebrations and fundraising for UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities IDPwD Friday 1st December. Find out more [here](#). You can now register your interest in running a fund-raising event [here](#) or contact matter@gda.org.gg.

Raising Awareness WAME

Your voice heard....

- Rotary Club lunch presentation to members on GDA, We All Matter Eh? and Access ([here](#))
- Tourism Conference workshop on Disability legislation update and Access in partnership with ESS and Access for All - see [here](#)
- HSC CareWatch & board focus group - over 40 members and HSC professionals met to discuss the health and social care priorities around disability and carers. Find out more [here](#)
- GFSC presentation, GET and GDA partnered to present to the Guernsey Financial Services Commission on Disability Awareness, we had great feedback - see our slides [here](#)
- AGC Associations of Guernsey Charities - disability sector update on our consultations, the new Matter '[Think Differently about Disability](#)' campaign
- Education proposals for secondary & post 16 education submission ([here](#))

All slides and notes are provided in the hyperlinks (underlined text).

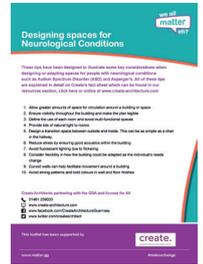
Youth Commission

We are excited to welcome our new members and partners Youth Commission to the GDA member groups. GDA partners with Youth Commission and Wigwam on CYPP Children Young People's Plan and most recently Education proposals for secondary and post 16 Education. Find out more about the Youth Commission at www.youthcommission.gg



Change Cards for Disability Awareness

A large part of the 1st Dec is celebrating change, we have started to release Change Cards as a guide to groups to #MakeAChange re disability. This include things like taking the disability awareness training, becoming a dementia friend, improving access to a building, or more accessible websites, documents or signs. There will be over 20 options to choose from. On Friday 1st Dec we will celebrate the groups that have made those changes. Watch this space www.matter.gg



Friends of the GDA - fundraising

We have set up a new fundraising group called Friends of the GDA. We welcome Martyn, Connie, Greg and Caterina to the team. They will be looking at the community for ongoing funds for the GDA and We All Matter Eh? vital work in raising awareness and bringing about change. We are exceptionally grateful to these new volunteers and would welcome anyone with the time to research, write letters and see local businesses for support.

Please email friendsof@gda.org.gg to get involved. We thank Donate for their continued support keeping it local and RBC for being main sponsor the new campaign.



Spotlight New Members

Spotlight Guernsey is a non-profit organisation working to increase access to music, drama and dance in Guernsey. Spotlight aims to remove the barriers associated with the performing arts and offers inclusivity and opportunity to all. Tyler Edmonds & Casey-Joe Rumens (School of Popular Music) have teamed up with Oli Bailey-Davies (Tin Whistle Productions) to create Spotlight. "As practitioners we believe that all young people should have the opportunities to explore the performing arts." Welcome to the GDA network Spotlight. Visit their website [here](#).



CAE Course

November is now full and next year's to be confirmed for Feb or March 2018.
<https://access.gg/access-training/>



Mind Guernsey Well-being Course



Starting 4th October Mind Guernsey are running a course on well-being in Mind evening class, covering subjects such as Mental Health in the Workplace, Mental Health and Nutrition and Decider Life Skills.

Read more on our blog [here](#).

Email your event dates to info@disabilityalliance.org.gg

DIFERA

Karen will be presenting at the DIFERA brunch on Friday 28th September in partnership with Liberate, Kerstin at the Youth Commission, and Dave from Northern trust. We encourage you to attend and get involved Visit the website [here](#).



New Access Partners create.

Access for All is excited to partner with Create Architects to bring you the accessible building and design Change Cards in the new 'Think Differently about Disability' campaign. Look out for James and Emma on our videos and check out their access tips at <https://matter.gg/make-a-change/change-cards/>

Forthcoming Events

- 28th Sept Away Day at Les Cotils for [Carers](#)
- 29th Sept [Difera Employer Accreditation Launch](#)
- 30th Sept Generali Older People's Week
- October Matter launch of the Business, Building and Design Change Cards www.matter.gg**
- 2nd Oct Men's Supper for [Carers](#) at Les Cotils
- 3rd Oct [Wigwam](#) drop in for parents
- 3rd Oct GDA Annual General Meeting Les Cotils 6.30pm
The AGM will be live streamed through Facebook so you can watch it at home
- 4th Oct [Well-being & Mind evening classes](#)
- 4th Oct [Skipton Swimathon](#)
- 5th Oct [Wigwam](#) Pub Games evening for fathers and male carers
- 14th Oct [Wigwam](#) Social afternoon
- 16th Oct [GTA Working for A Charity Day](#)

- 16th Oct Away Day Lunch for [Carers](#)
- 20th Oct [Autism Guernsey Fashion Show](#)
- 20th Oct [Guernsey Down Syndrome training day](#)
- 26th Oct [Wigwam](#) Swim & Lunch Beau Sejour
- 29th Oct [Wigwam](#) Social Les Ozouets
- 31st Oct Guernsey Community Foundation [awards](#)
- [November Macular Society Conference](#)
- 1/2nd Nov [CAE Access's training](#)
Day 1 Grand Courtil, Day 2 La Nouvelle Maritaine
- 3rd Nov 1/2 day practical CAE Access session
The morning will be a practical session.
- 18th Nov [Cheshire Home Gala Dinner](#)
- 1/3 Dec International Day of Persons with Disability celebrations (IDPWD)

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