

Disability in Wales and Africa Annual Report 2017

2017 was another busy year for Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA). The DWA Management Committee officially met seven times throughout the year and also came together less formally on a couple of occasions. DWA jointly led and participated in a Disability Inclusive Development training day; organised a 'Training for Trainers' day; took part in the Wales for Africa Welsh Government Review; and started work, through its social media intern, to raise the profile of the organisation. At the end of the year, we do not know how the post-March 2018 Wales Africa Sector will look. However, DWA finishes 2017 in a stronger position to influence it, than has been the case for some time.

The year started with a review day in January to examine the focus of DWA. The Management Committee met together to confirm its objectives, as expressed in the DWA Constitution, and to develop its campaigning role as a catalyst for change and a promoter of Disability Inclusive Development. A further decision made by the Management Committee, later in the year, was to move away from being an organisation of Members and towards being one of Supporters. DWA also confirmed its intention to seek charitable status.

A commitment which DWA carried over from 2016 was to assist a Wales Africa application, to the Big Lottery International Fund, to finance a project for and with disabled people in Uganda. This involved two Welsh organisations, namely PONT (Mbale) and Bees for Development. The project started with a focus on education and livelihood but had to be narrowed down to just livelihood. The Big Lottery had a very clear directive that disabled people had to be in the lead within any project to be funded. An important role for DWA was to encourage and support the Welsh organisations, along with their African partners, to change their mindset from thinking of a disability project as being one for, to one which is developed and administered, with and by, disabled people. This included helping the relevant partners to find Disabled People's Organisations in Uganda.

Another initiative carried over from 2016 was a collaboration between DWA and the Brecon Molo Community Partnership

(BMCP). This was to implement a THET (Tropical Health Education Trust) funded project called Community Health Support for Disabled Children (CHSDC). This initiative was to train and facilitate Community Health Workers in Molo, Kenya, to identify, signpost, and support disabled children within their locality. During the 18 months of the programme, DWA assisted BMCP with administering and directing the project from the Welsh end. The role included supporting and facilitating “Brecon” Health Workers to carry out training in Molo, communicating with the Kenyan partners and assisting with the collection and collation of statistics to assess outcomes. These activities culminated with a presentation at the THET Annual Conference in October 2017.

DWA has identified training as one of the key activities it wants to undertake within Wales Africa. It has in past years been involved with supporting several conferences, summits and other development initiatives, through the provision of workshops and seminars. In 2017, the opportunity came for DWA to run a one day training event in Disability Inclusive Development on 21st April. This was carried out together with Hub Cymru Africa, Disability Wales and other organisations. The day was attended by 21 trainees and 5 trainers, representing several different organisations. Further training opportunities were discussed but, so far, nothing has come together. DWA also organised a ‘Training for Trainers’ day in September. A [training pack](#) produced for the April training day is available on the DWA website.

In 2017 the Welsh Government undertook a review of the Wales Africa Sector and how it was being coordinated. Since April 2015 the coordination has been done by Hub Cymru Africa (HCA). Its contract with the Welsh Government is due to end in March 2018. DWA participated in the Africa day held at the Senedd, in Cardiff Bay on 25th May, organised by Hub Cymru Africa, to showcase the previous and current work of the Sector to Welsh Assembly Members. The review then developed into a series of interviews by representatives of the Welsh Government’s Wales for Africa Office. DWA was one of the organisations invited to give evidence. This led to a series of communications between DWA and the Welsh Government, including the development by DWA of a public paper known as [‘A Brief History of Disability in Wales and Africa’](#). During the tendering process which started in September, DWA wrote to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA), which hosts HCA,

putting forward suggestions for how disability inclusion could be a stronger force within the new Wales Africa set up.

During 2017 DWA was able to recruit Matt Congreve as a Social Media, Communication and Internet Intern. This has allowed the organisation to raise its social media profile, as well as develop its webpage and internet services. In 2017 DWA ran a social media campaign in the build-up to the UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd). It highlighted what it had done to celebrate the day during each of the previous seven years. It also ran a competition, in order to select a slogan to be used by DWA on its website. The successful slogan reads 'Disabled People's Participation Should Be Expected Not Just Accepted'.

An activity which is likely to continue into 2018 for DWA is its work with Purple Field Productions, promoting the disability-awareness raising film, [Lisiljulikana \(the Unknown\)](#). The film was made in Kenya and is about Grace, a teenage girl with Cerebral Palsy, who goes to live 'up country' with her aunt and uncle after her father has died. The film's story-line highlights the fears, prejudice and discriminatory attitudes, within her new community. It also shows how Grace manages to combat these negative attitudes and beliefs, to liberate not only herself, but also another disabled child within the community. DWA promoted the film as part of a Hub Cymru Africa event in December 2017 and then facilitated a follow up discussion.

DWA assisted Hands Around the World, a Wales Africa organisation, when carrying out an exchange visit with their Kenyan partner known as the Meru North Disability Community Centre (DCC). The DCC Director visited Wales as an awareness raising initiative and a significant contribution from DWA was to introduce him to different facets of the Welsh Disability Movement.

DWA supports Wales Africa organisations, such as Wales for Africa Health Links Network and Hub Cymru Africa. It attended the Uganda Day at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff. It developed its relationship with Disability Wales and discussed the possibility of an initiative to include and involve more disabled people within Wales Africa. It renewed its relationship with Diverse Cymru. Finally, it was encouraging to see signs of disabled people becoming interested in disability as a global concept. It is only when this happens that DWA will fulfill its ambition of promoting disability inclusive development.

Unaudited Accounts for Disability in Wales and Africa 2017

Opening balance 1st January 2017 £2,124.27

Income

Payment from BMCP re CHSfDC	£750.00
HCA – DID Training	£500.00
HCA – THET Conference	£ 67.50
Donation – A Wheelie Good Idea	£ 38.00

Total Income £1,355.50

Balance £3,479.77

Expenditure

Coordinator's expenses (01- 06 17)	£546.40
Training room hire (Chapter)	£403.80
Insurance (Arthur J Gallagher)	£256.30
Training partners (DW & KDR)	£200.00
THET conference fee	£135.00
Unity Trust bank service charges	£ 72.00

Total Expenditure £1,613.50

Balance carried forward 31st December 2017 £1,866.27

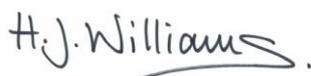
Balance £3,479.77

Notes

1. Amount due to be paid for coordinator's expenses (07- 12 2017) £507.31
2. Paul and Rachel Lindoewood supported DWA to host DCC Director £ 21.00

This report was accepted by the Management Committee as a true and accurate record of the financial statement of DWA on 25 June 2018

Signed



Hilary Williams
DWA Chair

Signed



Donald Rust
Mgt Committee Member