

# Cross Party Group Annual Report

December 2022

## Cross Party Group on Disability

### 1. Group Membership and Office Holders

Mark Isherwood MS, Chair

#### **Members:**

- Altaf Hussain MS
- Mike Hedges MS
- Sioned Williams MS
- Sarah Murphy MS
- Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
- Heledd Fynchan MS

Megan Thomas (Disability Wales), Secretariat.

### 2. Group Attendees

Justin Williams (Elite Supported Employment), Petra Kennedy (Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind), Laura Thomas (Neath Port Talbot County Council), Jessica Laimann (Womens Equality Network Wales), Louise Sweeney (Wales Council for Deaf People), Maggie Hayes (Neath Port Talbot County Council), Trevor Palmer (Disability Wales), Erica Thomas, Craig Channell, Debbie Shaffer (Fair Treatment for Women in Wales), Nathan Owen (Equality and Human Rights Commission), Christine Stewart, Willow Howard (Disability Wales, Autistic UK), Owen Williams (Welsh Council of Blind People), Marg McNeill (See Around Britain), Kayleigh England Maxted (Elite Supported Employment), Tracey Blockwell (Torfean Access Forum), Cari Jones, Joanna Fashan (Whizz Kids), Rebecca Banister-Findley (Neath Port Talbot County Council), Chris Selway (Spinal Injuries Association), Morvenna Dorita, Kelvin Jones (Disability Wales), Stephen Sweetman, Amanda Say, Jan Thomas (Flintshire Disability Forum), Rebecca Phillips (Wales Council for Blind People), Alison Tarrant, Becky Ricketts (Care and Repair Cymru), Lorraine Cosgrove, George Lockett, Yvonne Walton, Graham

Findlay, Jake Smith (Carers Wales), Lara Warlow, Kelly Stuart (All Wales People First), Joe Powell (All Wales People First), Bill Fawcett, Dee Montague, Monique Craine (Monique Craine Consultancy Services), Jenny Carroll (Cerebral Palsy Cymru), Mandi Glover, Andrea Gordon (Guide Dogs Cymru), Louise Sweeney (Wales Council for the Deaf), Dean Waters (Neath Abby), Eleanor Llewelyn, Martin Griffiths, Derek Price, Ryland Doyle (The Office of Mike Hedges), Zoe Richards (Learning Disability Wales), Robert Lloyd (Citizens Advice Denbighshire), Gareth Marshall (Legacy in the Community), Katherine Lowther (Royal College of Psychiatry), Chris Dunn (Diverse Cymru), Cllr Teresa Carberry (Flintshire County Council), Rhian Davies (Disability Wales), Alex Osborne (Disability Wales), Miranda Evans (Disability Wales), Kat Watkins (Disability Wales), Shaun Bendle (Disability Wales), Leandra Craine (Disability Wales) and Megan Thomas (Disability Wales).

### 3. Previous group meetings since last AGM

#### **Meeting 1**

**Date:** 31/03/2022

**Speakers:** Jane Hutt MS, Sioned Williams MS, Megan Thomas (Disability Wales).

**Summary of issues discussed:** Group served as launch event for the Civil Society Shadow Report on the Implementation of the UNCRDP in Wales. First half of the session was a presentation of the report and the second half a cross party Q&A panel with Jane Hutt MS and Sioned Williams MS.

#### **Meeting 2**

**Date:** 28/07/2022

**Speakers:** Marg McNeill (See Around Britain), Ben Cottam (Federation of Small Businesses)

**Summary of issues discussed:** Discussion on the cost-of-living crisis, tribute paid to the late Vin West MBE a disability rights activist and

member of the group. Two presentations, one from See Around Britain an online interactive map allowing disabled people to check the accessibility of different venues, the second presentation from the Federation of Small Businesses on their “Business Without Barriers” report. Session ended with group discussion on potential letter to Transport Minister and neurodiversity in the justice system and the Human Rights Bill discussed in any other business.

### **Meeting 3:**

**Date:** 21/10/2022

**Speakers:** Hayden Banks (National Energy Alliance)

**Summary of issues discussed:** First discussion on methods for the group to further support the work of See Around Britain. Presentation from National Energy Alliance (NEA) on the cost-of-living crisis. Final discussion on agenda blue badge scheme as new scheme launched. In any other business, issues experienced with the DWP discussed, guidance for businesses on supporting disabled people during the cost-of-living crisis, impact of the Shared Prosperity Fund and council tax relief for disabled people.

### **Meeting 4:**

**Date:** 01/12/2022

**Speakers:** Alix Roberts (Citizens Advice Denbighshire)

**Summary of issues discussed:** Presentation from Citizens Advice Denbighshire on the support available from Citizens Advice, AGM in which Mark Isherwood MS re-elected Chair and Megan Thomas re-elected Secretary, discussion on topics for DWP speaker in next meeting primary consideration on access to work, treatment of long term conditions and attitude towards social model of disability; discussion on the International Day of Disability and members decided on following priorities for next term: cost-of-living crisis, direct payments, commitment to the UNCRDP and voice of disabled children. Update from Rhian Davies (Disability Wales) on the Welsh Government’s Disability Rights

Taskforce. In any other business Mark Isherwood MS's upcoming British Sign Language Bill for Wales private members bill discussed.

#### 4. Professional lobbyists and organisations met with

Federation of Small Businesses

Piws

See Around Britain

National Energy Alliance (NEA)

Disability Wales

## Annual Financial Statement

### December 2023

## Cross Party Group on Disability

**Chair:** Mark Isherwood MS

**Secretary:** Megan Thomas (Disability Wales)

<b>Group Expenses</b>	Palantype	
	Hilary McClean -	£100
	17/12/2021	£190
	-	£264
	21/10/2022	£210
	Susan McIntyre -	
31/03/2022		
Mirella Fox -		
28/01/2022	£150	
	BSL Translation	
	Wales Council of the	
	Deaf - 21/10/2022	
<b>Cost of all goods</b>		£574

<b>Benefits received by the group or individual Members from outside bodies</b>	None	£0
<b>Any Secretariat or other support</b>	Disability Wales serves as group secretariat	£0
<b>Total Cost</b>		£574

<b>Services provided to the group, such as hospitality</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Cost</b>
None	None	£0
<b>Total cost</b>		£0