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**Welcome to our Autumn 2025 newsletter!**



## A message from our CEO

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. It's one in which we share the Wheelchair Alliance's new three-year strategy with you.

A strategy is such an important tool for charities, campaigning groups and community interest companies such as the Alliance. They help to keep the momentum going while driving change forward.

As goals are achieved and (rightly) celebrated, we always need to think, 'what next?' to ensure progress is a constant. This is why strategy is so important. It reminds us of our 'why' and sets out plans, intentions and goals for the future.

We are immensely proud of everything that we have achieved so far – as you will have seen in our last ten-year anniversary newsletter – as well as our more recent achievements. These include getting the government to commit to reviewing the 150kg legislation as a priority. However, we can't stay still.

Our vision remains 'right chair, right time, right now'. We also remain committed to our mission of improving the lives of wheelchair users by promoting access, innovation, and equity.

In creating our new three-year strategy we have outlined a three-point plan: to **listen**, to **champion** and to **innovate**.

Together these goals set the direction of our organisation, ensuring that all our work contributes to our single vision of all wheelchair users in the UK having the **right chair, at the right time, right now**. You can read more on our strategy and how we will achieve our goals, below.

Alongside strategy, funding also remains critical for us as a community interest company.

Our volunteers work tirelessly to pursue the vision and the mission of the Alliance, with the aim of improving the lives of wheelchair users everywhere. However, we can't do this work alone.

We are lucky to have the support of our wonderful partners and sponsors. Recently we received vital funding from [City Bridge Foundation](#) and the [RFU \(Rugby Football Union\) Injured Players Foundation \(IPF\)](#). This funding is enabling us to do more to get the voices of wheelchair users heard. You can read more about this funding and how it will be used, further on in this newsletter.

Thank you to every one of you who continue to support the Alliance – whether that be as a member, sponsor or partner. Your support is invaluable.

My hope is that together we can continue to drive forward change and further strengthen the voices of wheelchair users.

Until next time, please do enjoy reading about the incredible things that are happening right now to achieve our goals.

**Nick Goldup, chief executive officer at the Wheelchair Alliance**



## Our strategy: promoting access, innovation and equity

Here at the Wheelchair Alliance, we have been working hard on devising our new three-year strategy.

The Alliance is dedicated to improving the lives of wheelchair users by promoting access, innovation, and equity. Our three-year plan focuses on this and aims:

1. **To listen** to and collaborate with wheelchair users about wheelchair provision
2. **To champion** national accountability for wheelchair provision through research, lobbying and campaigning
3. **To support innovation** of equipment and services for the benefit of wheelchair users

Together these goals set the direction of our organisation, ensuring that all our work contributes to our single vision of all wheelchair users in the UK having the **right chair, at the right time, right now.**

[Click here to read our strategy in full](#)

## Partners of the Alliance launch their strategies

Alongside the launch of our new three-year strategy, we're also proud to highlight the work of some of our partners.

[MND Association](#), [Back Up](#) and [Muscular Dystrophy](#) have recently launched new strategies to help ensure that momentum around the vital work that they do continues forward.

The [Spinal Injuries Association](#) also shares its 2030 strategy which aims to reach everyone with a spinal cord injury, connecting them to the help and support they need to flourish in their lives.

Click on each of the icons below to read more about their vision for the future.



## Government to review legislation thanks to Wheelchair Alliance campaign

Following tireless campaigning by the Wheelchair Alliance the government has committed to reviewing legislation that requires users of powered wheelchairs that weigh more than 150kg to have driving licences and insurance for their wheelchairs.

The pledge to review the [Using Mobility Scooters And Powered Wheelchairs](#) legislation is thanks to a determined campaign led by us which culminated in a



meeting in Westminster between its CEO, [Nick Goldup](#) and chair [Karen Pearce](#) with Simon Lightwood MP, Minister for Local Transport in July (pictured above).

The meeting focused on the urgent need for change to dated legislation, including the use of outdated, offensive language, referring to wheelchairs as 'invalid carriages'.

[Read more on this here](#)



## Raising our concerns in the House of Commons

We can't thank [Daniel Francis MP](#) enough for raising our questions in the House of Commons.

He directed two questions to Simon Lightwood MP, Minister for Local Transport.

1. Does the minister accept that a wheelchair - both manual and with power - is a medical device that enables disabled people to maximise their independence and live the life they choose?
2. And does he therefore agree that the terminology of invalid carriages within the legislation is discriminatory and outdated and that the regulations on the use of micro-mobility vehicles require updating urgently?

Mr Lightwood, who we recently met with (see above story), agreed that the

terminology in the legislation was 'outdated and no longer reflects modern attitudes or needs'. He also said that the government was 'committed to ensuring disabled people have the same freedom to travel as everyone else' and that 'mobility devices are vital for many, which is why (the government) is reviewing legal frameworks surrounding mobility devices...and will be consulting on this in due course'.

This is yet another clear sign that our campaign is working and we look forward to being a part of that consultation process.

In the meantime, we are seeking an exemption for users of powered wheelchairs until the law has been reviewed, which we hope isn't too far away!



## £300k funding boost from City Bridge Foundation

The Wheelchair Alliance has received a £300k funding boost from [City Bridge Foundation](#) – London's biggest independent charity funder.

The grant will enable us to concentrate efforts on growing our London-focused activities over the next three years, delivering key projects that will bring positive change in wheelchair provision.

These include the launch of a national training Academy for wheelchair providers and commissioners, implementation of awareness and lobbying strategies to drive

improvement via engagement with wheelchair users, alongside growth of our membership base.

[Read more on this here](#)



## Three-year funding partnership with RFU Injured Players Foundation

We have announced a three-year funding partnership with the RFU (Rugby Football Union) Injured Players Foundation (IPF), an independent charity that supports players who have sustained an acute life-changing injury whilst playing rugby union in England.

As part of the new partnership, the IPF will provide grant funding to support the Alliance's 'United Voices project', which aims to establish a strong, unified national voice for the estimated 1.2 million wheelchair users across the UK to improve services and access.

\* Photo courtesy of Leo Wilkinson Photography



Find out how this funding will be used



## Expansion of our team to support growth

As a community interest company (CIC) we rely on funding support to help us improve the lives of wheelchair users across the UK. Thanks to recently receiving time-limited funding from the [RFU \(Rugby Football Union\) Injured Players Foundation \(IPF\)](#), we are now looking to grow our team.

Over the last few weeks we have been on the hunt for a highly motivated and organised Project Manager who is available 1.5-2 days a week.

The successful candidate will lead and coordinate a variety of initiatives across the organisation and play a central role in delivering impactful projects that support wheelchair users, collaborating with stakeholders from health and social care, user groups, manufacturers, and policymakers.

It's a hands-on role requiring excellent communication, planning, and stakeholder management skills.

Applications closed on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September and we have had some great interest in the role. Following interviews we have not only one, but two, project managers signed up to join the Alliance. This is fantastic news and we look forward to announcing more on this in our next newsletter.



# National media coverage highlights work of the Alliance

August was a bumper month of national TV media coverage, with two news pieces being featured on BBC Breakfast and ITV News.

Our CEO **Nick Goldup** was delighted to talk to ITV News about the importance of wheelchair users getting access to the right chair at the right time as part of our 10 year anniversary celebrations.

The interview was shown across eight different ITV News regions across England too, with the important addition of interviews with wheelchair users based in those local areas.

It was a great piece and shows why, ten years on from its inception, there is still very much a need for the Wheelchair Alliance.

On Saturday 23rd August, our patron **Nick Wilson** appeared on BBC Breakfast to talk about the importance of accessibility outdoors for wheelchair users, in which he said: "Being able to get outdoors has literally saved my life. Let people have the right kit, for the right time, right now."

Many thanks go out to Nick for taking the time to speak to the BBC Breakfast team and helping us continue in our mission to make real change in wheelchair provision.

Click the above image to watch the BBC Breakfast report..

**You can watch the ITV news report here**



## Our patron debuts Project RockClimber screening

In August, our patron and award-winning disability advocate and content creator, [Nick Wilson](#), hosted the first public screening of Project RockClimber.

Debuting at the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton, the film documents the journey of how an extreme all-terrain mobility chair, called RockClimber, came to fruition and follows Nick on his determined journey to complete a solo ascent of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) using the chair.

The sold-out event was a great success and we are immensely proud that Nick chose this opportunity to ask for donations to the Wheelchair Alliance when people booked their tickets.

More than £500 was raised for the Alliance so a big thank goes out to everyone who chose to support us and Nick as our patron.



## Partner spotlight



### Partner spotlight: MND Association

Here at the Wheelchair Alliance, we are proud to have the MND Association as one of our valued partners.

The MND Association is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members forming a powerful national and local network that provides information and support to those living with motor neurone disease.

With people with MND, their families and carers at the heart of everything they do, the Association has over 1,300 active volunteers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and around 275 paid staff – all dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by MND, now and in the future.

With a vision of a world free from MND, every year it invests millions of pounds in the global research effort to discover the causes, potential new treatments and ultimately a cure for MND.

Forty-six years on from its formation on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1979, the Association funds the coordination of life-changing care for people living with MND and wide-ranging support for families and carers.

Pauline Matheson-Marks, head of national support services and member of the Alliance's advisory board said: "We know that up to 80% of people living with motor neurone disease (MND) will need a wheelchair and we understand the importance of being able to access the right wheelchair at the right time. Being a member of the Wheelchair Alliance enables us to amplify the voices of people affected by this devastating disease and in turn strengthen the voice and influence of the Wheelchair Alliance."

You can find out more about the MND Association and its new strategy in this newsletter.

## Our membership continues to grow

As a community interest company, we rely on the support of our wonderful partners and sponsors.

Together we are working to further strengthen the voice of wheelchair users while providing information to help empower those who use a wheelchair, their families and carers.

Support for the work that we do continues to grow and we're incredibly grateful to every organisation who have come onboard to support us.

A big thank you and welcome goes to [Transport for All](#), [Finding your Feet](#), [Designability](#) and [Matt Hampson Foundation](#) who have recently signed up as partners.

### Our Partners



## Can you support the Wheelchair Alliance?

Our volunteers work tirelessly to pursue the vision and the mission of the Wheelchair Alliance, with the aim of improving the lives of wheelchair users everywhere.

However, we can't do this work alone.

We are lucky to have the support of our wonderful partners and sponsors but any contributions made will help us to do more to get the voices of wheelchair users heard.

If you are able to donate, please do so. We thank you in advance for any support you may be able to provide.

### Make a donation



Are you looking to reach wheelchair users?

**ASK US ABOUT ADVERTISING IN OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER\***

Email [admin@wheelchair-alliance.co.uk](mailto:admin@wheelchair-alliance.co.uk) for a ratecard

\*As a CIC, we need revenue to fund our good work. However, we also feel strongly about building a safe, engaged community of wheelchair users, so any potential advertisers do need to go through a process of due diligence.



**Disclaimer:** *To support wheelchair users in finding the information they are looking for, The Wheelchair Alliance will at times provide links to websites that we believe may be of interest. The Wheelchair Alliance does not endorse any particular organisation, service or product that may be advertised on third party websites. The Wheelchair Alliance assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in the content of these third party websites.*

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