

Results from Survey Monkey Questionnaire

The outcomes from the Survey Monkey questionnaire largely mirror those of the engagement sessions held on 29-30 June 2015.

The same four questions were posed

In a perfect world...

- *“What would DAG’s role be?”*
- *“What would DAG look like?”*
(in terms of the make-up of the group, the structure of the group and how often and when it meets)
- *“How would disabled people, and their carer’s, bring issues to the attention of DAG?”*
- *“How would the leadership of DAG report back to the wider disabled community?”*

Key themes from the survey analysis include:

To progress and develop a disability voice across the spectrum of disabilities and to ensure this is taken seriously and actioned, informing Council policy and practice with regard to all aspects of their services relevant to people with disabilities and holding service providers to account. DAG should remain focused on how the group can improve the quality of lives of our disabled people, with regards to inclusion, negotiating with Government policy makers, and raising awareness throughout the community.

To be champions in advancing equality for disabled people and work together with Council Officials in addressing the issues and concerns of people with disabilities within the community so that we make a real positive difference to the lives of disabled people, being innovative as well as removing barriers and challenges.

DAG could provide the focal point for the great number of organisations that exist to support children and adults with a disability and their family, friends and support workers. Although the DAG can't have representation from all of these organisations at meetings, perhaps there is a way that they can become 'associates' of DAG and share best practice and also let other DAG members know who they are and what their areas of work are. Offer other opportunities for “coming together” events for networking such as annual or bi-annual workshops .

ACVO, GREC and NESEN have positive roles in assisting in various forums.

.Representation from key organisations leading work in the area of disabilities in Aberdeen, One Stop Shop, NESS, I-Connect, Archway and perhaps include representation from Education to consider the needs of young people.

Flexibility on times of meetings is imperative to the inclusion of others who are unable to take time off work to attend. Parents of disabled children (and disabled workers) should have the opportunity to have their input taken into account. Evening meetings in the Summer time would be easier for a wider group of people to attend, and safe to travel in the light nights. Weekend meetings could perhaps be arranged for the Winter months.

Openness and transparency with effective communication, not a closed group
Representatives of local disability organisations might cover physical, sensory, mental and learning disability but NOT specific interests. Individuals from diverse communities could have specific interests rather than the wider view expected of the organisational representatives. Research should be undertaken beforehand to make sure that DAG and its component parts do represent everyone with any disabilities.

One view was that the DAG group should be made up of people who are actively engaged in the area of disability in some way, not just because they have an interest but because they are currently or have recently made a contribution in this area.

There may be a role for short term 'working groups' to look in depth at specific issues as they arise and they would have to agree their own time & venue and report back to the regular meeting . These groups could co-opt some additional people, based on their areas of expertise to take part i.e. a transport and infrastructure group, a group looking at social, cultural and sporting interests for example. Each group could be chaired by a member of the main DAG committee who has responsibility of feeding back into the DAG from the sub group.

Perhaps there could be a sub-group addressing communication: to collate ideas/challenges and actions from people with a disability and their carers Perhaps the professionals working in the area of disability within the city could also have a process where they can submit any issues raised by people with a disability or carers they are working with, relevant to DAG , Input cards could also be made available at local libraries, schools, community and health centres, GP surgeries etc as well as through Elected Members who should be raising questions affecting their constituents which may also impact on others. This sub-group could also be tasked to promote awareness of DAG.

A DAG online Forum and a regular new bulletin and use of social media were also suggested. Perhaps annually DAG member could visit already existing networks and forums to explain their work, achievements and seek feedback?

Visit other similar city wide groups elsewhere in the country to learn from them what works and what does not.

It's great that DAG is continuing and being proactive with this review. Keep up the good work!

Speedy progress required please on next steps