

Chair of London Assembly Signs DBU Language Code

A DBU delegation visited City Hall on October 25th to present the DBU Language Code to Jennette Arnold, Chair of the London Assembly, and to get her endorsement for it.

The Language Code (<http://www.disabilitybackup.org.uk/language.php>) promotes positive language about disabled people and is founded upon the social model of disability, which focuses attention on the social barriers that prevent full equality for disabled people.

Maureen, Henrietta, Sandra, Andrea and Akira went with Carol as part of a series of meetings with local public figures to get them to sign the Code. Karen Alcock, the Deputy Mayor of Hackney and the Speaker of Hackney have also signed it.

Maureen said: *"Signing the Language Code supports the use of positive language about disabled people in public services, which encourages us and others to go on raising awareness of the importance of using appropriate language."* Jennette agreed and promised to circulate the Code to City Hall officers and to the human resources department.

The delegation also discussed issues raised by DBU's recent Transport Report. Akira, who is a wheelchair user,

was particularly concerned to underline the problems many of us have in using buses. Jennette suggested that we seek a meeting with Isabel Dedring, the Deputy Mayor with responsibility for transport issues.

Jennette commented on the positive work that DBU is doing and has promised to continue to lend her support and will visit our forum in January.



Delegation with Jennette Arnold

November Forum Meeting

November 23rd 2012
11.30am—1.30pm

Speakers:

Lee Simpsons - DWP
Odette Messiah—Age UK Hackney

Venue

Our Lady and St Joseph Kingsland Hall
100a Balls Pond Road,
London
N1 4AG

Buses: 30, 38, 56, 277

Help with transport on request for people with mobility difficulties.

November Forum

The November forum will cover Welfare Benefits and Hate Crime.

The Government says that changes will make the lives of disabled people better. However, disabled people still have questions that they feel are not being answered. People who have long term conditions are very much at risk as a result of the cuts and are therefore at risk of poverty, debt and isolation.

Lee Simpson the Partnership Support Manager from DWP East London will give members an update on benefits. Odette Messiah the Advice and Information Manager at Age UK will also talk on benefits from the perspective of providing guidance and support if people are not clear on where to get help or need help to maximise their benefits.

John McArdle is one of the founding members of Black Triangle which has a large supporter base of disabled people. John tirelessly campaigns for the rights of disabled people and raises awareness about hate crime.

John, who is disabled himself, knows all too well the problems that disabled people face on a day to day basis. Hate crimes can have disastrous effect on victims, resulting in depression, anxiety, stress and anger, leading to people becoming more and more isolated for fear of victimisation. Disabled people believe that cases of hate crime against disabled people need to take priority.

The Office for Public Management (OPM) research report on violence and hostility against disabled people found that hate crimes have powerful symbolic and concrete impacts that extend way beyond the physical and emotional harm experienced by the victims.

We have invited John McArdle from Black Triangle and PC Crane to come and talk to us about Hate Crime.

Attacks against disabled people have increased and despite the rise in crime levels the number of people convicted has fallen and many cases are not reported. The way that crime is reported and the views and perspective of police have a great impact on how cases are dealt with.

Police services believe that low prevalence figures are a result of under-reporting but do not generally accept that low prevalence figures were a result of non-identification and miscategorisation by police officers.

There has been some improvement as some police services are now recording hate incidents as well as hate crimes. PC Crane (Metropolitan Police) has been invited to come along and talk to members and inform them how hate crime is being addressing in Hackney.

Direct Payments support service

Hackney Council provides a Direct Payments Support Service available to people who receive them and to anyone who is interested and wants to find out more.

The Support Services provide information and guidance on all aspects of receiving and managing Direct Payments.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about Direct Payments please call: 0208 356 2354

DBU Delegation Goes to Council Meeting

DBU members Akira, Andrea, John, and Ron went as a deputation to the Full Council meeting on October 24th to draw the attention of councillors to our recent report on the experience of disabled people in Hackney of access to transport. The delegation was sponsored by Cllr Sally Mulready, who is herself disabled.

This meant that at the beginning of the council meeting, we got five minutes to state our concerns, in this case on issues such as cycling on pavements and in parks, obstructive clutter on the footways like 'A' boards and the need for council staff to be trained in disability equality awareness – with the involvement of disabled people themselves. Then Members asked questions, which allowed the issue to be explained more fully and the cabinet member responsible for the area, Cllr Feryal Demirci, responded to the issues raised.

Despite there being two other delegations to this council meeting, we got a very friendly reception, with questions asked by Cllrs Luke Akehurst, Vince Stops, Saleem Siddiqui, Sharon Patrick, Linda Kelly and others. Issues such as buses failing to drop ramps, space on the new 38 buses and the need for an access audit in Hackney were raised.

Cllr Demirci, who spoke at the October DBU Forum, welcomed the delegation and talked about site visits to inspect obstacles, the £50K being spent on dropped kerbs this year – with the budget being doubled next year.

She said 95% of bus stops in Hackney would be accessible by the end of this financial year and promised a written response to the Report from Streetscene.

After the meeting, Cllr Mulready invited us to write to her as Chair of the Council's Regulatory Committee, asking for an annual audit of how successful enforcement was in the areas that concerned us. Cllr Kelly offered to arrange a meeting with the leader of the Conservative Group in the London Assembly, Andrew Boff AM, to discuss the concerns raised in the report as they affected the GLA – Labour Assembly Chair Jennette Arnold contributed an introduction to the Report.

Workshop on How to Influence MPs, Councillors etc

Friday 15th February 2013
10.30am -1.00pm Queen Mary's,
Mile End Rd.

Alistair McKenzie – Parliamentary Outreach
How to deal with lobbying your MP, giving evidence to select Committees, Early Day Motions, parliamentary questions etc.

There will also be a speaker on lobbying at local government level.

If you are interested in attending please call David on 020 7241 5906

Human Rights Training

On Wed 30th January the Health & Human Rights group will be meeting solicitors from Leigh Day and Mind legal department in the morning, which should be very interesting – and a chance to put some questions to the experts, with a meeting of health and human rights network in the afternoon. Anyone interested in taking part should contact David on 020 7241 5906. Only a couple of places are available.

However, there will be room for everybody at a further human rights training session to be held on Thursday 7th February at St Johns Church on Stratford Broadway.

This will be particularly relevant to those who were able to attend the last session in April, but is open to all DBU members interested in finding out more about using human rights language and arguing their rights under the Human Rights Act.

Please contact David on 020 7241 5906 if you are interested in taking part.

YPFI Hackney Forum Update



Last month we informed you that we would be launching Hackney Young People for Inclusion (YPFI) forum at Huddleston Centre. We are pleased to say that the launch went ahead with eight young people present.

YPFI members David and Scott did a great job promoting YPFI and engaging with the young people at the Huddleston Centre and as a result of their excellent contribution we hope we will see more young people joining in.

It has been really exciting to see young people taking the lead and empowering other young disabled people. The sessions involve talking to young people about their experiences and the way that they are treated. The young people are also encouraged to tell us what they want from the forum and the changes that they would like to see take place in order to give them a better quality of life.

YPFI has now been launched there is a lot of work to do and we will update you each month on the progress of the YPFI Hackney Forum.

Disability Backup
c/o Age UK Hackney
22 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ
E-mail: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk
Web: www.disabilitybackup.org.uk

Tel: 020 7241 5908
Mob: 07779 501178
Text: 07779 501178



DBU days
Mon: 1.30pm—5.30pm
Wed: 9.30am—5.30pm
Thurs: 9.30am—5.30pm