Campaign Planning Session Notes

Topic: Enforcement of Disabled people’s rights

What are our top asks on the enforcement of Disabled people’s rights?

* Equality Act 2010 – campaign to change EA10 so it doesn’t require individuals to go to court to enforce rights, also need to change it so it operates on a social model not a medical model. Replace with a more comprehensive and updated version of the DDA?
* Material resources to back up rights – e.g. legal aid, accessible social housing stock, funding for higher PA wages, availability of assistive software.
* UNCRPD – campaign for a legal and enforceable right to independent living in domestic law, change Human Rights Act so it is based on UNCRPD and not ECHR (especially regarding mental distress and detention).
* EHRC – campaign to change it back to individual equalities strands, the EHRC (or the separate strands) needs to be the body to enforce rights to goods and services rather than individuals doing legal challenges.
* CQC – should be run by Disabled people.
* Trade unions – more campaigning on a local and national level for the rights of their Disabled members, using industrial action rather than relying on legal action that gets settled out of court and are secret.
* On the rights of young disabled people: it is needed to ensure their voices are heard, as oppose of parents speaking over them. This is in particular in access to education.
* Formal monitoring of legal requirements for disabled people, eg accessibility plans in schools
* Campaign for the re-introduction of something like the old Disability Equality schemes that really pin down public bodies and require them to evidence progress they are making to advance equality - it made a real difference at a local council level

How can campaigns on ENFORCEMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE’S RIGHTS be developed regionally?

* Work together to co-ordinate strategic legal action
* Building user led DPO capacity
* The GM Disabled people’s Panel is a unique pioneering body for influence, scrutiny and co-production. It covers 2.5 million people in the Manchester City region across all of Greater Manchester, 14 DPO’s are Panel members. SO in GM we did it and happy to share expertise
* Producing a list of legal firms like DPG so people can be aware of organisations to reach to so we can conduct legal actions. Disabled law specialists and other human right firms will be particular allies in our efforts.
* Build on the links between local / regional DPOs and trades councils
* We can share info and training on our key rights so we can go out and train up our communities
* Ensure that unfunded DPOs and survivor groups are equal partners at a regional and national levels
* Working with local media to cover disabled politics and infringements of Disabled people’s rights.

How can all of us make sure that these asks and regional development happen?

* Sharing resources on the ROFA website and ROFA hosting webinars.
* GM Panel to host a webinar on their work.
* Inclusion London can also host webinars and training.
* Direct Action
* Tailored media training via NEON (New Economy Organisers Network) – GMDCP have a relationship with them
* Using the creative arts
* Hammersmith and Fulham co-production strategies
* “Improving Life Chances for Disabled People” government strategy paper – includes good, strategic examples of social model based work.