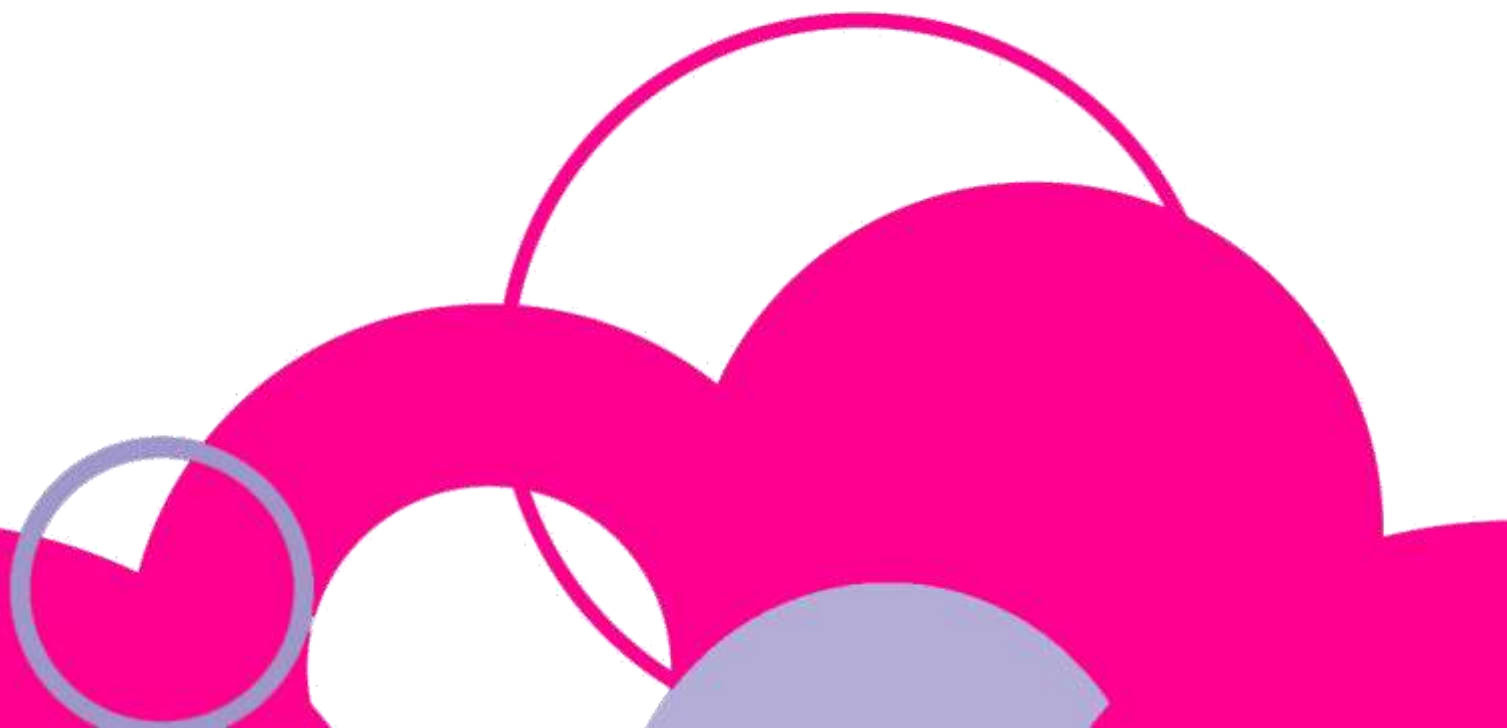




Annual Report 2008-2009

Celebrating 25 Years of Independent Living



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Management Committee Report

Byron Oliver, Steve Polden, Chris Andrews, Sue Pike

(Left to Right, below)

What an astounding year approaching our 25th it has been. Never a dull or quiet moment with so many new projects, and the continuing development of existing services accomplishing so many of the dreams and aspirations of Disabled People.

Never before have so many demands been made on our organisation. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of Ian Loynes (our Chief Executive) and Lesley Long-Price (our Office Manager) supported by our Team Leaders, these demands have been successfully met by our hard working, skilled and committed staff and volunteers. We are very much indebted to every one of you - **thank you!**

We truly value the relationships that SCIL has built up over the years with like-minded organisations, and the public bodies that have increasingly demonstrated their commitment to our cause.

In the current difficult financial climate SCIL is coping well financially. We would like to thank Maureen Harris, our Treasurer, for continuing to volunteer her time to guide us most successfully through difficult financial times – and we know that this is significantly supported by the cost-conscious attitude of all our staff and volunteers.

There have been some changes in the Management Committee since last year. Valérie Moushigian, left us and moved away from the area. We would very much like to thank her for her contribution to the Committee.

Cont'd...



Management Committee Report Continued

We welcomed Chris Andrews and Sue Pike to our newly formed quartet at last year's Annual General Meeting. We need many more of you to join us to make our Committee even more vibrant.

In July we sadly said goodbye (or should that be au revoir!) to Janet Marshall, our Disability Equality Training (DET) Coordinator for over 20 years. Janet has been an inspiration to SCIL, and has gained respect from within our membership and externally by all those who were inspired by her DET sessions. Janet has already offered to continue to help us occasionally when she can, and we all wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

This is your SCIL, and this year we celebrate the 25th Birthday of the organisation. We have so much to celebrate. We have already enjoyed sharing this anniversary at local events during this year, and we look forward to our celebrations which peak in the latter months of 2009.

However, there is still so much more to achieve and together we know we will.

What an astounding year it has been.

Photo:
Unity 12,
Aerial Shot



SCIL Celebrates it's 25th Anniversary

By Ian Loynes

SCIL is very proud to celebrate its 25th Anniversary on the 6th November 2009. This is an outstanding milestone that everyone involved with SCIL should be extremely proud of.



SCIL is a celebration of what Disabled People are capable of achieving when we have the freedom to dream and the freedom of our fundamental belief that we should enjoy the same rights to life that non-disabled people take for granted. We all know just how important SCIL is to all of us that wish to live independently. For 25 years SCIL has flourished solely because of the unwavering passion, belief and shear hard work of Disabled People.

Sure, we have had support from other organisations and individuals who shared in our dreams (sometimes all too fleetingly). However SCIL has never been given a 'silver-spoon' we have never enjoyed core funding – everything we have achieved we have achieved as Disabled People.

Our AGM this year will begin our celebration year. I extend to you my personal invitation to join us in a glass of bubbly to toast those who had the vision to found SCIL. For the huge number of Disabled People whose lives have been transformed by the organisation. It is an honour as just one of those privileged people that I am able to share a role in our story.

Cont'd...

**Photo:
SCIL 25th
Anniversary
stall at K2
Festival 2009**



SCIL Celebrates it's 25th Anniversary, Continued

On the 6th November 2009 SCIL will be holding a party, come reunion, for as many of our past and present members, volunteers, Management Committee and staff that we are able to contact. If you haven't booked your tickets, I urge you to do so quickly – it will be quite a party and also a trip or two down memory lane. As part of our celebrations we are also launching our new, improved website and recording our history (see picture top right).



I think however, that the most important part of our celebrations are the many different events we have had awareness raising stalls at this year. For all we do, we still only touch the lives of a small proportion of the Disabled People out there. Most still do not know we exist. It is essential in my view that we do everything we can to raise awareness of SCIL, so that more Disabled People have the opportunity to share our dreams.

What would our founders have to say about SCIL, 25 years on? Sadly some are no longer with us to ask, but I hope they would be pleased with what we have achieved and proud of what they started.

Here's to the next 25 years!



SCIL Staff Team 1995 & Northlands Road offices

By Ian Loynes

This year has simply flown by! Everyone involved in SCIL knows just how busy it has been and the stresses our massive workload generates. However, our commitment and passion to SCIL's aims are what continues to carry us through.



Whilst the reports of our Independent Living and Empowerment, Training & Consultancy Teams provide an in-depth review of their achievements, I will try and give you a whistle-stop tour of some of the variety of other work we have done in the last year.

Locally, SCIL has worked hard to help Hampshire County and Southampton City Council's to implement government policy to extend the choice and control that Disabled People have over their care packages and their ability to live independently. With Hampshire we have initiated the 'Personalisation Expert Panel' to try and enable Disabled People to develop future plans and services, co-production is a new piece of jargon to add to our collection!

We have extended the number of placement opportunities we offer to Student Social Workers; to try and enable them to see the value of what User-Led Organisations can achieve. Feedback from students gives us belief that this initiative will help improve the way Social Services delivers Independent Living in the future.

SCIL at 2009 Mela



Ami Guy (Direct Payments Support Worker and Bev Newman (SCIL Member and volunteer) talking to the Mayor (Left to right)

Cont'd...

Chief Executive's Report Continued

Nationally, we are working with the Department of Health, The Office of Disability Issues and others to guide them on the development of what is called the 'Personalisation Agenda'.

We are helping to monitor the impact of the Independent Living Strategy; working to develop the numbers and sustainability of User-Led Organisations; and are working on a national pilot to develop the ability of our organisations to provide Support, Advocacy and Brokerage services.

We are increasingly being asked to advise and guide a wide range of organisations on Disability Equality Issues – including the Royal Mail for instance.

Finally, our new subsidiary company, SCIL Continuing Care Community Interest Company (CIC), is working well to enable Disabled People whose care packages are funded by the National Health Service (NHS), to enjoy choice and control over how their services are provided.

As I said, A busy year!

Photo:
Just one of our
Anti-Charging
campaigns!



Team Report: Independent Living Team



By Robert Droy

The Independent Living Team has, yet again, been at the forefront of changes occurring nationally in the delivery of support to Disabled People across Hampshire and Southampton.

Southampton City Council has been rolling out 'Individual Budgets' to all new recipients of social care support in the city. Our support broker, Jeremy Long Price, has been getting to grips with the new scheme and assisting people to develop their support plans by helping them look at their lives in a more holistic way. Ami Guy and Michael Grimmett have been kept busy too, as many people still want to have their Individual Budget as Direct Payments and then employ their own Personal Assistants.

However there have been significant difficulties over the last year with regard to Southampton City Council's policy of introducing a much tougher charging regime and the reorganisation of their Domiciliary Care Agency contracts. Poor implementation of these already unpopular policies has left Disabled People in Southampton feeling confused and disempowered.

We hope Southampton City Council will learn from these mistakes and ensure that they are not repeated.

Personalisation is the latest 'buzz word' (or jargon) at Hampshire Adult Services. In November 2008, the Hampshire Personalisation Commission published its report and proposed a new way for Disabled People to access support across Hampshire. In theory, this should be a positive step and enable more people to exercise choice and control over the support they require, so SCIL and Hampshire Centre for Independent Living (HCIL) joined forces to set up a 'Personalisation Expert Panel' to ensure that Hampshire Adult Services involve Disabled People at all stages of their 'transformation' agenda.

Cont'd...

Independent Living Team Continued

Whilst these are exciting times, we must be sure that these changes will benefit all Disabled People who need support and not just the select few who are empowered and 'in the know'.

Another exciting initiative was the launch of our Continuing Care project which aims to develop a new Individual Budget style service for recipients of Continuing Health Care funding. This has allowed people using Continuing Care Funding to maintain choice and control over who supports them and enables people to carry on working with their Personal Assistants, whom they previously employed under Direct Payments. Whilst this project is still under the auspices of the Independent Living team, this project is run through a subsidiary company of SCIL and this company is registered with the Care Quality Commission as a Domiciliary and Nursing Care Agency. Emma Sheldon is managing the project and we are currently recruiting for another Support Worker to join the team. This is a new and exciting development for SCIL and if successful may be a model we adopt when developing further projects.

The Peer Support Groups have flourished over the past year, with a number of groups consisting of both existing Direct Payments users and people considering using Direct Payments, running across Hampshire and Southampton. Ami has also been running 'After Dark' events for people who would rather attend peer support events in the evening. The team also facilitated a number of more specialised peer support groups such as the Disabled Parents Group and a 'Queer' Peer Support Group.

Despite a certain degree of optimism, the team are cautious about the future. Our current contract with Hampshire County Council Direct Payments Support Service ends at the end of 2009 and it is likely that this contract will change significantly in its scope and remit to bring it in line with the wider personalisation agenda mentioned earlier.

We remain hopeful that the team can capitalise on all the changes that are happening within the local authorities and ensure that despite all the new jargon that has sprung up over the last couple of years, we continue to uphold the same principles of choice, control and empowerment, which has been our foundation over the last 25 years.

Team Report: Empowerment, Training & Consultancy Team



Hazel, Jeff and Janet

Well, the ETC Team, Hazel, Jeff and Janet and our Personal Assistants, Ros, Chris and Sue, survived a full year and what a busy year it has been!

At the time of writing we are reduced by Janet's leaving this summer. She will be sorely missed by the team though she will undertake some freelance training from time to time. We wish her sunny days! We were, however, joined by Jenny Semmens, who is providing much needed administrative support for the team. Of course, we also have the continuing support of volunteers and the time to time support of students and people on work placements. To all who have contributed to our survival a big thanks!

Our work generally falls into one or other of the activities which make up our name:

Empowerment

This includes: *outreach, personal development and participation*, which Hazel oversees and *peer support*, which Jeff oversees.

Training and Consultancy

This includes audits of premises and services, presentations and workshops, as well as Disability Equality (DET) and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) training and consultancy, which Janet was overseeing.

Although we each had our area of responsibility, we worked very much as a team on all areas.

Outreach, personal development and participation

This work includes contracting, managing and delivering a number of projects.

Social work education - since September 2008 we have taken social work students from local universities on placement. Our first two completed in February, passed their placements. Cont'd...

Empowerment, Training & Consultancy Team Continued

They were final year students, so they will be going into social work with this experience at the forefront, which we hope will have positive consequences for the Disabled People they work with. Our second cohort of three students joined us in January, their placements continued until June. They were in their first placement and hopefully their experience with us will shape their expectations and contribution to their second placement and final year. This does mean that they are generally less experienced and need more guidance.

Hazel and Jeff undertook a Certificate in Professional Studies (Practice Education) at Southampton University to facilitate this project, qualifying us to undertake practice teaching.

Additional to taking students on placement, Hazel and Jeff also undertook delivery of courses for social work students at Solent University.

All this work entails developing the participation of *service users* and we have formed a Social Work Reference Group.

Mentoring to Move M2M (Hampshire County Council) - as it was conceived and funded drew to a close. A report is being produced and discussions with Hampshire are underway to see what opportunity there is for its continuation.

“Our Lives, Our Health, Improving Our Life Chances” in Southampton (Southampton City Primary Care Trust) and in Thornhill (Thornhill Plus-Community Health Grant) - two pieces of work which have been taken forward by Students along with a small planning team. This project has increased the opportunities for Disabled People to participate in activities to improve health and well being and is currently continuing.

Friendship Club – continues to thrive with about 30 members and Chris Ryder administering.

Cont'd...

Empowerment, Training & Consultancy Team Continued

Peer Advocacy

The Formal Advocacy Service we provide continues to be in high demand from Disabled People in Hampshire and the surrounding areas. Although the majority of our workload has a Southampton postcode, we have undertaken work for Disabled People as far away as Scotland and have even been approached by individuals living abroad. However, with all the work we undertake, there has to be some connection to the area.

The workload for the year topped one hundred and has generally been more complex in nature. Having students on placement enabled us to maintain this high demand for our service, though not all our students are themselves Disabled People.

Although advocacy support is not always delivered by a Disabled Person, the service remains peer-led and anyone seeking support has the choice of whether or not to receive their advocacy support from a student. I have found that the majority of Disabled People who use our services approach the organisation and are happy with this arrangement. The key factor is that the service is of a high standard and good quality.

We have established a good working relationship with the Southampton City Council Stronger Community Team and this has proved to be very beneficial to both parties and our peers in resolving issues.

The **Semal House Project** progressed well although, politically, has been very sensitive. The project continues into 2009-10.

Training and Consultancy:

We again continue to deliver training to local authorities in our area, Southampton, Portsmouth and Hampshire. Southampton Housing department also continued their programme of training staff in DDA / customer care and although the number of courses delivered this year were fewer than 2007/8 they were equally as successful in highlighting the issues that keep cropping up regarding good customer care and Disabled People. This year saw the start of the induction Disability Equality Training courses which have been subsidised by the money from the student social workers project.

Membership Secretary's Report: By Lesley Long-Price

As at 31 March 2009, SCIL membership totalled 87 people. This included: 58 females and 29 males, with 75 full members and 12 associate members.



This was an increase of 24 people from the previous year. Of the 34 returned equal opportunity monitoring forms the following additional information was reported:

<p>Class:</p> <p>Working class 10</p> <p>Middle class 8</p> <p>Classless 16</p>	<p>Race/ Ethnicity:</p> <p>White 34</p>	<p>Age:</p> <p>18-30 3</p> <p>31-60 18</p> <p>61+ 13</p>
<p>Disability Statement:</p> <p>Disabled 31</p> <p>Non-disabled 3</p>	<p>Sexual Orientation:</p> <p>Heterosexual 28</p> <p>Bi Sexual 2</p> <p>Not Specified 4</p>	
<p>Impairment:</p> <p>Physical 24</p> <p>Sensory 10</p> <p>Hidden 8</p> <p>Learning Difficulty 2</p> <p>Survivor (Mental Health System) 7</p> <p>Cancer Survivor 2</p> <p>Other 0</p> <p><i>(more than one category was reported by some members)</i></p>	<p>We produce these statistics to monitor how representative we are as a membership organisation to members, Disabled People and funders.</p> <p>SCIL has always been answerable to its membership, and keen to retain existing members and recruit new ones. If you know of someone who you think would like to join, please ask them to contact the office.</p>	

Annual General Meeting 2008



Treasurer's Report: Maureen Harris

For Year Ending 31 March 2009

Total income was £559,508; a considerable increase of over £100,000 on last year. After we take off our expenditure and set aside various reserves we are left with a healthy surplus of £84,120. The table below shows income by activity:



Figure 1
Income by Activity

53% of our income is managed by the Independent Living Team with the Empowerment Training & Consultancy Team generating 16%. This shows that SCIL is managing to generate income for more diverse projects.

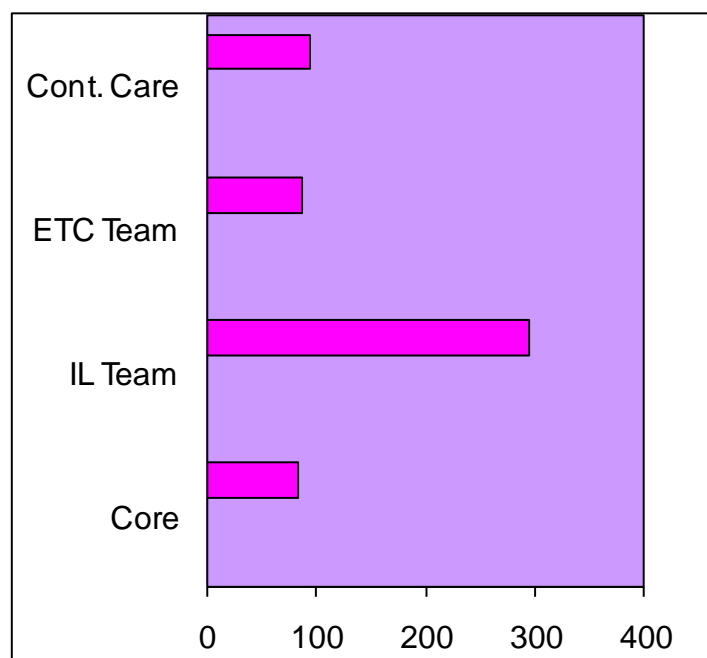
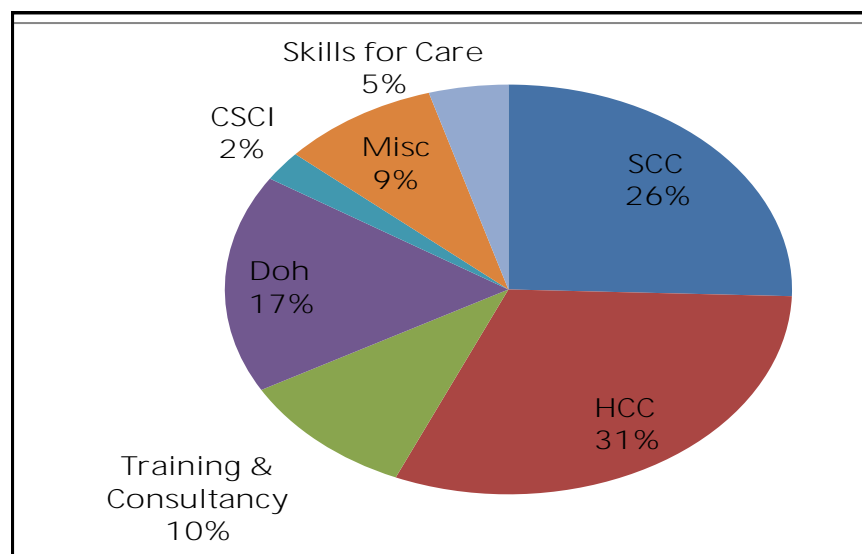


Figure 2

Sources of Income:

We are still quite dependent on Hampshire County Council & Sol'on City Council for our primary source of income. But far less so than in recent years.

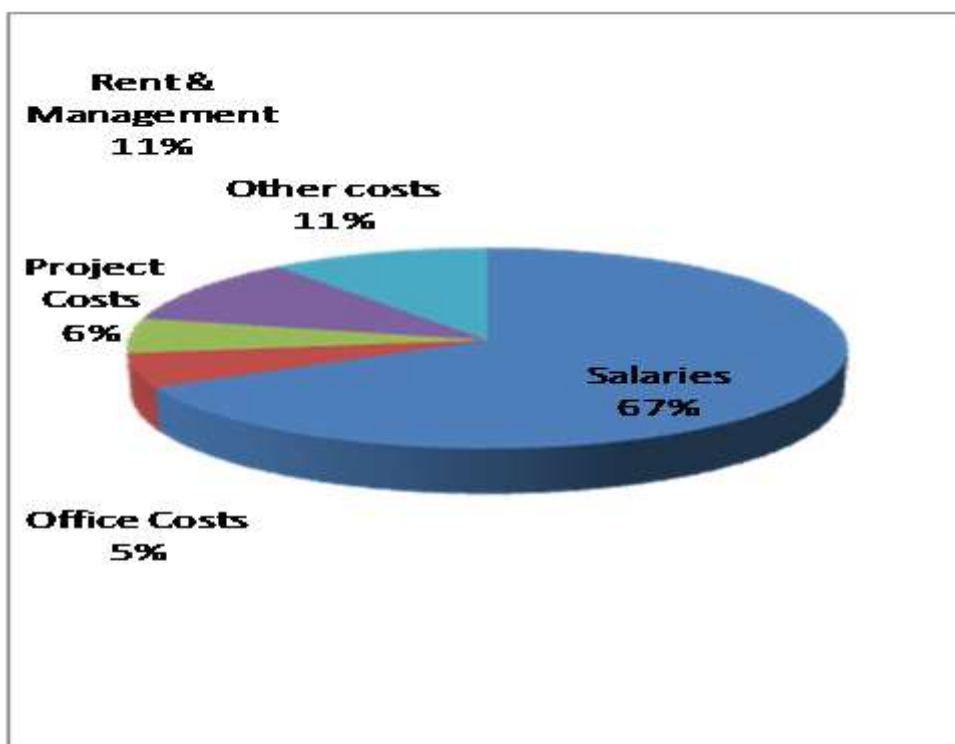


Treasurer's Report Continued

Figure 3

How we spent our money.

Our largest cost is salaries



Summary

As a result of this year's healthy surplus, we now have general reserves of £96,991. Project reserves are £119,140 and specific purpose reserves of £68,751.

The year ahead - with our Chief Executive

I hope you will agree, from this Annual Report, that SCIL has enjoyed a busy and successful year.



We have worked very hard over the last few years at local, regional and national levels to ensure that our views on the empowerment of Disabled People are reflected in policy and most importantly ACTIONED. I believe that this work has resulted in SCIL now enjoying the highest reputation of any User-led Organisation / Centre for Independent Living in the UK. We put our money where our mouth is, and importantly, we get the job done.

Will this high profile continue? We hope so; but we must not be complacent. The inevitable General Election and likely public spending cuts caused by the credit crunch are likely to provide us with several banana skins to avoid.

Regionally we will continue to work hard to establish a Disabled People's led forum for our organisations to come together, support each other, problem solve, learn from each other and most importantly encourage other Disabled People to form their own User-Led organisations. We know an initiative like this will be far more effective than the many initiatives from Government to create more User-Led Organisations – for a fraction of the price.

Locally, we know the value of SCIL to the lives of Disabled People, but we also know that many are not able to access us because they are geographically isolated. We are seeking funding to develop a Mobile Centre for Independent Living which if successful will enable us take our peer-support services anywhere in Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth. Kent Centre for Independent Living have shown the value of such a service and we are very keen to expand on what they have achieved into our area.

Finally we are going to have a jolly good attempt to enjoy our 25th Anniversary – I hope you will join us.

Supporters and Sponsors

We wish to acknowledge the following organisations who supported and sponsored many of our activities over the previous year

Hampshire County Council

Southampton City Council

Department of Health

Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)
(Now Care Quality Commission CQC)

Skills for Care



SCIL's Aims are:

- To provide a means by which Disabled People may take control over their lives, achieve full participation in all spheres of society, and make changes to how they are viewed and treated.
- To provide encouragement, assistance, advice, support and facilitation to individuals or groups wishing to live independently.
- To raise the expectations of Disabled Persons, individually and collectively, and ensure that their voices are heard.

Everybody has the right to lead an independent life. Our aim is to support people in achieving this.

To be independent does not mean doing everything for yourself. Independence means having control over your life and having a say over what happens to you.

For further information contact us on:

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Southampton. SO14 6TE

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