



Glasgow Disability Alliance
Confident Connected Contributing

Fairer Scotland, Fairer Glasgow

GDA Briefing for Scottish Government Debate: Progressing Towards a Fairer Scotland for Disabled People, 28 March 2019, 2.30pm

Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA) is the largest grassroots disabled people led organisation in Europe, with 4500+ members across Greater Glasgow. Through **accessible programmes of learning, capacity building**, peer support and participation, we bring together disabled people and those with long term conditions to build their confidence, their connections and support them to make their contributions: to have their voices heard, tackle barriers and work with others towards equality.

This briefing aims to supplement the joint briefing submitted by Inclusion Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Independent Living Coalition (SILC) which GDA is part of.

GDA echoes the key issues identified in SILC's briefing, in particular:

- The urgency of action required to improve outcomes for disabled people who continue to face inequality at all stages of life.
- The need to extend best practice in coproduction with disabled people across all relevant areas of policy and implementation (and build capacity for this amongst decision makers and delivery agencies)
- That Fairer Scotland for Disabled People Ambitions, Actions and forthcoming KPIs will be greatly strengthened by a renewed focus on precise UNCRPD principles, articles and concluding observations of the 2017 Inquiry.

GDA members helped to shape and launch the Fairer Scotland for Disabled People delivery plan (FSDP), and have contributed to implementation through input to the Employability Strategy, Social Security development including the Charter and Experience panels, Local Governance and shaping equalities proofed models of participative democracy and the Adult Social Care Reform Programme. At a local level GDA continue to drive partnership work to progress disabled people's rights and improve outcomes in Glasgow.

The FSDP has proven a helpful framework within which to unite and build on existing efforts to tackle disabled people's inequality at local authority level.

Indeed many of the ambitions in the plan can only be fully realised with buy in, support and significant transformation at local level, in planning, decision-making and delivery.

GDA therefor advocates a requirement to establish Regional FSFDP Delivery plans, in co-production with local disabled people in each Local Authority area.

For some issues, such as social care, crucial additional resources have been allocated to Local Authorities, in co-production with disabled people. The Scottish Government's funding of GDA's [Future Visions](#) Social Care Expert group ensures that vital **local-level insights and lived experience can inform both national policy, and the local implementation** of Social Care Reform, free personal care and developing ongoing solutions to Scotland's care crisis.

Other FSFDP ambitions will thrive or stall depending on wider planning and delivery by:

- Health and Social Care Partnerships; Mental health support services
- Education, Employability and financial inclusion providers including welfare rights
- Housing, transport and environmental / regeneration planners and providers
- Culture, leisure and sports providers; Lifelong learning delivery
- Regional policing and community safety; strategies to tackle isolation
- Strategies for resilience, Community Empowerment, civic participation, local democracy.

All of these are heavily contingent on Local Authority planning, budgeting and coordination, and will require **strengthening of dialogue and partnership across local and national spheres, with disabled people's voices** valued as a local and national resource.

There are a number of areas where Glasgow City Council has worked with disabled people and the Scottish government to advance disabled people's rights under the UNCRPD. **Any national indicators being developed should include space to enable this local progress to be captured and shared**, for example:

- Glasgow City Council and GDA partnership 'Rights Now!': welfare rights project to help mitigate impacts of Universal credit for disabled people in Glasgow
- Local work to reduce the disability employment gap and boost 'Employerability', e.g. the co-production of a 'Quality standard' for accessible employability support.
- Glasgow City Council - GDA partnership to support more accessible volunteering opportunities e.g. at the 2018 Euro Championships; and Hate Crime partnerships in local areas facilitated by Community Safety.

There are some powerful examples of **tripartite co-production** emerging from A Fairer Scotland for disabled people which **can be built on and shared**, such as:

- the **Adult Social Care Reform agenda** supported by COSLA, SGt and disabled people's organisations.
- **Participatory Budgeting Equalities pilot**, initiated by Scottish Government with Glasgow Disability Alliance, and continued through joint funding from Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council.
- **The Local Governance Review** has sought out the expertise of disabled people through GDA from the outset - another example of multi-dimensional dialogue between communities, local and national government, facilitated at national level as part of the Democratic Renewal agenda.
- **Further opportunities may arise in relation to other areas e.g. inclusive growth.**

For further information, call [0141 556 7103](tel:01415567103) or email islamcintosh@gdaonline.co.uk