

Significant external changes for disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people in 2015-16

- The UK Independent Living Fund ceased to exist on 1st July 2015. The Scottish Government, however, in co-production with Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) and other organisations, committed to setting up a new Scottish ILF (ILF-Scotland) which commenced on 1st July 2015.
- Disability Living Allowance is being replaced by the new benefit, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for all new claimants. The full impact of the changeover won't be felt until at least 2017.
- Incapacity benefit no longer exists. All claimants have to go through a Work Capability Assessment and move onto Employment Support Allowance or Job Seekers Allowance.
- The integration of health and social care presents disabled people with an opportunity to see better integrated services reducing the current silo approach between services. The main concern is how much influence disabled people, people with long term conditions, and service users can have on the agenda to ensure that it delivers for them and does not become a power/funding war between two very different kinds of organisations and cultures i.e. health and social care.
- The referendum on an independent Scotland has been a major event for the country and has demonstrated that Scottish people would like to engage directly and differently with decisions that shape their communities and society.
- Although beyond the period covered in this report, and in addition to its potential wider impact on Scottish politics, Brexit is now clouding many of the progresses achieved by and for disabled people, nationally and at European level. Leaving the European Union (EU) raises many questions about the ability of the UK to remain faithful to the human rights agenda led by the EU and to policies protecting the rights of disabled people in particular.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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Income and Expenditure to year ended 31 March 2016

INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming Resources from generated funds

	2016	2015
Donations & Legacies	821	2306
Investment Income	393	281

Incoming Resources from charitable activities

777867 756714

Total incoming resources 779081 759301

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Cost of generating funds	1941	11667
Charitable activities	842808	666453

Total resources expended 844749 678120

NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR YEAR

-65668 81181

Transfers between funds 0 0

Net movement in funds **-65668 81181**

Total funds brought forward **364288 283107**

Total funds carried forward £298620 £364288

Full copies of audited accounts to 31 March 2016 are available at: www.lothiancil.org.uk/e-library/

Annual report

2015-2016



Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) www.lothiancil.org.uk

Rights and choices for disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

A word or two from the Chair

Given the unprecedented events that we are currently experiencing in our own country and throughout the world, and which have left us wondering what the future holds for us, it feels strange to look back at the year 2015-16! Yet, in our field that period has been one that brought us significant changes too. These changes are now shaping services, the availability of resources, the whole human rights agenda and how, in general, disabled people, people with long term conditions, older people and carers can rely, or not, on support from the wider community [see summary of external changes at the back of this leaflet].

Local authorities faced significant financial constraints and were considerably reducing their funding to voluntary organisations and community projects. In this year, three of the four Lothian councils we work with chose to review our organisation's services. LCiL co-operated fully and engaged actively in the process. Crucial to us was the importance of commissioners and procurement officers to understand the unique nature of our Disabled People's Organisation, what we do and how we do it.

In Edinburgh for example, fifteen service users gathered one afternoon in November 2015 and forcefully explained to three Council commissioners why they valued their organisation, highlighting the user-led and peer support elements crucial to it. Thanks to our November 2015 survey, completed by 207 people, we were able to demonstrate that 99% of the respondents (including 79% strongly agreeing) indicated that it

was important to them that LCiL remained a one-stop-shop, providing all services as one organisation. 99% agreed (including 70% strongly agreeing) that even if they may not use LCiL for a year or more, it is important for them to know it can help them at any time. Importantly, 98% of respondents agreed (including 79% strongly agreeing) that they had confidence in the competence and knowledge of LCiL.

Engaging and co-operating with its external, local and national environment; actively engaging with the people we work with; supporting them to build their capacity to participate, or even take the lead, in changes happening around them, are principal features of LCiL. Core services of the organisation and projects are all following this approach to deliver life-changing outcomes for more and more people. The Board, the staff and the growing number of volunteers, however, are witness to how the changing funding and procurement trends put this at risk and could completely undermine our years of best practice developed by and for disabled people.

The outcomes of these reviews will not necessarily inform the future funding of our organisation and we do go through 2016-17 with some concerns and a growing sense of disempowerment. We will continue to remain optimistic though, and I'm sure I'll be able to give you a report of another successful year for LCiL and the people we serve.

Jeff Adamson



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"The support LCiL have given me has been most beneficial and made me more responsible for decisions I can make for myself with the help of my PA as well. I can't thank the organisation enough. Thank you"

In 2015-2016 the **Grapevine Disability Information Service** received **5,511** enquiries for advice and information from **1,198** individuals and organisations in Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. A further **234** people received information/advice via outreach presentations. Grapevine raised a total of **£4,938** in weekly income across **78** benefit claimants in Edinburgh i.e. successful awards.



"When I found it upsetting to talk about my disability while going through PIP forms, [Grapevine advisor] was kind and supportive above and beyond any expectations I had. There are no words for how much she helped me to cope with a really traumatic experience and for how much I appreciate her patience and honesty."

"[The Grapevine advisor] was a great help and empathic with his support from the phone call I made to grapevine. He might have saved my life."

During the 2015-16 year, demand for **The Payroll Service** grew by **17%**. **609** disabled employers made use of it. The Financial Management Service (FMS), saw an increase in demand. During the period, a total of **126** (payroll service users accessed this support. A further **28** (non-payroll) service users also took up the FMS to engage with agency support and or make other payments from their SDS budgets.



"Thanks also for all your help over this process and over the last year and a half. I was able to thank [your payroll colleague] on the phone but wanted you and the others to know how much I appreciated all the help. Mum was so much happier with her PAs than the flying council visits and your payroll work made this possible. Hidden background work." Person managing the DP on behalf of her mum.

During its third year of operation the **SDS Development Programme** continued to be an integral part of LCiL, but its focus changed in response to changes in levels of engagement with local authorities. During this period: **Champions** took part in **27** events, **16** of which involved two or more Champions. The parent and carer peer support group met **12** times, and **8** workshop sessions were held. We ran **12** workshop sessions with disabled people and went on to offer a monthly peer support group, which met **7** times. We worked with **33** disabled people/people with long-term conditions.



"Knowing that it is your right and you're not doing anything wrong has boosted my confidence. With support from the group I can now go back and ask for things, and also find out more information. In the past I would just drop it and give up." Know Your Rights workshop participant and Peer Support group member.

"I stop my support workers when they are trying to take control." I say, "I told you the other week that this is what we said we would do". I didn't have the confidence to do that before, I didn't know I was allowed. My support is hopefully better now because I am doing what I want to do." (Assertive Communication Workshop participant)

The Training Service continued to provide to **20** PA employers, a variety of courses relevant to Independent Living, through its Pick & Mix project, facilitating the development of new skills, widening opportunities for disabled people to increase self-confidence, peer support and to expand their existing knowledge of Independent Living.



Training was also available to potential and existing Personal Assistants (PAs) to explore the roles and responsibilities involved in PA work. The service ran **4** PA courses with **27** people participating. Another **53** people had the opportunity to learn or be challenged on their perception of disability and disabled people through **7** sessions of Disability Equality Training.

"I wish every organisation I come into contact with could have this training. It should be law!" Participant of a training for PA course.

"I would definitely recommend this training." Participant of a Disability Equality Training course.

The Living & Work Choices Project

aims to give disabled people and people with a long term condition the opportunity to explore new or different ways of being more independent. In 2015-16 the programme offered: **5** 'Living & Work Choices' 4-day courses resulting in **68** participants completing the course, **3** 'Essential Employers Skills' 3-day courses including a young people's day. **20** participants completed the course. There were **22** free places on the Training for PAs courses.



"[The project] helped the young people to realise that there is life after school and that you have lots of say in shaping that life." Teacher of Braidburn School.

The Independent Living Service

supported a total of **551** people (**64** more than last year) with exploring their self directed support options, arranging their support and/or recruiting personal assistants. We worked with **60** people in Midlothian, **125** in West Lothian, **76** in East Lothian and **290** in Edinburgh.



"Without the assistance of LCiL staff I would be six feet under. I'm sure. When [LCiL Independent Living Officer] came through my door I was in bits, not knowing where to turn [...]. She supported M and I all through the processes in applying for direct payments and beyond, and still does [...]. Thank you from a very grateful family" Extract of letter sent to LCiL in March 2016.

In 2015-16 LCiL worked with and received funding from East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Government, NHS Lothian, BIG and the Robertson Trust.

"Had it not been for LCiL I would not be where I am today, nor where I plan to be in the future." Individual accessing a number of LCiL's services