



Rochdale and District Disability Action Group RADDAG

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
Rochdale and District Disability Action Group
Charity Number 1115475

For Financial Year ending March 2021

Aims and Purpose

RADDAG exists to promote the Social Model of Disability and to work towards securing Full and Equal Human and Civil Rights for all Disabled People, through the removal of barriers.

RADDAG aims to: -

- Be the representative voice of disabled people in the Borough of Rochdale
- Secure the best possible services for all disabled people
- Advise service providers on disability Issues
- Be involved in the consultation process regarding disability
- Provide a forum where organisations working towards greater equality for disabled people can share ideas, expertise and good practice
- Provide training on relevant disability issues
- Work towards a fully accessible Borough of Rochdale
- Ensure that service providers are following the legislation of the Equality Act and any other appropriate legislation.

RADDAG will achieve these aims by continuing to: -

- Campaign for greater equality
- Provide information and signposting for disabled people, their family, friends and supporters
- Encourage disabled people to strive for equal opportunities within housing, leisure, education, employment, travel and health service provision
- Challenge discriminatory stereotypical assumptions

- Empower local disabled people to exercise choice and control and in using their legal and human rights to achieve independent living
- Work with communities and organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to inform them of their responsibility to be fully inclusive and accessible
- Scrutinise equality work within publicly funded organisations.

Our Work

This year has proven to be one of our busiest ever as an organisation, we have continued to focus on our core aim of ensuring that our voices as disabled people are heard, we would like to say thank you to our funders for recognising the challenges faced by disabled people, which have been compounded by the pandemic and providing funding which has enabled us to continue our work.

There is no doubt that this has been a challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, restrictions have meant that face to face meetings were not possible for months, groups had to stop meeting and although official government restrictions were eased people were still reluctant and scared to meet face to face. This has meant as an organisation we have needed to change and adapt with new ways of working, including online meetings, Zoom calls and posting newsletters out to make sure people who are digitally excluded still receive up to date information. We will continue to work with our members in jointly finding our way through this ongoing challenge and to ensure our work continues to be accessible for all disabled people.

Here are some of the highlights of our work this year:-

Increasing Access to information

RADDAG received funding from the Action Together Emergency Response fund to provide radios for disabled people to help reduce loneliness and isolation, improve mental well-being and give access to up to date information. Everyone who received a radio was contacted and asked what difference it had made to them, the feedback was very positive, one stand out comment was 'Thank you for thinking of us oldies who don't get our news from our phones, I like to know what's going on, if I turn on my radio on the hour I know I'll hear some news or other' and another comment 'Just wanted to say thank you really, it was nice to feel remembered, I'm shielding it's as though the world has forgotten about us.' The comments gave our volunteers involved in the project remotely a real boost as they could see they'd really made a difference to people.

Connected

RADDAG received funding from Lankelly Chase to ensure that local disabled people, some who are digitally excluded, had access to up to date factual information, in a way that is accessible to them, and also to provide peer support for disabled people, who felt they were not a priority during the pandemic, due to negative messaging from the national government and lack of available support from services.

GM Disabled Peoples Panel

RADDAG continues to be a member of the Disabled Peoples Panel for the Mayor of Greater Manchester; which aims to strengthen the voice of disabled people and their organisations in shaping, challenging and influencing strategic policy issues. The panel is made up of representatives from Disabled People's Organisations from across the 10 GM boroughs and is a great opportunity to influence decision making and also to share good practice across areas. The panel worked hard during the Pandemic to highlight the disproportionate effect that Covid19 had and continues to have on Disabled people.

Working with Rochdale Borough Council

The SLA with RBC has continued which ensures that people, in the borough with a protected characteristic, under the Equality Act, are involved in the decision-making processes to ensure they receive equitable and inclusive access to services. RADDAG provides information and support regarding the legal and statutory duties relating to the Equality Act, Equality Duty and other relevant legislation. The SLA has empowered RADDAG and its members to noticeably influence the planning and development of services and demonstrates a commitment by both organisations to partnership working.

Engagement

Engagement with our members and members of the public continues and includes encouraging people to have their say in consultations along with regularly sharing important messages on social media, via our newsletter and by email. Along with our own membership we also forward information to our wide network of organisations who in turn disseminate information to their membership.

We continue to be contacted directly by our members and members of the public, around experiences of health and social care services, where appropriate feedback is given directly to services.

RADDAG carries out targeted focus group when commissioned, examples are Learning disability focus groups, LGBTQ+ disabled people's experiences of services and more recently, a focus group for unaccompanied asylum seeking

young people. The reports and recommendations are shared with decision makers.

RADDAG's Project Manager is the chair of Greater Manchester Police Rochdale Division Police Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

Rochdale Borough Disability Forum

RADDAG facilitates the Rochdale Borough Disability Forum which is an opportunity to connect, share information, highlight issues and work together to break down the barriers experienced by disabled people. The aim of the Disability Forum is that as a collective of disabled people and organisations we can work together to drive change and ensure our voices are heard when decisions are being made. There is huge strength in information sharing and collaboration.

Focus for the year ahead

- Continue to recruit new members and strengthen our executive committee
- Build on existing work to recognise the intersectionality of our existing and potential membership
- Continue to search for new funding and commissioned work opportunities
- Continue to work with partner organisations and seek out new opportunities for partnership working.
- Increase the number of local people who are engaged with RADDAG
- Continue to develop the Rochdale Borough Disability Forum
- Continue to work with our members in jointly finding our way through the ongoing challenges due to the Covid19 Pandemic and to ensure our work continues to be accessible for all disabled people.

Thank you

RADDAG is a user led Disabled People's Organisation which aims to be representative of the diverse community across the borough of Rochdale. Volunteers are central to our organisation and the trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to our volunteers for everything they have done this past year in such challenging times.

RADDAG Accounts Year Ending 31st March 2021	
Income	
RBC SLA	27,100
RBC HCAW	1,500
RBC Holocaust Memorial Grant	320
RBC Grant	5,600
Government Grants	5,472.32
Unlimited Potential Grant	5,000
Emergency Response Fund	997.60
Disability Action Grant	3,741.75
Connecting You Fund	5,000
GM Disabled People's Panel	900
Total Income	55,631.67
Expenditure	
Staffing	21,459
Communications	1,242.71
Volunteer Expenses	1,020.63
Insurance	89
Projects	
HCAW & Holocaust Memorial	1,820
Unlimited Potential	5,000
Radio Project	997.60
Connected Project	3,741.75
Disability Forum	5,000
Total Expenditure	40,370.69
Balance C/F from previous year	1,805.35
Total Income	55,631.67
Total Expenditure	40,370.69
Balance C/F to next year	17,066.33