



DPACT Annual Report
(24TH Aug 2012 – 23RD Aug 2013)

Item 1 Finance

1.1 Budget

An annual budget is attached. Although there is a small surplus brought forward to 13-14, this has already been allocated.

1.2 Funding applications

The fact that we only received;

- £400 from a Carers Grant
- £43 in an account transferred to DPACT from the disabled workers coalition
- £10,000 from awards for all

Is in no way due to lack of effort to secure more funds. Four other applications have been made for sums ranging from £50,000 to £5,000 a year. Unfortunately we have not been successful as can be seen from the budget. It is unfortunate that potential funders – including The Council – do not discuss reasons why they choose not to award grants to unsuccessful applicants.

1.3 Outstanding applications for funding

We await the outcome of an application to the office of disability issues for a further £5,000 from its facilities fund. This application was submitted early in August and is designed to support membership activities, developing the Companies infrastructure and maintaining service delivery.

Item 2 Case Work Advocacy

The bulk of DPACT's time is being used for this purpose. Here is a snap shot of some of the work in which we have been involved.

2.1 DLA and ESA

- DLA face to face hearings = 4, achievement of clients desired outcomes = 4
- Claims resolved without appeal process = 4, achievement of clients desired outcomes = 4
- ESA applications and appeals = submitted 4, clients desired outcomes achieved = 2, claims outstanding = 2

From networking with other DIAL UK members we understand that clients in some areas are currently waiting up to 12 months for appeals to be heard at face to face hearings. Personal Independence Payments (PIP) applications do not appear to have started yet in our area. Although this seems a small amount of cases, they have all been complex and have needed a considerable amount of time, research and skill to achieve the results desired by DPACT clients.

2.2 Out of Borough work

We've had two requests for work for clients outside the borough. One in West Sussex and one in Sutton. DPACT has played a significant role in both.

2.3 Miscellaneous case work advocacy

An increasing number of organisations are asking DPACT to get involved in parent and family case work. We are not yet working with many carers but we look forward to doing so in the future.

Item 3 Kids to School Project

We're due to report our findings regarding this project early in 2014. The lottery has funded us not only to feed back the results of research but also to suggest a solution to the problem(s) faced by disabled parents who are unable to get their children to school. Since working on this project, we have become involved with a number of parents requiring advocacy support in this respect. We also believe there is much more work to be done on this vital subject because as we feel sure everyone will agree that children are our future. For this reason we plan to approach the lottery to ask if we can have funding for a second year to try and work on improving access for disabled parents to their children's education.

We would like to close by thanking everyone who has supported DPACT first very challenging year. In particular, let's give a special mention to Councillor Margret Mead, Hannah Miller, Helen Thompsom and of course Liz Hodgeman, who together encouraged us and made sure we had offices to work from.