

Dear DCMW supporter,

Thank you for your support for the Disabled Children Matter Wales campaign over the past 4 years.

I am writing to let you know of the decisions recently made by the DCMW campaign members, at our review meeting.

The meeting gave us an opportunity to review our achievements and look at what lessons we could learn for the future.

Achievements:

- DCMW achieved a profile within the National Assembly of Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government – senior civil servants are aware of DCMW and wanted to hear our views on policy development. The Minister and some AMs are aware of the Campaign.
- Some funding allocated to disabled children services as a result of the campaign, including wheelchair services, the Early Support programme, Changing Places and the Benefits Uptake Campaign.
- A Task Group was established which led to the development of “We are on the Way” “The Journey so Far” and other policy initiatives.
- DCMW gave organisations an opportunity to work effectively together in partnership; there is both strength and support in joint working.
- The website gave supporters the tools to engage in campaigning work and to make their voices heard.
- Developed a supporter base that was active within the campaign in terms of contact with AMs and at events.

Lessons to be learnt

- The campaigning work and Task Group representation could have been separated, with the latter being delegated to the Children in Wales Disabled Children Policy Group, which includes a wider group of organisations than those who are part of DCMW.
- It is difficult to run an effective campaign without dedicated capacity or funding.
- Contact with supporters has diminished over time, which has resulted in less supporters responding to requests.
- True participation is difficult in a “dull policy world” and sometimes we did not engage in with disabled children / young people and their families in a true participatory way.
- We need a specific tangible issue to engage with young disabled people and their families, such as the provision of wheelchairs.

As a result of this review we have decided to put the Campaign on hold until we have a clear message to communicate to our supporters. When there are issues identified, the DCMW campaign would regroup to work on key issues.

As there is still a need for ongoing policy work, this will be led by the Disabled Children Policy Group, facilitated by Children in Wales.

If you have any questions or issues that you would like to discuss, please contact me,

Regards
Lynne Hill

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