Increasing reach and impact

We are disabled people leading change

Disability Rights UK is the largest UK organisation led by people with all types of impairment or health condition. We are:

- Led by people with lived experience of disability or long-term health conditions. 85% of our trustees have personal experience – our constitution ensures this will never fall below 75%.
- A member-led charity, with disabled people and organisations led by disabled people having the controlling vote.
- Committed to working with and for people with all types of impairment and health conditions: our trustees and staff include people with physical health conditions, mental health issues, hearing impairments, visual impairments, learning difficulties and mobility impairments.

In 2017/18 we reached more than 1.2 million people with information developed by and for disabled people

- We had 13,000 deeper contacts with individuals through events and advice services. This includes 3,200 people supported through our specialist helplines, 7,800 people who email or call our general enquiry line and 2,000 people directly supported through project work.
- Along with other Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs), we attended the session in Geneva of the UN committee considering the UK’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). The committee’s report was highly critical of the Government’s progress and made many recommendations for improvement.
- This year saw us sell over 12,500 copies of our Disability Rights Handbook. Written by benefits specialists, the user-friendly benefits guide is designed to provide answers for both claimants and advisors.

Delivering projects, working with local DPOs and others, to demonstrate new approaches to disabled people’s participation

- Through running the DRILL project, in partnership with Inclusion Scotland, Disability Wales and Disability Action Northern Ireland, we supported 10 new research projects across the UK. We also have our own project funded through DRILL working in partnership with education think tank LKMco. This is our first major piece of work focused on school-aged disabled people and is focused on ways to change attitudes to disability amongst young people.
- Our Get Out Get Active (GOGA) Peer Support Project has continued to attract huge interest from disabled people wishing to become mentors or seeking mentoring support to become more active. We sit on the project steering committee to help ensure co-production with disabled people.
- We went on a roadshow in England to share the learnings from our Get Yourself Active project, exploring the benefits of physical activity, as well as the opportunities for the sports and social care sectors. We also engaged with Local Authorities to test our guidelines for Social Workers about ways they can encourage and support more disabled people to become physically active.
Influencing policy and practice on the basis of lived experience and good practice led by disabled people

Our fourth cohort of disabled people completed our Leadership Academy programme. Evaluation showed 80% achieved their career goals, including promotions, new jobs and opportunities to lead.

There is a 30% gap in employment between disabled and non-disabled people, if that gap were halved, a million more disabled people would be in work. Through our policy and campaigning work this year we have sought to further this debate and influence decision makers regarding the employment of disabled people. We provided the Secretariat to the influential All Party Parliamentary Disability Group (APPDG), which brings disabled people’s voices into Parliament.

We submitted a response to the Taylor Review of Employment Practices in the Modern Economy. Our submission focused on how we can harness modern business practices to resolve the under representation of disabled people in the labour market and secondly the contribution of new and more diverse business models.

Last October our Disability and Skills Unit held an event with key speakers from the Department for Education, National Development Team for Inclusion, colleges, training providers and other stakeholders to share best practice and raise awareness of educational and career options for disabled young people when they reach age 16.

We increased our social media presence to over 50,000 twitter followers. We exceeded our media targets for the year and saw our profile increase markedly. Readership of our e-newsletter reaches over 29,000 people weekly.

We continued to use disability confidence training and consultancy as a way of generating income, extending our reach and creating positive change within external organisations.

DR UK new Right to Participate campaign

DR UK’s Right to Participate project was developed following consultation with members to underpin the final year of our 2016-19 strategic plan. Funded by the Legal Education Foundation, the project focuses on ways the Equality Act can protect disabled people from discrimination in everyday situations.

The project includes an animated introduction to the Equality Act, aimed at people who would not necessarily know they are covered; young people, disabled students and people who recently acquired an impairment. The Take Action section contains ‘guided pathways’ through three areas; Education, Employment and Out-and-About. There are templates for writing complaint letters and videos showing how disabled people have campaigned to improve participation.

The stories section of Right to Participate will launch later in 2018. This is being co-produced with disabled people and partners from CAST. It will highlight disabled people’s stories of discrimination in their own words – so they and others can understand their rights and feel empowered to take action.
Plans for the future

Throughout 2018-19 we will be undertaking reviews of current activities and the impact of our work that will contribute to a new strategic plan and business plan.

With our new CEO Kamran Mallick in post since June 2017, the new areas we are focusing on in the current financial year are:

- Devising a better offer to our members and creating deeper relationships with DPOs around the country, so the voice of disabled people continues to drive all our work
- Working with social investors to understand what prevents DPOs from accessing investment money
- Diversifying our income to ensure our future stability
- Carrying out a series of reviews of our services and activities and developing better ways to measure our impact
- Increasing the diversity of our organisation, including our board, staff and our members. This includes attracting younger disabled people, making DR UK more representative of our society and enabling disabled people from all backgrounds to feel that the organisation belongs to them.
- Moving to new accessible premises in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and creating a more agile way of working, opening up the potential to provide a greater level of workplace adjustments. The office move was completed in January 2018.
Summary of Financial Results 2017/18

Statement of Financial Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>£</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
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DR UK had a positive movement in funds of £55,080. This improved the balance sheet to show positive net assets of £25,080 on 31 March 2018, compared to net liabilities of £30,000 the previous year.

Income by type

- Voluntary income: £209,005
- Member services: £39,586
- Promoting social inclusion: £953,627
- Advice and publications: £345,954
- Training and consultancy: £175,541
With thanks to our Funders

We would like to thank our funders and supporters for their funding and kind donations through the year and for their continuing support in 2018 including:

Big Lottery  
British Friendly  
Care Quality Commission  
The City Bridge Trust  
Comic Relief  
Department for Education  
Department of Health  
Disablement Welfare Rights Charitable Trust  
Economic and Social Research Council  
Elizabeth and Prince Zaiger Trust  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
GD Herbert Charitable Trust  
Harris and Sheldon Group Ltd  
The Ian Askew Charitable Trust  
John Ellerman Foundation  
The Legal Education Foundation  
Nicholls and Clarke  
Office for Disability Issues  
PF Charitable Trust  
Snowdon Trust  
Spirit of 2012 Fund  
Sport England  
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust  
Wey Education

A special thanks also to all our members and supporters who enable us to deliver our priorities and strengthen our voice.

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Disability Rights UK is a company limited by guarantee.  
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Registered charity number: 1138585