Minutes of DAPHAN- 13th January 2022

**List of attendees:**

Phil Stevens-Disability Action Haringey

Daniel Ball- Haringey Services

Qasim Qureshi

Anita Yiannoullou

Gareth Heard

Graham Day

Linda Almond

Blaise Alert

**Apologies:**

Brendan Amooty

Ian Mclaughlin

Meeting was opened by Phil Stevens Chief executive from Disability Action Haringey and all members of the meeting introduced themselves.

It was agreed the meeting pack with previous minutes, TOR, and other relevant information, will be circulated with suitable time to allow for all members to have a chance to review and make comments.

Phil noted that all suggested amendments to the TOR and previous minutes had been included.

The network discussed the current ongoing recruitment for chair and co-chair with extensive advertising and promotion around the borough. Member Qasim had applied for the position of co-chair and was successful. Member Anita has agreed to approach a potential candidate for fellow co-chair.

The next topic on the agenda was to discuss what safe spaces look like to the group as it could mean lots of different things depending on age, ability etc. It was then opened to the group to discuss some things that make the group feel safe in physical spaces. Some of the items mentioned were:

* Gym instructors being ready and available to help as currently in some venues, there is not enough readily available enough.
* Ramps are at the correct gradient, not too steep, any lowering outside a building are smooth as gravel etc can cause issues. No rubbish blocking pathways. Often accessible toilets are filled with cleaning products.
* Feeling safe to the venue to get to the venue if you have visual impairments is important. Meet and greets beforehand are helpful but require a lot of volunteers.
* Health and safety- who will support people out of the building and what does that look like? Are staff trained to handle various disability needs in the event of an emergency?
* If a gym has procedures in place for people from the D/deaf and disabled community, it should be stated and made clear.

Group discussed inclusive coaching programmes and some of the current concerns around how inclusive the programmes are. Gareth Heard from fusion spoke to the group and explained what actions and implementations they were taking. Coaches should be doing the induction

Group discussed around empowerment and feeling safe and comfortable about the exercise you are doing, that it will not exasperate your own condition and how this can be done without having to rely on other people.

Lack of communication as to what is available for community was raised. Is there enough signposting to these services, clubs, etc? Education is needed to be sustained over a significant period, so that everyone can feel empowered.

 Promoting and expanding DAHPAN – Phil Stevens asked the group to look within their networks for people who would benefit the group and could benefit from being part of the group. Anita spoke about further down the line looking at key venues and different venues we can invite people to.

Suggested ideas: walking programme, safer cycling, quieter spaces, outdoor gym sessions.

Graham Day suggested to the group a focus group with all organisations within the borough that work with the D/deaf and disabled community, to establish what activities the community want to get involved in. It was agreed that upon the audit, the group will bridge the gaps.

The next meeting was set for 24th February 2-4pm.