SOUTHAMPTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

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We acknowledge the financial support of:

Southampton City Council

Our Aims:

- To provide a means by which disabled people may take control over their own 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 people, 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.

Report of the Chair

Welcome to the 1998 annual report. I hope you find it useful and informative. As you will see this has been a busy year, with SCIL consolidating in some areas, whilst moving forward in others.

This is my second year as Chair of the Management Committee (MC). During this time I feel that both the MC and the organisation as a whole has made great strides to ensure that we remain true to the aims and objectives as defined by our founding members back in 1984.

However, I acknowledge that further work needs to be done to ensure that the organisation is able to truly represent the views and meet the needs of all disabled people in Southampton and South West Hampshire. As an organisation, we are aware that we primarily support people with physical or visual impairments, however, unlike many organisations, we recognise this weakness, and I hope with this report I can demonstrate our plans to address this issue.

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(Continued from page 1)

I am pleased to inform you that following concerns voiced at the last AGM, we have purchased a braille embosser, and have purchased at computer system with a larger screen and speech capabilities in an effort to make the organisation more accessible to visually impaired people. The new year will see us planning on how best to use the legacy left to us by Albert Kushlick, if you have any ideas, please let us know.

This year has seen many highs and lows. The MC has continued to build on its desire to become more proactive in the management of the organisation.

I am pleased to confirm that contracts have been extended for our Direct Payments Support Worker (till March 2001 in Southampton) and our Independent Living Support Scheme (till March 2000).

To lose allies in our movement will always generate our lowest points. Unfortunately 1998 saw the death of Brian Prince. Brian was an active member of SCIL, multi-talented, his knowledge of disability and access issues combined with his professional knowledge of architecture was a unique talent. Brian was always eager to support our activities in any way he could. His death was a great shock to us all - we all owe Brian a great debt, a debt we will unfortunately never be able to repay.

1998 also saw the departure of David Gibson, who left for pastures new. He had been Co-ordinator for seven years, and involved with SCIL long before that. David has been one of a small handful of people to whom it can be truly said we owe our very existence . David's knowledge of the issues are second to none, having assumed practically every possible role within the organisation to ensure its continuation. On behalf of SCIL I would like to publicly thank David for his contribution, and to wish him every success in the future. Whilst I am pleased that we have been able to appoint Ian Loynes as Acting Co-ordinator, I am afraid that his singing skills are sadly lacking compared to David's!

The coming year presents great challenges to SCIL, not least, securing continued funding for both the Co-ordinator post and the Consumer Audit Project; However I am optimistic that these challenges will be overcome, and that SCIL will continue to improve the support we provide to disabled people in the future. This requires us to build on the valuable links we have made with statutory organisations recently – developing these links will be essential if disabled people are to influence policy developments to our advantage in the future.

We are always looking for more allies, so we can strengthen our position. If you know of anyone that would like to become a member, or support us in our movement, please let us know.

Finally I would like to thank all our members and allies for their continued support, and our staff for their sheer hard work. Most of all I would like to thank all our volunteers and MC members - without your support and commitment we would not be able to function effectively. I look forward to working with you in 1999.

Gill Whitworth

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Management Committee
Membership and Attendance

Membership

At the last AGM the following people were elected to SCIL's MC:

Miriam Blakey **Frank Griffin** **Paul Kobryn** (re-elected)

William Maguire **Byron Oliver** (re-elected) **Gill Whitworth**

They joined the remaining MC members, **Gordon Bright** and **Doreen Butland**.

(Graham McLean was co-opted, but subsequently decided not to take his place)

SCIL's MC is limited to a maximum of nine people, one third of whom are required to resign each year. As we have one vacant position, two members are required to resign at this AGM. Therefore Gordon Bright and Doreen Butland have done so, though both are eligible for re-election.

Any member of SCIL is eligible to be nominated for election to the MC at the AGM. Any vacancies left may be filled at a later date by co-opting people. If there are any vacant places and you would like to be considered for co-option to the MC please let

Attendance at Management Committee Meetings (Dec 1997 – Nov 1998)

Name	Number of Meetings	Attended	Apologies
Miriam Blakey	12	11	1
Gordon Bright	12	9	3
Doreen Butland	12	7	3
Frank Griffin	12	9	3
Paul Kobryn	12	10	1
William Maguire	12	10	1
Byron Oliver	12	9	3
Gill Whitworth	12	11	1

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Funding and Project Development

SCIL is a voluntary organisation that provides wide ranging support to many hundreds of disabled people every year. Additionally we provide training and support to statutory and other organisations. Obviously this support costs money. Many people think that we are funded by the Southampton City Council to provide this valuable resource. However, this is not the case.

We receive no “CORE” funding at all. Southampton City Council gives us a grant of £8850 which pays approximately half our rent and rates. All other income comes either through fundraising or through project funding.

Some projects are funded by local authorities, others are funded from organisations like the National Lottery Charities Board (NLCB). All of these sources are at best uncertain. We recognise the need to put SCIL on a more secure financial footing - whilst this is a huge undertaking, we are beginning to make plans.

We are always limited to the work we can do by lack of resources, both time and money. This year has seen another increase in the numbers of disabled people needing information or support. There is clearly a need to identify funds to allow us to continue to provide more support without overloading the staff and volunteers we rely on.

Of our current projects, our Direct Payments Support service has received agreed funding until March 2001 in Southampton, and September 1999 in South East & South West Hampshire. The Independent Living Support Scheme appears to be funded until March 2000. The Disability Equality Training Register has NLCB funding until October 2000.

There are two urgent priorities with respect to funding at the moment. The funding for our Co-ordinator finishes in March 1999, and our Consumer Audit Project is funded until April 1999.

We are currently identifying and applying for funding to continue the role of Co-ordinator which is obviously critical to the future of SCIL.

The Consumer Audit Project has been a very successful pilot and evaluation reports have been very encouraging with respect to funding opportunities. We are hopeful that this project will be funded in the future by Local Authorities who have increasing obligations to involve ‘consumers’ in the planning and delivery of services in the future.

Resolving these funding issues in 1999 will be fundamental to the future development of SCIL. We have expanded quickly over the last few years, and are confident this will continue to ensure that SCIL is able to expand the range of services we can offer to disabled people.

Ian Loynes

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Membership

Membership

Current membership at 30 November 1998 is 80 of which all are fully paid up. This is an increase of 20% on the previous year. Membership has doubled in the last three years, which is very good news. An analysis of the 65 equal opportunity forms that were returned to us reveals the statistical information shown below.

CLASS	Working 37 (57%)	Middle 20 (31%)	Upper 0 (0%)	No Response 7 (11%) Other 1(1%)
GENDER	Male 28 (44%)	Female 36 (55%)		No Response 1 (1%)
RACE/ ETHNICITY	White 60 (93%)	Black 3 (5%)	Other 1 (1%)	No Response 1 (1%)
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Heterosexual 48 (74%)	Lesbian 1 (1%)	Gay 0 (0%)	No Response 13 (20%)
DISABILITY	Disabled 57 (88%)	Non-Disabled 5 (8%)		No Response 3 (4%)
IMPAIRMENT	Physical 40 (62%) Learning 0 HIV/AIDS 0	Sensory 12 (18%) Mental health Survivor 7 (11%)	Hidden 10 (15%) Cancer Survivor 5 (8%)	Other 5 (8%)
AGE	16-30 4 (6%)	31-60 29 (45%)	61+ 21(32%)	No Response 11 (17%)

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SCIL Staff and Volunteers

Staff (as at November 1998)

Robert Droy	–	Direct Payments Support Worker, Soton & South West Hants.
Lynn Hemming	–	Administration Support Worker
Chris Hunt	–	Assistant Consumer Audit Co-ordinator
Susan Laing	–	Consumer Audit Co-ordinator
Ian Loynes	–	Acting Co-ordinator
Janet Marshall	–	Training Administrator
Gerry McKeown	–	Independent Living Support Worker
Hazel Peasley	–	Direct Payments Support Worker, South East Hants.

As mentioned earlier in this report, David Gibson left SCIL after 7 years as Co-ordinator. Ian Loynes was appointed Acting Co-ordinator until April 1999. This left the post of Direct Payments Support Worker vacant. We were pleased to appoint Robert Droy to that role, again until April 1999.

Volunteers

Once again we would like to express our thanks to the ever growing band of volunteers who continue to support the organisation:

Gordon Bright
Suzanne Cooke
Sue Duffy
Julian Fiorentini
Collette Galloway
David Gibson
Gill Nixon
Stephen Polden
Cathie Romans
Derek Spacagna
Pauline Tizard

There have been several others who have assisted though not on quite so regular a basis. We should not underestimate the contribution that our volunteers make to the organisation. Best wishes and thanks from the Management Committee and staff.

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Co-ordinator

I was seconded in September to the role of Co-ordinator until April 1999, to fill the gap left by David, with the brief of identifying new funding for this post to continue after the current funding finishes in April 1999, whilst at the same time co-ordinating the work of SCIL.

This year, more than any previous year, SCIL has been able to contribute and influence policy and practice in both Southampton & Hampshire Social Services. It appears that both local authorities have recognised the importance of involving SCIL right from the start in the design of new policy. This year we have influenced the Direct Payments policy and the new policy that Southampton have drafted to address the support needs of disabled people in their parenting roles. Whilst this is a good start, there is much work to be done, not least to make their claimed adoption of the Social Model a reality in service planning and delivery.

SCIL now enjoys a much higher profile, thanks in the main to the work of our project workers. It is by visiting disabled people that we are best able to demonstrate the importance of an independent organisation in supporting disabled people to achieve their goals. We should not underestimate the importance of support to disabled people, particularly in the current climate where disabled people feel under threat of cuts, both in services and income. It is, I believe, critical that disabled people become more politicised, and challenge the current thinking that gives low taxes such a high priority. It is clear that low taxes result in services being cut, and people's liberty being curtailed. It is important that we as a movement work hard to persuade society and government that rights cannot take second place to resources. Direct payments is a classic case where a good idea has become the victim of a resource limited budget that excludes all but 'essential' needs.

I believe SCIL's role is to challenge the inadequacies of current legislation, whilst at the same time working with disabled people and statutory organisations to ensure that people are able to make the most of what is currently available.

The next few months will see a concerted attempt to identify funding for the post of Co-ordinator to continue. The role of Co-ordinator is absolutely critical to SCIL, and I remain optimistic that funding will be found.

Recently, SCIL has begun to address two important areas, that of fundraising, and peer counselling. We have established working groups in both of these cases.

Whatever happens, 1999 will be a defining period for the future of the organisation. SCIL has a rich history, it is my intention to ensure that its future is equally rich.

Ian Loynes

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Disability Equality Training Register (DET)

The time has come round again to report the 'happenings' of the training register during 1998. We have had quite a busy year with courses being delivered in Southampton, Portsmouth, 'continuing' Hampshire, Wiltshire and Avon. We continue to have close links with the Arts Connection and continue to deliver courses to artists and people working in arts venues in partnership with trainers from Arts Connection. We completed a series of courses working with Allies in Change, a Bristol based training provider, where we delivered DET to all staff employed by Avon Health Authority.

The register is now embarking on a piece of work in conjunction with three other training providers to design a "Training The Trainer" package which can be marketed nationally. I also continue to be part of the national working group set up by BCODP to look at setting standards in DET and seeking accreditation for our training. This group has met four times during the past year and has looked at the findings from three national conferences of DE Trainers to establish the best way to progress this work. Unfortunately these meetings mean a great deal of travelling but they are doing wonders for my navigational skills!

As you may recall, part of the funding which my project received from the National Lottery was to run a Training the Trainer programme. This we completed in May and have offered apprenticeship on our register to eight of the participants. A few have already begun by observing senior trainers delivering courses as the first stage on the road to becoming qualified trainers themselves. We hope to have our first trainers' forum in January which will be the first 'getting together' of both existing and new trainers. We are planning further development courses early in the new year with funding provided by BCODP.

The register already has bookings for courses in 1999 from Southampton City Council , Portsmouth Social Services and Hampshire Social Services. I'm looking forward to another challenging and successful year of training in 1999.

Janet Marshall

Hampshire Consumer Audit Project

The Consumer Audit project has had a very successful second year. We have continued to develop the involvement of users and carers (consumers) in auditing community care services.

Building on the training and development work in 1997 we have worked with the 15 consumer auditors to review five more services. These were the Carer's Helpline, a community support service, a home care service and two residential units.

We enabled the users of those services to express their opinions through talking to the

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consumer auditors and sharing common experiences. Feedback from the service managers and social services staff has been very positive and our audit reports are being used as a basis for future planning.

In October we held a major conference to publicise the project. This attracted 60 delegates from across the UK representing consumers, statutory agencies and service providers. There was a great deal of support for the project and we are now working on a business plan.

We have just secured funding for some work with SCOPE to look at care management from the users' perspective. Our current priority is to secure more funding for the project to continue after March 1999.

Susan Laing

Direct Payment Support Worker – Soton & South West Hants.

I took over from Ian as Direct Payments Support Worker on the 5th October 1998. Since then, I have been introducing myself to both Direct Payments recipients and care managers and trying to preserve the high standard of support that Ian has set.

I have been in contact with 12 new or potential direct payments scheme users as well offering advice and/or support to 11 existing users. The introduction of the 'Letter of Agreement' and financial record keeping has caused some concern but I hope that, with my support, any teething problems can be overcome.

I have also been involved in assisting 2 people with learning difficulties to receive direct payments. I am very keen to see direct payments extended to a wider number of people with different impairments. Ian and Hazel have been working on a proposal to offer training about direct payments to people with learning difficulties and I hope this will be the first of many initiatives to expand the scope of direct payments.

It has been a very busy first few weeks in the post but I hope that I can support many more people who could benefit from Direct Payments but have not yet had the opportunity.

Robert Droy

Direct Payment Support Worker – South East Hants.

Hazel Peasley

Independent Living Support Scheme (ILSS)

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Project and Staff Reports (Continued)

The ILSS was set up five years ago to offer disabled people advice, information, and support on all aspects of recruiting staff to assist them to live independently. The scheme works closely with the Direct Payments (SOCS) Scheme to ensure a complete service is being provided, and is funded and supported by Southampton City Council.

The scheme is now well established and it has been a busy year. Demands on the service from disabled people have increased, and new people registered onto the scheme accessing the services have increased by 20%. The scheme has also received several requests for information from people who live outside the catchment area. The indications are that demands on the scheme will continue to steadily increase in the future. A breakdown of this is as follows:

- Disabled Persons Enquiries 40 between Jan - Oct. 1998
- Disabled Persons Registered 25 between Jan - Oct. 1998
- Disabled Persons Outside Area 09 between Jan - Oct. 1998
- Disabled Persons Unreturned Forms 06 between Jan - Oct. 1998

A main function of the ILSS is to maintain a register of Personal Assistants (PA's). Recruiting PA's is a continuous activity, and the scheme is competing well for suitable candidates with private care agencies who have more resources. A breakdown of this is as follows:

- Enquiries to become a PA 128 between Jan - Oct. 1998
- Returned Application Forms 38 between Jan - Oct. 1998
- Registered as a PA 20 between Jan - Oct. 1998
- Awaiting Interviews 05 since Oct. 1998

The scheme also provides disability issues related training courses, not only for disabled people and PA's, but also in conjunction with Social Services providing information for care managers/ social workers. Feedback received from these courses has been very positive, and these courses will continue in the future.

The results from the last evaluation survey indicated that most disabled people who use the service are happy with the level of service provided, and recognise the need for its continuation. A breakdown of the number of requests received for Personal Assistants between January and October 1998 is as follows:

- Requests Received 118
- Met through Register 82
- Met through External Adverts 25
- Outstanding Requests 06
- PA’s No longer Required 03
- Outside of Area 02

<u>Priorities for the future</u>

- It is essential that the ILSS, having proved to be a cost effective resource,

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continues to have the support and continued funding from Southampton City Council.

- Look into ways of increasing funding not only to meet the greater demands on the service, but also to widen the catchment area to incorporate the outskirts of Southampton.
- Continue to promote the service to ensure that people who could benefit from the service, i.e. disabled people, or who work with the service i.e. PA's, social services etc. are aware of its existence, and the services provided.
- Continue to look into ways of improving the service, by way of feedback from evaluation surveys, and monitoring internal procedures to ensure that the best quality of service is being provided.

Gerry McKeown

Sample Volunteers Report

I am a volunteer at SCIL and I come in in the morning and after a cup of tea, I do the incoming post. When the telephone rings, I answer with the friendly atmosphere to put the caller at ease and try to help if I can. If I can't, I pass the caller to someone who can. I ask my fellow workers if there are any jobs which need doing and I usually find myself photocopying or writing a document on the computer. I have also written cheques (for Ian to sign), done filing, sent faxes and used the Minicom.

I have learnt a lot since becoming a volunteer, not only material things, such as admin work, but also personal things such as how to cope with my own impairments and how to live my life to the full.

I have support from my fellow workers whenever I have a problem and I always feel a part of the team, not just an unpaid helper.

Thank you.

Cathie Romans

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Treasurers Report 1997/98

Introduction
Last year we reported that the financial position of the organisation had generally improved and this year the trend has continued. Another milestone has been reached with total income now exceeding £200,000. Clearly this level of funding creates opportunities for SCIL but also charges us with a great responsibility to our funding bodies to account for all the money received and use it wisely in the interests of all disabled people.

The following comments relate to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1998. The **General Fund** has been boosted by the legacy which was reported last year though had not been received. Albert Kushlick has left £10,000 to the organisation and to date only part has been expended on the purchase of capital equipment, mainly a braille printer and software so that we can produce materials in braille. Income has remained similar to last year though the National Lottery grant for the previous year included a sum for capital equipment. As far as expenditure is concerned the only significant variations are a reduction in salary and minibus running costs. Other expenditure has remained fairly constant. Contribution to general costs from projects has increased substantially because of a full year's charge on the Hampshire Consumer Audit project (HCA) and other new projects coming on stream. As a net result the general fund is now back in credit.

Project Funding
As stated above, HCA includes a full year's activity and funding from the Department of Health for its two year duration has been received. Hence there is a healthy balance to be carried forward. The DET register has been increased by greater sales of services and by grants from Marks & Spencer and the National Lottery Charity Board. Increased expenditure is almost entirely because costs were incurred on the trainer training course funded by the latter grant. The SOCS, now Direct Payments, Support Worker projects have received more realistic funding this year with the SE Hampshire project being a new venture. Income for the Independent Living Support Scheme has remained static though a slight reduction in costs resulted in a break even situation.

Balance Sheet
Much improved over the last year with bank balances increasing significantly as a result of project funding being paid in advance and, of course, the legacy we received.

David Gibson

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The Coming Year

It would be easy for 1999 to be seen as dominated by the struggle to identify funding for both the Co-ordinator post and Consumer Audit Project. Whilst these are important issues for the organisation, they must not be allowed to diminish the importance of other issues.

The government is due to publish its views on the future of community care provision. This may well provide opportunities to influence and rectify the huge inadequacies in current legislation.

SCIL will continue to develop its links with both local authorities. There are opportunities for SCIL to have an important role in the way that authorities consult with people in the future. Consultation will become a priority consideration - for this consultation to be effective, we believe that there needs to be a co-ordinating agency charged with ensuring that any consultation is both effective and representative. Many people are confused by the role of consultation exercises: where does 'informing' finish and 'consultation' begin?

Central to SCIL's priorities for 1999 will be to reach out to the groups of disabled people that we have not attracted in the past. People with learning difficulties, mental health system users, young people, ethnic minority groups are the most obvious. We need to develop a well structured, non tokenistic plan to address these areas, so that these people become more able to make their needs and views known.

SCIL has owned a minibus for seven years, whilst this has been a useful resource, it has only been used for a small percentage of the time. Recently, the cost of maintaining the minibus has escalated to the point where it would be cheaper to hire a minibus when we need one. The decision has therefore been taken to sell the minibus as soon as possible.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved with SCIL in 1998, for their commitment and their expertise. We wish you a happy Christmas, safe in the knowledge that by working together towards our common aims, we can play a valuable role in the development of a more inclusive society for the new millennium.

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