



Summary annual report 2017

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 2016/17 we reached more than 1.6 million people with information developed by and for disabled people

- Our free factsheets attracted 1.8 million downloads. 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).
- Along with other disability rights groups we submitted shadow reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). We delivered a successful launch in Parliament, gave oral evidence to the UN Committee in Geneva and influenced the Committee's 'List of Issues' on which the UK will be judged later in 2017.

- This year saw us buck the trend of declining sales by selling out 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 Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and others, to demonstrate new approaches to disabled people's participation

- We awarded £1.5 million in funding to 21 disability-led research projects across the UK through the Disability Research on Independent Living & Learning (DRILL) project, in partnership with Inclusion Scotland, Disability Wales and Disability Action Northern Ireland. These 21 projects were selected from 207 applications, and cover four key areas: participating in the economy, participating in the community, participating in civic and public life, and participating in anything.



- Our Get Out Get Active (GOGA) Peer Support Project has attracted 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.
- Get Yourself Active (GYA) is now working with six DPOs. We used the learning from our first year to engage with new stakeholders in social care, health and the sport sector. We are also using the findings from baseline questionnaire data to develop our understanding of the key barriers disabled people face in getting active as well as the personal benefits of physical activity.



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. 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.
- As part of the Win-Win Alliance – Disabled People Leading Change alongside Shaping Our Lives, CHANGE and the National Survivor and User Network – we are now members of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance. Previously we were Strategic Partners to the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England and worked in close co-production across national policy and local development projects such as the NHS Workforce Disability Equality Standard, 'disability as an asset' and user-driven commissioning.
- The third cohort of participants completed our Leadership Academy Programme. Evaluation showed 80% achieved their career goals, including promotions, new jobs and opportunities to lead.
- We had two influencing successes on employment. Our reports with the Work Foundation led to us directly influencing Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) policy on peer support for employment to ensure this approach was included in the Green Paper and investment was extended to 71 areas. We also influenced the development of incentives for employers to take on disabled apprentices and new flexibilities in entry criteria for people with learning disabilities.
- We provided the Secretariat to the influential All Party Parliamentary Disability Group (APPDG), which brings disabled people's voices into Parliament. We also devised and co-wrote the APPDG Inquiry into halving the disability employment gap, which is now influencing government's industrial strategy.
- Funding from The Legal Education Foundation enabled us to research the potential implications of Brexit for disabled people. This led to us holding a roundtable discussion attended by over 40 delegates and we launched a manifesto on what the disability rights sector should be seeking from a post-EU UK.

We increased our social media presence – up from 36,000 to over 45,000 twitter followers. We exceeded our media targets for the year, saw our profile increase markedly and are progressively becoming the 'go to' pan-disability organisation. Readership of our e-newsletter has doubled over the year and it now reaches over 29,000 people weekly.

We continued to use disability equality consultancy as a way of generating income, extending our reach and creating positive change within external organisations. We delivered tailored training to staff teams in the healthcare, education, financial services and retail industries as well as collaborating with businesses in the media, legal, technology and transport sectors. This helped us increase the proportion of our income that is unrestricted. This year we had a positive movement in funds of £226,234 which has improved our overall position and balance sheet enormously.

Our plans and priorities 2016 – 2019

Our 2016 – 2019 Strategic Plan is 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:

- Launching our 'Right to Participate' project and creating an innovative, interactive guide to increase disabled people's understanding of their legal rights. This guide will combine new technology with best evidence on framing rights-based messages and support disabled people to see where the barrier they are facing has a legal solution.
- Expanding the reach of our Disability and Skills Unit through promoting our online videos and running a series of webinars and events on best practice in further education, apprenticeships and work experience.
- Using the UNCRPD as a way to tackle some of the key issues of exclusion, prejudice and mistreatment faced by disabled people. We are part of a delegation of DPOs participating in the sessions on the UK in Geneva. This will provide a springboard for domestic action and activity, including convening DPOs, human rights and policy experts to develop ways for the UK to respond to the UN's Concluding Observations.
- Formalising our relationship with the University of Birmingham to research the long-term effects of peer support in physical activity and develop evidence based tools for disabled people and social workers around the benefits of being active.



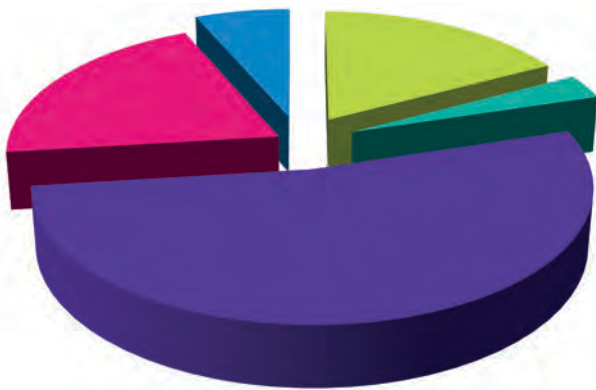
Summary of Financial Results 2016/17

Statement of Financial Activities

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Income	1,949,353
Expenditure	1,723,119

DR UK decreased its net liabilities on 31 March 2017 to €30,000 (down from €256,234 the previous year). The remaining liability relates to a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) with the Pension Protection Fund. DR UK fully expects to show an operating surplus and positive net asset position for the financial year ending 31 March 2018.

Income by type



Voluntary income	€335,469
Member services	€59,577
Promoting social inclusion	€1,029,413
Advice and publications	€398,549
Training and consultancy	€126,345





With thanks to our Funders

We would like thank our funders and supporters for their funding and kind donations through the year and for their continuing support in 2017 including:

Arnold and Porter

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Big Lottery

The City Bridge Trust

Comic Relief

Department for Education

Department of Health

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

Seven Families

Snowdon Trust

Spirit of 2012 Fund

Sport England

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

Disability Rights UK
CAN Mezzanine
49-51 East Road
London N1 6AH

Telephone: 020 7250 8181
Email: enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org

www.disabilityrightsuk.org

 Follow us on Twitter @DisRightsUK

Disability Rights UK is a company limited by guarantee.

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