Regional and Campaign Exchange Speaking Order

Regions

North West:

* Jess Tait (Cheshire CIL) – 1 min
* Covid – escalating issues members are facing via Disability Unit regional network and working with other DPOs on issues regarding PPE. Written to LA to engage with them on changes they may make following the Coronavirus Act. Aside from Covid – working with LA on changes they have made to their DP agreement. Working with members on establishing their understanding on the social model and whether they identify with it.
* Sophie Walters (Cheshire DPAC) – 1 min
* In regards to accessibility at Northwich Station, our MP Mike Amesbury has addressed the issue in Parliament numerous times, and we have the wonderful RMT trade union on board in terms of planning direct action. We've also had features in the local paper. So hopefully when this is all over we can get back to working on it.
* Rick Burgess (Manchester DPAC, Recovery in the Bin) – 2 mins
* RITB – continuing to make sure members are okay, involved in various Zoom conferences, involved in a new research project with Professor Diana Rose about re-energizing grassroots involvement and co-production for survivors and service users. Looking at provision of recorders for PIP assessments – doing work around allowing PIP applicants to use their smart phones to record assessments, if we have assessments at all after Covid.
* MDPAC – partnering with another organization to ensure people get food and essentials, and distributing PPE to those in need. Continuing independent advocacy. Continuing with membership of GM People’s Panel – statement of disabled people’s rights via the LA. Involved in PIP assessment recording campaign.
* Steve Graby (Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People)
* Coronavirus – putting together resources and documents about healthcare discrimination, produced a health passport and information on emergency advocacy in hospitals. Been writing to CCGs, Healthwatch and GM MPs and LAs about ignoring or campaigning against the discriminatory NICE guidelines and not to ipose DNR notices on Disabled people. Referring Disabled people to and working with local mutual aid groups.

North East:

* Peadar O’Dea (Leeds DPO) – 1 min
* Campaigning to put PIP Assessments in the bin. Bus and train access in Leeds. Coronavirus - trying to put people in need in touch with local authorities for food distribution, going to start looking into PPE distribution.
* Mark Baggely (Choices and Rights Coalition) – 1 min
* Choices and Rights Disability Coalition (CARDC) are an organisation run and controlled exclusively by disabled people in the Hull and East Riding area. Originally set up as a small campaigning group with funding of only £150, 23 years later, we now employ 10 staff and support over 650 direct payment/personal health budget users, who employ over 1000 PA’s. One of our key roles is to support disabled people and their families to employ Personal Assistants, so they can live independent lives. We also run and manage the Hull and East Riding Centre for Independent Living (CIL), providing information, advice and a range of services for disabled people, their families and service providers.

We don’t deal with welfare rights issues around benefits, etc as traditionally in our area, there were a number of organisations already doing this.

Our main issues at the moment (like many others) is around COVID-19 and the complete lack of information from the Government about direct payment users and their PA’s. We have contacted one of our local MP’s Diana Johnson (Labour) and she wasvery concerned to hear about the difficulties with PA's and accessing PPE. She has raised this directly with Keir Starmer, Labour Leader, and written to Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Paymaster General to raise our concerns with her.

* Pervez Akhtar (Equality Together) – 1 min
* Provide benefit advice, peer support, CIL, advocacy and help people with grants for carers and services for short breaks. Getting involved in local campaigns on availability of accessible materials. In the past been involved with campaigns relating to sign boards outside shops. Coronavirus – providing services remotely, doing wellbeing calls with vulnerable people and doing packs.

Midlands:

* Being The Boss (5 mins)
* Please see attached National Information Gathering Survey from Being the Boss

South West:

* Mike Williams (Bristol Reclaiming Independent Living) – 2.5 mins
* Please see attached document from BRIL
* Laura Welti (Bristol Disability Equality Forum) – 2.5 mins
* Please see attached document from BDEF

South East:

* Tracey Lazard (Inclusion London) – 5 mins
* IL support 70 DDPOs in London. Campaign on a range of issues – Mental Capacity Act, welfare reform, access to goods and services, National Independent Living Service, research into the impact of cuts and closure of ILF on Disabled people, Nothing About Us Without Us, coproduction. Coronavirus Bill – over 2000 people wrote to MPs, coordinating with MPs on speeches. Combination of legal action with grassroots campaigning and research – really effective. Make maximum use of campaigning tools and resources – petitions, 38 Degrees, Action Network Tools, social media, use of subtitled videos. Need to resist the push to integrate health and social care and up the game around deinstitutionalization. No return to sanctions and conditionality post lockdown. Need to work out our position on UBI.

Impairment

NSUN:

Akiko Hart (5 mins)

* Policy, comms and funding. Policy – we need to think about how we pool resources because no one group can cover everything. Lot of work on Coronavirus Act, specifically mental health changes. Heard concerning reports about people being left with no support, and no consistency between the regions after cuts to local health teams and wards made in some places and not others. Concerns about how the bail out money will be clawed back. Comms – creating a series #NSUNCovidLife, platforming experiences of members by doing blogs and videos. Funding – DHSC gave National Mind a grant of £5 million to distribute to groups – NSUN has secured a pot of money to distribute to ULOs, open from next week. Able to distribute up to £1000 to ULOs. More info on website.

People First:

Andrew Lee (5 mins)

* Please see attached documents from People First

Deaf:

Tom Lichy (5 mins)

Intersections

Women:

Eleanor Lisney (Sisters of Frida) – 5 mins

* Please see attached powerpoint from Sisters of Frida

LGBT:

Ju Gosling (Regard) – 5 mins

* Priority – social care and hate crime. Trying to make LGBT sector and community aware of disability issues and how hate crime and homophobia can have long term mental and physical health issues on LGBT people. LGBT people over represented among social care users due to less close relationships with biological family, and three quarters do not have children. Issues with recruitment of PAs. Lots of evidence of homophobic evictions of LGBT Disabled people from care homes which cause issues of homelessness. Research – even PA users and DP users can’t be out to PAs otherwise they can’t get support. Coronavirus – even more issues with PPE as lots of LGBT social care users don’t have family to rely on. Created online resources and trying to create online social spaces – need to take into consideration more people use phone than internet, and need to find a way to pay for the calls. No support from the LGBT community on Coronavirus Bill and no consultation with Regard has been done by government or other bodies regarding the impact of Coronavirus on LGBT Disabled people. We need to be closing care homes – we need care in the community.

BAME:

Julie Jaye Charles (Start Change – The People’s Council) – 5 mins

* Developing Start Change – The People’s Council after 25 successful years of the Equalities National Council, getting BAME communities to get their own voices heard after being ignored by government and many groups have disappeared. Develop a council across the country that supports the redevelopment of BAME Disabled People’s organisations and to work with LAs to make sure they are taking on responsibility for their communites. Co-production – need to do education on what co-production, disability movement, advocacy is. Advocacy at the core. Sharing experiences and lived experiences. Counselling service. Education, welfare benefits, housing, employment, immigration (especially Windrush), development of BAME LGBT DPOs. Made it known to ministers and government department – they are interested but also scared because it will be a movement.

Campaigns

National Independent Living Subgroup:

Dorothy Gould – 5 mins

* Please see attached document

ROFA International:

Michelle Daley – 5 mins

* Started 14/2/19 – subcommittee of ROFA. The point is to ensure that Disabled people in the UK are represented and have solidarity with global disability rights. Addressing inequalities issues globally, and making sure Disabled people have their say in relation to the UNCRPD. Conference in June – funded by DFID, attended by 60 DPOs and individuals, raising issues to DFID. Conference of State Parties – good space to look at what is happening internationally in terms of the UNCRPD and what other countries are pushing for disabled people’s rights. Covid – we should be looking at what is happening internationally and the role DPOs are playing in other countries both in regards to the response to Coronavirus and also other natural disasters, crises etc. Brussels – looking at work happening at a European level. Trying to secure funding to do more work and ensure that the international work of disabled people is represented.

Co-Production:

Tara Flood - 5 mins

* Hammersmith and Fulham Coalition Against Cuts – Labour run council committed to co-production with disabled people after a decade of campaigning by disabled people to end home care charging in the borough. Completely independent – meant they could focus on campaigns. Took council to court, lost through a JR but generated a high profile about the discriminatory practice of charging. Through relationship building with the then opposition Labour Party got a commitment from the local Labour Party that if they got back into power they would end home care charges. Free home care for disabled people since 2015. Determined to keep it as a commitment. Got the council to ringfence ILF money. Co-production – supported set up of a disabled people’s commission, decided to focus on co-production as a strategic decision as disabled people are furthest away from power and decision making. Co-production in this context means disabled people are there at the start of a process, not just at the end in a consultation capacity. Since then, the council has employed two disability rights activists to lead on the implementation of co-production, set up co-production group which includes disabled residents, councilors and senior staff. Disabled residents are co-producing redevelopment of the town hall and also the shift away from personalization to independent living. Council has signed up to an Article 19 Independent Living statement about an independent living service. Still battling with how this can be implemented.

TUC Disabled Workers Committee:

Ann Galpin – 5 mins

* Co-production has led to the first disabled people’s summit, parliamentary meetings on inclusive education, UN Convention and Universal Credit. Sean McGovern (co-chair) is at the TUC Council where he can ask Kier Starmer one question which is on the national independent living service, especially in the light of Coronavirus. Disabled trade unionists have a proud history of direct action – anniversary of National League of Blind and Disabled Workers march. Ongoing campaigns – employment and pay gaps, stopping the push into self-employment, social model, UNCRPD, NILS, stop and scrap universal credit.

ALLFIE:

Joe Whittaker

* Please see attached document

Free Our People:

Simone Aspis:

* Coronavirus - helping with the DNR campaigns, big issues with delay of discharge and discharge planning and finding appropriate care packages for inpatients. Issues with all leave from institutions being cancelled and no visitors being allowed. Got a lawyer involved to challenge blanket policies. Mental Health Review Tribunals – busy with work with individual patients.