

Southampton Centre for Independent Living



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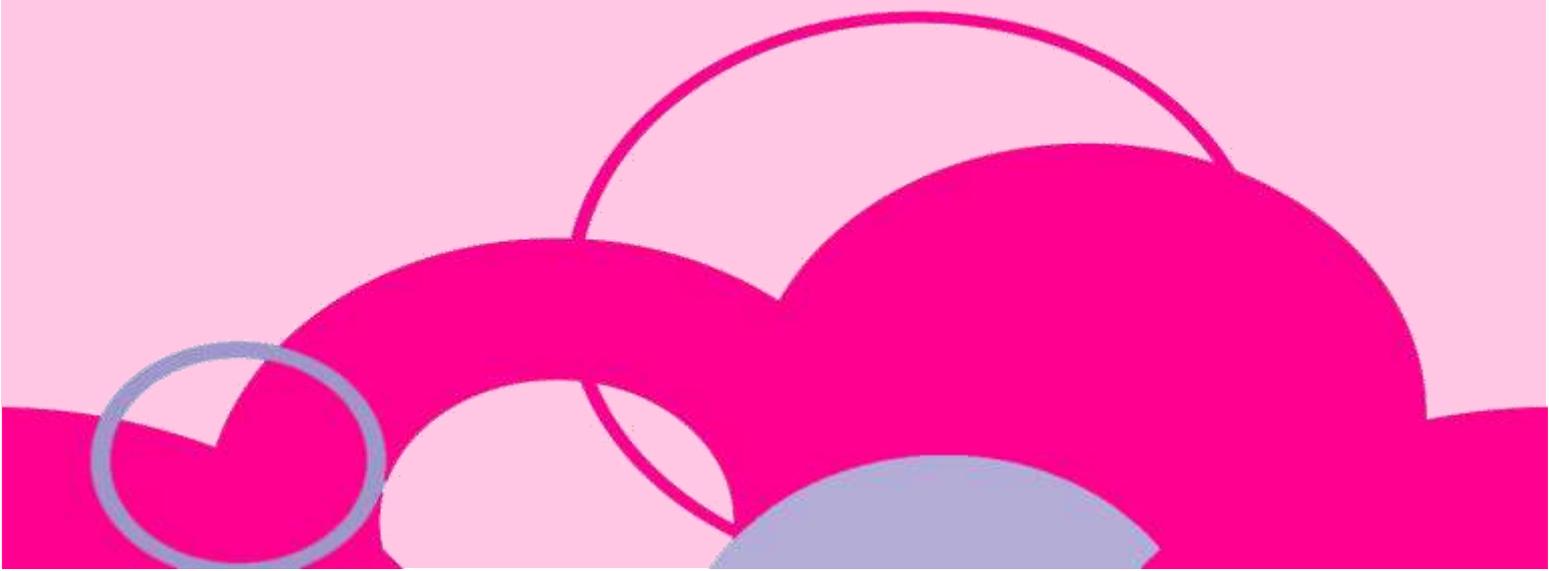
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Welcome to our Annual Report

With a nod towards SCIL's new future; we welcome you to our new look, smaller, and more readable Annual Report.

SCIL MC

Annual Report 2011 - 2012



Report of the Management Committee

The Management Committee (MC) welcome you to SCIL's Annual Report, highlighting the main issues of the last year

This time last year, as an organisation we were wrestling with the prospect of having the contract not renewed for one of our main projects, the Direct Payments Support Service in Hampshire, and therefore losing the funding that went with it. December 2011 found us in a situation we have never been in before, whereby we had no alternative but to reluctantly make 10 of our valued staff redundant.

Since those very difficult months however, thanks to the commitment and loyalty of our Chief Executive and the magnificent and equally committed team around him, we have been able to move forward with very positive prospects for the future. Our Independent Living Team continue to provide limited but immensely valuable support to our peers in Hampshire, as well as Direct Payments support for those within the City of Southampton. Our Empowerment, Training, and Consultancy team goes from strength-to-strength, including the provision of invaluable hands-on work experience and training to students from local universities as part of their Social Work studies.

Now, as a result of the regional and national respect we have earned as a User Led Organisation, we have attained a 3 year contract from Hampshire County Council, to develop our capacity to support new ULO's.

This has enabled us to recruit a team of 4 dynamic people who joined us in early September 2012 for induction, to commence work specifically with this exciting new project which goes live shortly - more information to follow.

We thank our Chief Executive and Office Manager, and each and every one of our staff for their conscientiousness and hard work throughout this challenging year. We can feel proud that our combined achievements have shown SCIL to be a progressive organisation which, by example, and in keeping with our original ethos, demonstrates that all people have varying and exceptional abilities and with the right support all can live independent lives of their choice.

As we now move into an exciting new chapter, rebranding ourselves to be more relevant to more Disabled People, we hope you will join us at our AGM to be part of our future.



Our MC is accountable to members

This means a lot more than members just coming to our AGM once a year, seeing what we have done, and having their say.

It is members alone who decide who should serve on the MC. Only Disabled members can be on the MC; and they represent the interests of members, as well as being accountable for SCIL's activities.

Members are entitled to attend any MC meeting, or to speak to a member of the MC on any issue they are concerned about, or interested in.

By being a member of SCIL you have the power to influence what SCIL does.

Treasurer's report

Steve Polden, Treasurer, reviews the 2011-12 accounts and reports on the new Finance & Infrastructure Sub-Committee

- The year's income of £493,845 is 18% lower, like for like, than last year due to a temporary reduction in available consultancy and development work
- Having taken off our expenditure, and set aside various reserves, we are left with an overall operating surplus of £40,557, which is equal to 8% of our income
- Our total reserves of £355,269 equates to 8 months of running costs / cash flow



The above chart shows what we spent our money on:

- Project costs include items such as training and consultancy
- Office costs include utility bills, stationery and printing
- The 'Other' segment includes items such as management fees & maintenance costs

SCIL establishes a new Finance & Infrastructure Sub-Committee

I am very pleased that, during the last year, we have been able to set up and run a very successful Finance and Infrastructure Sub-Committee to report to the Management Committee (MC) on finance and infrastructure issues.

This Sub-Committee, which meets four times a year, is made up of two MC members - Byron Oliver and myself; two officers, Ian Loynes and Lesley Long-Price; and two external advisors, Imran Bannister and Marc Huggins. We are especially grateful to Imran and Marc for giving their time and financial expertise.

Review of the Year...Review of the Year...

Ian Loynes, Chief Executive, looks at what SCIL has achieved since the last AGM,

This year has undoubtedly been one of our most difficult, starting as it did with us having to make nearly half our staff redundant. The workload for everyone at SCIL, trying to recover from this, has been very high, resulting in stress and much sickness. However, as we start the last quarter of 2012, I believe SCIL has managed to refocus itself well, and has a great future ahead of it.



At last year's AGM we took a light hearted 'Dragons Den' look at what services SCIL could develop;

We began 2012 by thinking about what SCIL should do, and how we would rebuild the organisation.

We agreed that we wanted to focus future development on peer-support, enabling Disabled People to work together and become more empowered. We also agreed to use our experience running SCIL to support other ULO's to develop.

Our new Lead ULO initiative in Hampshire was an immediate success with our new strategy, enabling us to recruit 4 new staff. We are now busy developing similar plans for Southampton.

We have acted as consultants to Royal Mail, Office of Disability Issues, Independent Living Fund and Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust; to enable our Independent Living philosophy to improve the whole lives of Disabled People.

Our revamped newsletter has been a great success, communicating relevant and, at times, controversial social policy issues. Our newsletter also enables members to keep up to date with the constant developments at SCIL.

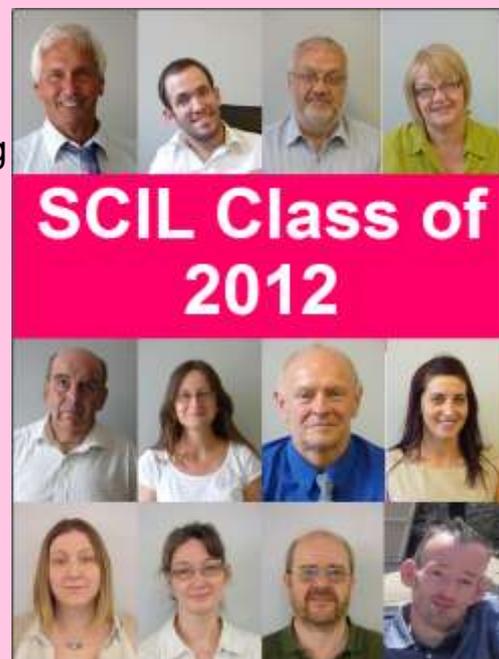
Most importantly, SCIL has made the decision to rebrand and rename itself; retaining our unique identity, but enabling many more Disabled People to see the relevance of SCIL's work to their lives. The final stages of deciding how we change our name will happen at our AGM on 20th October.



Unity 12 CIC

SCIL owns 75% of Unity 12, which manages our building on behalf of both SCIL & DAIN.

Unity 12 operates conference and meeting rooms, and rents out office space to other tenants. Unity 12 has had a successful year, which has enabled our rent costs to remain low. Unity 12 has also made enough surplus to repay some of their outstanding loan.



...Review of the Year...Review of the Year..

SCIL Continuing Care CIC

SCILCC is a subsidiary of SCIL.

It was set up to enable Disabled People with health needs to receive a service as close to a Direct Payment as is currently legal.

SCILCC has had a successful year and in very difficult circumstances, managed to break even for the first time.

Independent Living Team (ILT)

The ILT continues to support Direct Payments users in Southampton, and will continue to do so until mid 2013 when it is likely that the service will be re-tendered in some form. This obviously creates uncertainty for staff, but also for service users who value the quality, peer-based support we provide. Southampton City Council has been reviewing its Independent Living services for some time, and we hope to learn the outcome soon.

The ILT also supports Hampshire's Personalisation Expert Panel (PEP) as well as the Co-production focused Southampton Overview Group (SOG), which we hope to expand soon.

The ILT has also conducted a Personal Development pilot, mentoring Day Service users to become more independent. We are currently evaluating this pilot and will use what we have learnt to support more Disabled People in the future.

Empowerment, Training & Consultancy (ETC) Team

The ETC Team continues to run our highly rated Student Unit, providing placements to Student Social Workers. With the support of these students, the ETC Team provides advocacy support, money management advice and supports our volunteers to be an active and valued part of SCIL.



SCIL jumps on the cloud!

SCIL is closely focused on people, our service users, Disabled People and our staff. However, we also need to keep ahead of technology to improve how we work and how we communicate. Recent innovations have included SCIL using a Blog, Facebook and Twitter.

In 2012 SCIL went further, by beginning the move to 'Cloud based computing' where our email system and documents will all be stored on the internet, rather than on computers at SCIL. This will enable staff to access emails and documents wherever they are working and free them from their desks!

Looking to the future

A glance into the crystal ball to forecast the issues SCIL will encounter and opportunities for development

We all know that Disabled People have always had to fight for every inch of the independence they have achieved. It is only by working together that SCIL can hope to achieve great things in the future, just as we have in the past.

We don't need a crystal ball to know the next few years will be very difficult for Disabled People; so let's look at what SCIL can look forward to...

Our Lead ULO initiative in Hampshire is about to go live, and will be launched formally in November. This initiative will enable many more Disabled People to become empowered, contributing to better Council policies and services, living more independent lifestyles and, we hope, motivated to set up more ULO's - all working with SCIL to change the way Disabled People are viewed and treated. We hope to develop a similar initiative in Southampton.

We will have completed our Strategic Business Plan, which will provide a blueprint for SCIL's future. We plan to be more diverse and more effective in future. Our plans will focus on peer-empowerment and personal development. We will enable Disabled People threatened by cuts, attacks on independence and loss of employment, to refocus and bounce back, stronger.

SCIL has many opportunities in the next year to support more Disabled People. However, if we are to realise these opportunities, we simply have to find a way of increasing our staff resources and reducing workloads and stress levels which are completely unsustainable at the moment. There are no simple answers, but we have to make this a priority if we are to have a future.

We hope you will join us to help ensure SCIL has a great future.



The end of an era, the start of SCIL's future

The next few months will see SCIL rebranded, with a new name, a new logo, and a new outlook.

We know that not every Disabled Person understands what SCIL can do for them, and we want to change this with our rebrand.

However, whilst SCIL is changing the way it presents itself, it has no plans to change its identity, values or principles.

In a way it is all-change, but no change!

What will SCIL's 5th logo be? Come to our AGM and help us to decide.

Membership review

Lesley Long-Price, Membership Secretary, takes a look at the future possibilities of SCIL's membership

In this membership report, I want to look at the future of SCIL's membership. I also want to talk about the possibilities of developing different forms of membership.

SCIL recognises that money is tight for many Disabled People, so we have had free membership for nearly three years now to ensure cost does not become a barrier to the membership of SCIL.

The work of our Lead ULO project should help increase and diversify our membership throughout Hampshire. With the advice of the ULO Steering Group, we will work hard to make SCIL more relevant to groups of Disabled People who we are currently not so representative of.

SCIL keeps statistics to show the diversity of our membership (see bar on the right). This helps us to focus our outreach work to groups which are underrepresented. The attendance of events like the Mela in the coming year will help people to know what SCIL has to offer them.

I think we should also consider developing different forms of membership to attract other organisations to the benefits of being associated with SCIL.

We might easily agree to accept membership from other ULO's. But maybe we should also consider the pro's and con's of providing some form of paid membership for businesses, non-profit-making organisations and even



statutory organisations who wish to make a genuine commitment to the empowerment and independence of Disabled People and are prepared to sign up to our aims and objectives.

This is controversial, but we should consider if membership of SCIL would help spread our message to other organisations.



Current Membership statistics

Total membership: 75

A snapshot of our equal opportunities monitoring suggests:

Male: 32%

Female: 68%

Disabled People: 98%

Age 18-30: 5%

31-59: 62%

60+: 33%





SCIL thanks the following supporters

Southampton City Council

Hampshire County council

Office of Disability Issues

Southern Water Trust

Portsmouth University

Southampton University

Southampton Solent University

Skills for Care

Contact us:



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