



**Summary
annual report
2016**

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 were born in 2012 from a 3-way merger. 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 2015/16 we reached more than 1.5 million people with information developed by and for disabled people

- Our free factsheets attracted more than 1.5 million downloads. Information is power – and over 90 % of users surveyed said our factsheets were useful to their particular purposes.
- We had 10,000 deeper contacts with individuals through events and advice services (independent living advice line, student helpline, member helpline, information line).
- We engaged thousands of disabled people in our campaigns. For example the Government withdrew plans to restrict PIP (personal independence payment) after evidence from us and the voice of disabled people showed this would jeopardise independence. The Government also responded to campaigns by DR UK and our members and announced plans for 25,000 more disabled people to receive Access to Work support to help them keep or gain employment.
- We published and sold over 13,000 copies of our Disability Rights Handbook. We also created a new factsheet called 'Stopping hate crime' and launched 'Get Back to where we do belong', an employment skills guide for people with newly acquired disabilities or health conditions.



Delivering projects, working with local Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and others, to demonstrate new approaches to disabled people's participation

- Together with Inclusion Scotland, Disability Wales and Disability Action NI, we launched the world's first major research programme on independent living led by disabled people, Disability Research on Independent Living & Learning (DRILL). Following consultation with disabled people about their priorities for research and pilot projects, the first grants will be awarded in late 2016, advised by committees made up of disabled people and academics from different disciplines.

- 🍋 We launched our Get Yourself Active project in partnership with Cheshire Centre for Independent Living, Equal Lives and Leicester Centre for Integrated Living. We are tracking impact using validated measures of both participation and softer outcomes such as sense of control and confidence.
- 🍋 We took on the secretariat of the Disability Action Alliance (DAA), which creates partnerships between DPOs and organisations from the public, private and civil society sectors. We are working with the steering group to create a long-term strategy for the DAA to better enable collaborative working that makes a positive difference to disabled peoples full participation.



Influencing policy and practice on the basis of lived experience and good practice led by disabled people

- 🍋 We took forward our 'I Can Make It' campaign, run by and for young disabled people to smash barriers to employment and create better job opportunities. We worked to influence existing spending in local government and large businesses by engaging with their procurement teams and supply chain managers to raise awareness of the benefits of employing young disabled people.
- 🍋 We delivered work with Shaping Our Lives and Change to embed user-led developments in health and social care, working as Department of Health strategic partners. This year we worked on the NHSE information standard to make information accessible to disabled people, worked on disability equality issues and promoted commissioning of services shaped by users of services themselves.
- 🍋 Our second cohort of disabled people completed our Leadership Academy programme. Evaluation showed 80 % achieved their career goals, including promotions, new jobs and opportunities to lead. Participants described how the programme inspired them and unlocked their talents and employers fed back how the programme helped improve their practices.
- 🍋 We ran a campaign designed to overturn the government proposal to cut Employment and Support Allowance for those in the Work Related Activity Group – because our evidence showed this could lead to greater poverty and re-create the problem of large numbers of disabled people 'parked' on benefits. Our joint petition with 38 degrees was signed by 103,929 people and mentioned by our Ambassador Lord Colin Low in the House of Lords.
- 🍋 We provided the Secretariat to the influential All Party Parliamentary Disability Group, which brings disabled people's voices into Parliament.
- 🍋 We launched our In the Making project, jointly with the universities of Salford and Dundee, enabling disabled people to learn and use digital fabrication, including 3-D printing.

As part of our underpinning work to grow the organisation, we increased our membership from 1,455 to 1,842. We increased our social media presence – up from 25,000 to over 36,000 twitter followers. We also hosted significant events to bring stakeholders together, including the Jack Ashley Memorial Lecture, delivered this year by Frank Gardner, BBC Security Correspondent.

We developed our commercial activities, particularly our disability equality consultancy work. Projects included training staff within the Labour Party and Cranfield University. We ran bespoke programmes of work for First Group and Irwin Mitchell and worked in an advisory capacity with Channel 4. This has helped us increase the proportion of our income that is unrestricted. We made an operating surplus of £95,056 in 2015/16, with a projected surplus also for 2016/17.

Our plans and priorities 2016 – 2019

After consultation with our members, our board agreed a new 2016 – 2019 Strategic Plan entitled Equal Participation for All. Our top priorities are:

Independent living: getting a life

More disabled people exercising choice and control over our lives, to realise the human right to participate fully in society.

Career opportunities: getting work, education and skills

Greater equality at work – a reduced gap between disabled and non-disabled people's employment and pay.

Creating a sea change in attitudes and behaviours

Influencing public attitudes and behaviours, creating a new narrative and more positive messages about disabled people and supporting a network of safe hate crime reporting centres.

Confirmed activities include:

- Working as a National Delivery Partner on the 'Get Out Get Active' Project funded by the Spirit of 2012 independent trust – DR UK will sit on the project steering committee to help ensure co-production with disabled people and we will also be running a flagship peer support project in London.
- Building up a good practice toolkit of videos and interactive resources on further education, apprenticeships and work experience including traineeships and Supported Internships.
- Campaigning for the right to equal participation and creating resources to showcase disabled people overcoming barriers to independent living and asserting their rights in education and employment.
- Working with Disability Wales to produce an independent report on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – this includes setting out disabled people's priorities, assessing how effective UK laws and policies are at ensuring the rights of disabled people are protected and promoted and proposing recommendations and questions for the UN Committee to put to the UK government when it is examined in 2017.
- Working with the Office for Public Management (OPM) to design robust processes and instruments for measuring the positive impact of our activities.



Summary of Financial Results 2015/16

Statement of Financial Activities

	£
Income	1,646,138
Expenditure	1,551,082
Operating surplus	£95,056

DR UK had net liabilities on 31 March 2016 of £256,234, primarily due to a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) liability with the Pension Protection Fund. We are pleased to report that the liability position has now been eradicated. DR UK fully expects to show an operating surplus and positive net asset position for the financial year ending 31 March 2017.

Income by type



Voluntary income	£101,123
Member services	£59,893
Promoting social inclusion	£835,526
Advice and publications	£484,578
Training and consultancy	£165,018

Photo courtesy of the Inclusive Fitness Initiative.





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 2016 including:

The Ajahma Charitable Trust

The Albert Hunt Trust

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Big Lottery

The City Bridge Trust

Comic Relief

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Department of Health

Economic and Social Research Council

Elizabeth and Prince Zaiger Trust

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

GD Herbert Charitable Trust

Harris and Sheldon Group Ltd

The Ian Askew Charitable Trust

Irwin Mitchell

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

The Goldsmiths' Company Charity

The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund

Office for Disability Issues

Public Health England

PF Charitable Trust

Rogers, Stirk and Harbour

Seven Families

Sport England

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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