

# NAVSM Annual Seminar 2015

## Engaging Disabled Volunteers : Volunteering Matters and The Disability Action Alliance

# About Volunteering Matters



Leading UK volunteering in policy and practice for **52 years**

**Vision** of a society where everyone can participate to build strong and inclusive communities

**Mission:** by investing in people through volunteering we can reduce inequalities and isolation, improve health and well being and so build stronger, more inclusive communities

# Our Work



Our work helps to **empower disabled people** to lead independent lives, **offers security and stability to families and children at risk of neglect**, **helps young people find their direction in life** and enables **older people** to share knowledge and experience across generations

- **Grandmentors**
- **Positive Futures**
- **Volunteers Supporting Families**
- **RSVP**
- **Supported Volunteering**

# The Disability Action Alliance



- Increased Choice - i.e. Digital inclusion, Financial advice, Volunteering
- Early intervention - i.e. Raising disability awareness amongst children
- Inclusive Communities - i.e. Transport, Commissioning, Increasing participation and access to sport

# Volunteering and Disabled People



- **NHSE Five Year Forward View**

“We need to engage with communities and citizens in new ways, involving them directly in decisions about the future of health and care services...creating new options for health related volunteering. Volunteers are crucial in both health and social care”

- **The Care Act 2014**

“The core purpose of adult care and support is to help people to achieve the outcomes that matter to them in their life. Local authorities must promote wellbeing when carrying out any of their care and support functions in respect of a person.”

# Disabled Volunteers- What do we know?



- Volunteering improves health and wellbeing
- Volunteering supports better integration
- Disabled people are most likely to volunteer in disability-related, community and welfare organisations (Access to Volunteering Fund Evaluation)
- For some disabled volunteers, volunteering helps to cultivate employment aspirations they previously did not have (SCOPE)

# But



- 2008-09 Citizenship Survey identified disabled people and people with a long-term limiting illness were less likely participate in volunteering than the rest of the population.
- In the 2012-13 Citizenship Survey found that 37% of those with a long-term limiting illness or disability formally volunteered compared with 46% of those with no long-term limiting illness or disability.
- Only 4% of the Olympics Games Makers were disabled

# Barriers



Disabled people continue to report barriers:

- 47% of 100,000 disabled people said that their services did not enable them to participate in community life, including volunteering, due to lack of support (“The Other Care Crisis” Leonard Cheshire Disability et al, 2013)
- 100% of young disabled people interviewed by Volunteering Matters in 2014-15 were able to identify a barrier to volunteering.
- 25% of disabled people aged 16-34 felt that attitudinal barriers (confidence) stopped them from participating in community activities (Office for Disability Issues, 2008)
- 19% stated that transport and access to venues were barriers to participation (Office for Disability Issues, 2008)



# How can WE change this?



## *Increase access to volunteering by disabled people*

- Volunteering Matters' Supported Volunteering
- DAA Volunteer Charter and Good Practice Bank

# Supported Volunteering



Disabled people participating as active and equal citizens in their local communities: as volunteers, neighbours and family members with civic and social responsibilities.

Training

Supported and Independent Volunteering

Social Inclusion

Supported Employment

# Ethos



- Focus on an individual's ability
- Choice and control – develop your role with the individual, match their abilities to your needs
- Make them feel valuable and valued
- Build capacity through mutual support networks – mentors, 'buddies'.

# Support Structure



# Volunteer Charter



- Created by the DAA Volunteering Sub-Group
- Launched 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014
- 70 Pledges received to date
- Plan – to get more agencies to sign up and pledge
- Follow up the Pledges and put examples on Good Practice Bank (DAA website)

# Pledges



## Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living



Provide appropriate support, make reasonable adjustments and reimburse reasonable costs

- ▶ Each volunteer is offered regular group meetings to discuss the project they volunteer on
- ▶ Each volunteer is offered regular one to one meetings to discuss their own volunteering and support and development needs
- ▶ Each volunteer is encouraged to identify their support needs and what assistance they will need to volunteer

Volunteers are reimbursed travel (it is acknowledged that different forms of travel may be needed rather than the most economical eg taxi as it is quicker than a bus)

# Pledges



## Workers Educational Association

We are revising our volunteering leaflet in order to include a case study of one of our disabled volunteers. We also plan to explicitly state that we have signed the charter and that we welcome anyone interested in volunteering. Following this we plan to put something on our website and our Facebook and Twitter pages. We have scheduled 3 teleconferences with our regional volunteer organisers and plan to talk with them about how we can better support volunteers with disabilities.

# Pledges



## Volunteering Matters

We pledge to continue to prioritise the development of exciting opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly our very own service-users, young and old.

We will support the publicity of the Volunteer Charter to share our vision of a civil society that provides equal opportunities for everyone and one that sees volunteering as a basic human right.



# Future



Will you sign up and pledge?

Email - [FULFILLING.POTENTIAL@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK](mailto:FULFILLING.POTENTIAL@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK)

Web – [www.disabilityactionalliance.org.uk](http://www.disabilityactionalliance.org.uk)

Joining the DAA:

Email: [FULFILLING.POTENTIAL@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK](mailto:FULFILLING.POTENTIAL@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK)

Web: <http://disabilityactionalliance.org.uk/join-our-alliance>

# Discussion



- How can you ensure your volunteer roles are accessible?
- What challenges do you face?
- What support do you need?

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