Reflections on the Campaign Exchange

What do you think are the most effective tips that you heard are when it comes to campaigning in the future?

* Subversive creativity – ILF postcard campaign
* Social media – vox pop style videos, hashtags, naming and shaming decision makers
* Cross-organisation co-working
* Legal action
* Adherence to the social model as a practical tool of liberation
* Democracy and equality of access in DPOs and the education of disabled people, how to train and embody best practice - including how to reclaim a meeting when power imbalances arise
* Action Network mass emailing tool is a good campaigning resource

Is there anything missing regarding campaign approaches or themes?

* We need to make the connection between inclusive education and independent living
* Getting more younger Disabled people involved in campaigns and organisations and doing political education and getting them involved in street actions.
* More focus on independent living for people who experience mental distress and people with learning difficulties who are institutionalized.
* There is no joint resource/campaign hub – would be useful so work isn’t replicated and good practice can be shared.
* We need more information and work done around BAME DPOs
* We need to identify non-Disabled allies in different campaigns and organisations, figure out ways to engage with them that doesn’t compromise our disability politics
* Devolved nations work seems to be missing.
* Concerns around the predominance of non-Disabled and parent led groups speaking over Disabled-led groups
* We need to campaign for funders to prioritise funding DPOs
* Use of the print and broadcast media
* Another issue that affects disabled people more though is not specific only to us - domestic violence (past and ongoing) increasing during the lockdown and being excused as being increased by the lockdown? and disability stigma in police making them less likely to believe victims of domestic violence, stalking and other things which makes the lockdown more dangerous

What are the common challenges facing us?

* Lack of funding for our organisations and networks. Also funding tends to be for providing a specific service which means lots of DPOs get dragged into doing just service provision rather than doing campaigning.
* Disabled voices being erased in favour of the disability charities. This is also happening in the trade unions where there is also often a lack of understanding about the social model
* Many disabled people institutionalized (either in their own homes or in institutions
* Need a proper understanding of what co-production is and what it involves – otherwise it can be co-opted by Las/government
* Climate change
* Constant proposals by non-Disabled people and organisations about the integration of health and social care
* Co-option of terms: independent living, co-production, social model
* Austerity and ideological segregation
* some organisations including Unions in my region, while attempting to be inclusive, have quite a narrow understanding of impairment/disabled people/the social model. An example is, they often know nothing around someone’s need for PAs

How do you think you would be able to collaborate with other DPOs in your region on some of these themes?

* Regard can offer support with LGBT issues and promote DPOs’ work and offers via our Facebook and email groups.
* Link into existing collaborative forums of DPOs like the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Mayoral Panel
* UCU Disabled Members Committee - to organise an assembly of DPOs/ROFA/Trade Unions etc to get a couple of key civil/human rights points and working out a campaign strategy for a couple of things.
* Use the media and arts to exercise soft power
* In the film Crip Camp it showed a group consciousness raising experience led to the creation of the first independent living centre and then the disabled right law in USA, can we organise such physical ‘camps’ to create the same social change making crucible?
* I think we need to unite around a set of clear funding demands for our organisations including the priority funding of BAME DPOs and lobby funders and government
* Could exploratory discussions be ventured with DPO’S in your area, based on alliance building seeing joint interests based on conditional commitment (we will do this if you do that) (or we will do this could you do that?)
* Also we need a generally agreed definition of what DPOs are and what they aren't i.e. some fairly robust guidelines for which type of orgs count as a DPO and broad principles about what types of non-DPO orgs we can and should collaborate with