



Newsletter October 2011



INVITATION TO OUR NEXT COLLOQUIUM

“Welfare reforms”

Maria Miller MP (Minister for Disabled People)

Thursday 24th November 2011

Time 1300hrs

Chairman: George Eustice MP

www.conservativedisability.org

Welcome to Our Site

One in seven voters has a disability of one sort or another. Some 5% of those are wheelchair users. The issues need to be understood. Join us or just talk to us - we're here to help. The lack of understanding of disability issues has been described as a mountain bigger than Mount Everest, and the Conservative Disability Group is playing its part in helping to achieve a better perspective.

The aims of the Conservative Disability Group are:

- To promote equal opportunities and independence for disabled people.
- To enhance the Conservative Party's understanding of disability issues and to offer advice and information to Party members.



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Featured Story

Parliamentary round-table discussion on group 'Making the Work Programme work' Monday, 1 August 2011
The Conservative Disability Group hosted their first parliamentary round-table discussion on the topic of the work programme in July 2011. Group Chairman, George Eustice MP, was delighted to welcome representatives from the charities Mencap, Remedy and Scope to parliament as well as Jill Maitland, Professor of Social Work at King's College London. The group was joined by a selection of free-trade Conservative MPs eager to learn more about the work programme in practice.



READ NEWS STORY

National News

Ed Miliband's 52 Weeks of Weakness
Conservative Party MP Chairman, George Eustice, has launched a damning report into the first year of Ed Miliband's leadership.

Conservatives

Sydney White has launched a damning report into the first year of Ed Miliband's leadership.
http://www.conservatives.com/...
Ed Balls: Don't... and it's over.

CDG have launched a new website!

New website address

www.conservativedisability.org

Events



**CONSERVATIVE DISABILITY GROUP-
COLLOQUIUM 24TH NOVEMBER
2011 in London**

Maria Miller

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
(Minister for Disabled People)

This event is by invitation only and if you would like to be considered, then please complete our request form and return it or apply through our website.

The Conservative Disability

Group, held a Disability Colloquium on the 4th November 2010 in collaboration with the Aga Khan Social Welfare Board, who generously hosted the event for us at the prestigious Ismaili Centre in South Kensington.

It was chaired by George Eustice MP (CDG Chairman). Cllr Robert Buckland MP and Cllr Richard Barnes AM, Deputy Mayor of London also attended amongst many key policy makers and activists from renowned national charities, focus and interest groups.

Although the Colloquium was entitled 'Single Assessment' due to the announcement made by the Government, serious issues were raised and discussed.

All representations made by the delegates were taken forward for consideration by Maria Miller MP courtesy of our Chairman Mr George Eustice MP. The Conservative Disability Group now looks forward to the forthcoming Colloquium in November 2011 when Maria Miller MP herself will be joining us.

Visit our new website for information on:

- Our Philosophy
- Who we are
- Latest Local & national news
- Our Events
- How to get involved
- Subscribe to our newsletter
- Membership details
- Useful Links
- Useful downloads

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the party

Conservative Disability Groups

PHILOSOPHY

EMPOWERING SOCIETY

“Able and disabled people want to play an active and productive role in society and a future Conservative Government should encourage this”

Conservative Disability Groups

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our policies should provide assistance through facilitating access, independence, choice and self-determination.

Disabled individuals should be encouraged and supported to contribute towards, as well as to become useful members of, society.

This will enhance self esteem, promote dignity, reduce crime and help build an economically productive environment. In turn, these outcomes will reduce health and social care costs.

Perceptions, attitudes and awareness must change. We must eliminate discrimination, wherever we find it, and help to secure the inclusion and participation of disabled people in every aspect of society.

The dignity of every individual must be maintained and protected



Parliamentary round-table discussion group ‘Making the Work Programme work’

Hosted by George Eustice MP

All the charities represented are core contractors for the work programme, and the discussion was started with a brief introduction from each representative as to their organisation’s engagement with the programme. Professor Manthorpe also gave an academic overview of the challenges faced.

Craig Lewis, Employment Services Director of Operations at Remploy said he “fully supports the structure of the work programme” before going on to detail how his organisation prides itself on “the personal way it deals and commutes with disabled people”. Remploy are currently the largest work choice for disabled people, and engage with the work programme and work choice. Through projects like the Sainsbury’s ‘You Can’ initiative, Remploy have proved that “employing disabled people is good for business”.

The group discussed the potential difficulties of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) including measuring the distance to work, and the providing specialist advice about the work of choice. It was agreed that problems surrounding the fluctuating symptoms of mental health conditions should be discussed when structuring the WCA. There was a consensus throughout the group that there was a need to establish clear pathways to work whilst also removing historic barriers.

Jane Ellison MP talked of the importance of supporting disabled employees and their employers once they have found a job and Caroline Dineage MP emphasised the importance of promoting a positive mindset amongst disabled people so that they are feel encouraged and willing to work.

Karim Sacoor who was present at the meeting states “The Conservative Disability Group is looking forward to the next roundtable meeting where we can table the concerns of some of our members”

JOIN US BY BECOMING A MEMBER



EMAIL, CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
admin@conservativedisabilitygroup.org
or call Sally Elliott 01202 874847

WWW.CONSERVATIVEDISABILITY.ORG

ENQUIRY FORM

I AM A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION	I WOULD LIKE OBSERVER STATUS ONLY.
MEMBERSHIP NO:	PLEASE TICK [] YES [] NO
NAME	MOBILE
TITLE	EMAIL
ADDRESS	COUNTY
	POSTCODE
ANY SPECIAL INTERESTS PLEASE STATE HERE:	
Signature	Dated:
PLEASE STATE YOUR INTEREST	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Join membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor our Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Invite to meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> Joining CDG Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscribe to newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting involved	



A specialist group within the party

Lord McColl - *President*
Jim Hattersley, William Hague MP - *Vice President*
George Euctice MP - *Chairman*
Michael Dunlop - *Director*
Karim Sacoor - *Deputy Chairman*
Sally Elliot - *Deputy Chairman & membership*
Diane Shawe - *Communications Officer*
David Tiptaft CBE - *Treasurer*

Wayne Henderson, Arif Hussain JP, Guy Tweedy, Cllr. Ian Potts, Cllr.
Elizabeth Kemp, Cllr. Peter Kemp, William Rogers and Michael Utting -
Executive Committee

www.conservativedisability.org

Call Sally Elliot for address details to submit your enquiry form by post.