

**LCiL**  
rights & choices



**A N N I V E R S A R Y**  
**C E L E B R A T I O N**  
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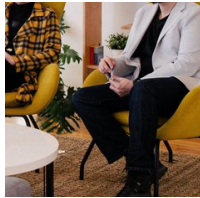
Table of

# CONTENTS



## 1 History of LCIL

PAGE 01



## 2 LCIL Current Staff

PAGE 03



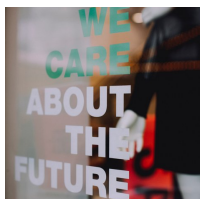
## 3 History of LCIL Services

PAGE 04



## 4 Recent Achievements

PAGE 05



## 5 The Future

PAGE 07





# EARLY HISTORY

## The Movement that Changed Everything

In the late 1970s, disabled students in Berkley, California started the Independent Living Movement. The Disability Alliance came into being after a group of disabled people, including 'professional experts' and academics, started to think about how people were affected by their disability. In 1981, the first Centre for Independent Living was set up and employed its first personal assistant.

## The Scottish Movement

Scotland in the 1980s saw an increasing number of disabled people involved in different networks and projects, who aspired to live more independent lives. In the late 1980s, the Lothian Coalition of Disabled People (LCDP) was established. This group shared offices with other organisations and created several initiatives.

## Establishing the Lothian Centre for Integrated Living

The Lothian Centre for Integrated Living - as it was originally known - was founded by disabled people living in the Thistle Foundation in Edinburgh, with the support of the LCDP and many others. These pioneers of the movement in Scotland had a unique vision and user-led model: Providing peer support allows an individual to gain self-understanding, self-confidence, and a sense of self-growth.

On 18 November 1991, the AGM and formal launch of the LCiL organisation took place.



# MODERN HISTORY

## **LCiL from 1991 to 2012**

The first year of LCiL was a challenging one, with the new ground to break and high expectations to live up to. During 1995-96 LCiL faced a rapidly increasing demand for its services and created a sister organisation, the Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living. During these early years LCiL remained at the forefront of contributing to policy development in Scotland, ensuring the voices of disabled people were heard. LCiL participated in the Working Group for the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, and in 2008-09 provided input into the National Core Reference Group on Independent Living.

## **The Introduction of Self-Directed Support**

The SDS Bill would require local authorities to offer Self-Directed Support (SDS) systematically to the majority of people eligible for care/support - a major transformation in the way services were resourced, planned and delivered in Scotland. LCiL secured funding from the Scottish Government to run a 3 year SDS Development Programme from 2012-2015. LCiL established itself as a leading disabled persons organisation in the Edinburgh and Lothians area, with successful expansion of funding and projects to reach more people with more specialised initiatives.

## **Recent History**

The last eighteen months at LCiL have been dominated by responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as changing political and social landscapes. During this period we worked hard to innovate by utilising new accessible remote and online technologies. Despite these challenges, 95.99% of service users surveyed said that they had gained more control over their lives and made better choices because of LCiL.

# OUR TEAM



## Members of the board

Our board of directors is composed of Jeff our convener, as well as other directors including Louise, John, Elizabeth A, Dugald, and Balkishan, as well as our Treasurer, Elizabeth P.

## Operational Staff

Chief Executive – Lyn

Office Manager – Caitlin

Social Media & Marketing Administrator – Nerea

Service Development Manager – Callum

Administrators – Ruari and Jihed

## Independent Living Service

The Independent Living Service Team is lead by Iain, our Independent Living Coordinator and the Independent Living Officers – Srabasti, William, Omar, Christèle and Lucy

## Payroll & Financial Management Support Service

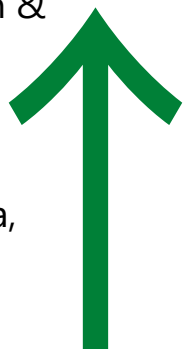
The Payroll and Financial Management Support Service Teams are lead by Lindsay, our Payroll Manager, our Payroll Officers, Linda, Richard, Lindsay, Rose and Sarah, our Payroll Administrator, Gemma and our Financial Management Support Administrators, Lisa and Cameron

## Grapevine Disability Information

The Grapevine Disability Information team is formed by Nicola, our Information & Communications Coordinator and our Information Officers, Andy, Christèle, Alasdair, Ruth and Heather

## SDS Development Programme & Self-Management Project

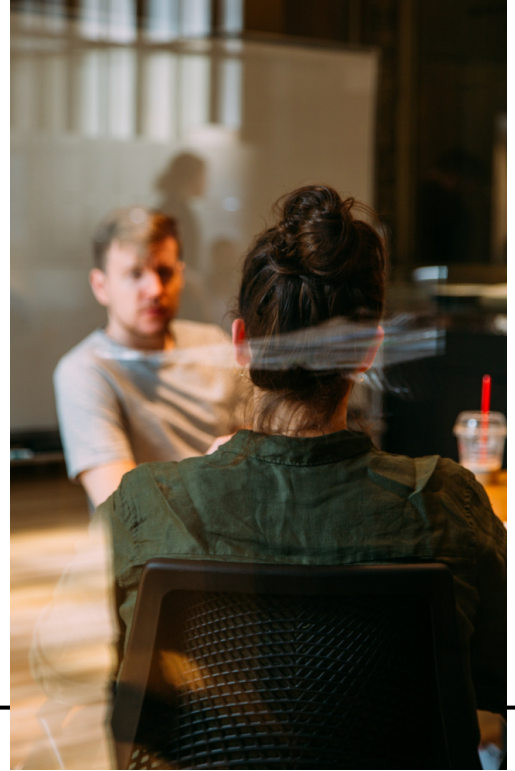
Our close-knit team comprises of Callum, our SDS Coordinator, Emma, Amanda, and Dylan, our Development Workers, Ruari, our Events and Marketing Administrator, and Paula our Self-Management Worker





# HISTORY OF LCIL SERVICES

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## 1 Independent Living Support

Since 2008 The Independent Living Team (ILT) has been offering advice and support to understand the Self-Directed Support options and to navigate the process of managing a SDS budget. We can assist with writing a support plan with the local authority, finding a care agency, or employing a Personal Assistants (PA). ILT can also advise on the responsibilities you will have and support you to comply with them. ILT is funded by the four Lothian local authorities and the Scottish Government to provide independent advice and support to all disabled people, people with long-term conditions and older people.

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## 2 Grapevine Advice and Information

Grapevine Disability Information Service in Edinburgh has been providing accurate, up-to-date, and accessible information to all disabled people and their supporters since 1991 and in 2004 joined LCiL. Our service offers a telephone helpline 5 days per week from 10 – 4pm tailoring the advice we give to disabled people to local service provision. We offer support with filling our welfare benefits forms and, since 2018, offer support to challenge decisions when we think a disabled person has not received the benefits they are entitled to.

- During 2015-16, **1198 individuals and organizations** in Edinburgh, East Lothian, and Midlothian requested advice and information from the Grapevine Disability Information Service.
- Grapevine was **accredited as a Tier 1 Information and Advice Provider** by the Scottish Government in April 2017.
- In 2019-2020 Grapevine **supported 349 service users over 823 contacts and 2,742 queries**. For those who were assisted to claim welfare benefit entitlement, the Grapevine on average helped service users claim **£8,664.35 per person per year**.

# HISTORY OF LCIL SERVICES



## 3 Payroll Service

From the beginning of LCiL in 1991, services like payroll were one of the essentials that we aimed to offer for disabled people who employed their own Personal Assistants. We assist disabled people who employ their own Personal Assistants (PAs) with the processing of wages and related administration such as dealing with the PA timesheets, tax, national insurance and many other related administration issues. Payroll can also provide a Financial Management Service for those who require help managing their Self-Directed Support Budget. This service works closely with our Independent Living Team to help plan and budget in relation to Direct Payments.

## 4 Peer Support and Learning

The Self-directed support (SDS) Development Programme was first funded by the Scottish Government in December 2011 for an initial three years, with successful additional funding being secured thereafter. Peer support is a way to share and receive knowledge, emotional support, or practical assistance by understanding others' situations by sharing one's own experience. Instilling a sense of empowerment within our service users is at the heart of everything we do. We offer monthly Peer Support Groups, Online Sessions, Workshops and Signposting. These aim to build people's confidence, knowledge and skills, increasing their resilience overall.

# RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## 01

### Achievements in Recent Years

- In 2019-2020, The Grapevine Service responded to a massive 2,742 enquiries from service users
- The Independent Living Service (ILS) worked with over 700 people in 2019-2020 to provide information and one-to-one support to help disabled people to recruit and employ Personal Assistants.
- Payroll and Financial Management Services provide wages processing/ administration for disabled people who employ Personal Assistants, reducing stress and increasing confidence around being an employer. In 2019-2020, the services helped over 660 people.
- The Self-Directed Support Project offered learning, capacity building, and peer support workshops to 161 people in 2019-2020. These service users attended our workshops and peer support groups resulting in increased confidence, skills, and knowledge to assert their rights and live independently.

## 02

### Recruiting Champion Volunteers

LCiL Champions are disabled people, people with long-term conditions, or carers who are involved with LCiL and its services in a variety of ways. On behalf of LCiL, our Champions attend various events and conferences across Edinburgh and the Lothians to share their lived experiences of independent living, self-directed support and ultimately serve as an advocate for disability rights and LCiL as an organisation. As a result, they are a vitally important asset to LCiL as a whole. Each Champion works closely with our team of SDS development workers and are supported through process of preparation so that they feel comfortable when sharing their personal experiences at any given event.

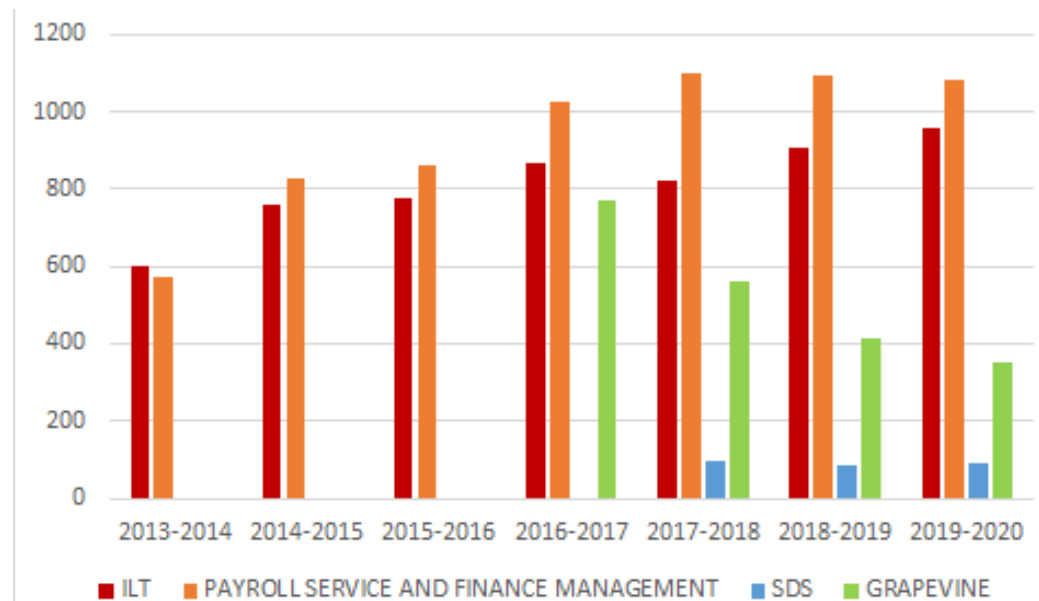
By sharing their lived experience Champions can:

- Raise awareness and understanding
- Act as role models
- Work as co-production partners.



# RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## 03 Supporting Service Users



LCiL Service Users over time

We have continued to provide excellent customer service over the past 8 years to all individuals who required our assistance. LCiL supports service users in a range of notable ways, including:

- The **Independent Living Team** supported 4105 users, with 1500 referrals received by external organisations
- The **Payroll Service & Financial Management Services** has provided payroll services to 5439 individuals.
- In the last four years, the **Grapevine Team** has supported 2097 people in Edinburgh through 2375 contacts and 7065 enquiries
- The **Peer and Support and Learning Team** has supported 272 people in the last four years

## 04 COVID-19 Service Delivery

LCiL quickly changed its delivery model to protect its staff while continuing to provide its services in the most accessible ways possible after Covid-19 forced the government to close business and services, reduce health care and support. As soon as lockdown began in Scotland, all one-to-one interactions took place over the phone or online, and most of the communication and information was also provided in this way.

# THE FUTURE

With our 30th anniversary approaching, we're excited to share the celebration with all of you. Although the future may seem unpredictable, we are putting all our efforts toward making sure you get the best assistance and support possible.

As we progress forward, we intend to develop and introduce other services to offer you the best possible experience and ease your everyday life through information and support. In the past 30 years, we have provided assistance to thousands of disabled people and have worked for causes and movements centered around the rights of disabled people.

The work we have done in the past will be built on in the future and we will speak again about our achievements.

The LCiL team wants to thank you for your trust in our services over the past 30 years, and we look forward to celebrating the next 30 together.

## **A few words from the CEO of LCiL, Lyn Pornaro**

As LCiL moves into our 30th year since Incorporation, we are faced with an exciting and transitioning period.

Scottish Government are consulting over how a National Care Service should look, the pandemic we have been battling for the past 20 months continues and internally some natural reshuffling of how we work has taken place.

LCiL remains committed to our ethos of helping disabled people be empowered to live a full and independent life with the support they require and we hope you will join us on the journey for our next chapter.



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