

## Chairman's Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Centre for Independent Living Belfast's second Annual Report that covers the year April 2002 to March 2003 and looks forward to completion of the 3-year pilot project wholly funded by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.

CIL – Belfast has been contracted by the Eastern Board to promote and support the up-take of Direct Payments by service users, and to deliver training in Direct Payments and Independent Living to Health and Social Services staff in the Eastern Board area.

Following the very successful official launch in December 2001 the following year was one of consolidation and development. In particular the delivery of training to HPSS staff has been a major focus of the project's work together with increasing contacts with service users. The creation of the CIL's web site, **[www.cilbelfast.org](http://www.cilbelfast.org)**, launched at our first Annual General Meeting has proved an invaluable resource to both potential service users and others interested in the concept of Independent Living.

The analysis of activity contained in this report is also evidence of the considerable efforts made by CIL staff to spread awareness of the availability of Direct Payments and a better understanding of the philosophy of Independent Living. This work has been

supported by the CIL Management Board, which is committed to the continuation of our organisation following the completion and evaluation of the initial pilot. The management team joined Board members in developing a Strategic Plan for CIL Belfast that looks past the first 3 years and beyond our present boundaries. We believe that the CIL's role should be to facilitate and support independent living by disabled people, not just in the Eastern area, but everywhere in Northern Ireland. How that can be achieved is for negotiation in future.

However the immediate challenge is the current evaluation of the project's first 3 years being carried out for the Eastern Board by Deloitte & Touche. Our future depends as much on the outcome of this scrutiny of our operational efficiency and effectiveness as it does on the Department's forthcoming Review of Direct Payments. It is clear that both these two initiatives will influence the way forward for Direct Payments and also for CIL Belfast.

To inform our way forward I joined Philomena McCrory at the start of this year in a visit to the Centre for Independent Living in Glasgow (CILiG) to see how CILiG has managed its evolution with the advent of Direct Payments and housing supports to independent living. The two days spent in Glasgow were invaluable in confirming the approach CIL Belfast has adopted and in identifying new opportunities. We have subsequently launched a pilot Payroll



Mike Hendra - CIL Chairman

Scheme and are working on a proposal for a housing support service that will fit with Supporting People and other housing initiatives.

We were sorry to lose two of our champions, John Richards and Alan Richardson, who retired from the Eastern Board earlier this year. In their place we welcome Hugh Connor and Joyce McKee and anticipate their continuing support for our work following the evaluation.

This year has also been marked as the European Year of People with Disabilities, celebrating positive approaches to disability. Looking forward to 2004, I am

conscious that it is the year the Disability Discrimination Act comes of age with the full implementation of Part III next October. By then the latest provisions of the Carers and Direct Payments Act will have come into operation. These are significant developments for independent living and disabled people generally.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and thank both the CIL Management Board members and project staff for their considerable contribution to another successful year.

*Mike Hendra - Chairman*

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## Coordinator's Report

As we come to the end of our second year in business it is time to reflect on what has been a very busy and productive period. We have continued to develop our core services, information, advice, advocacy and training, with the aim of providing flexible, responsive and practical supports that assist disabled people on their journey to independence.

The development of the website this year represents an important additional resource to improve the flow of information to a wider audience. We aim to keep the site up-to-date and relevant and we will continue to develop and improve it in light of feedback from users.

This year has seen a steady increase in the number of people taking up the option of Direct Payments. The services we offer have assisted people who are considering Direct Payments to make informed decisions, in the knowledge that support systems are available if they choose to proceed. We have also seen an increase in enquiries and referrals from social workers/care managers as

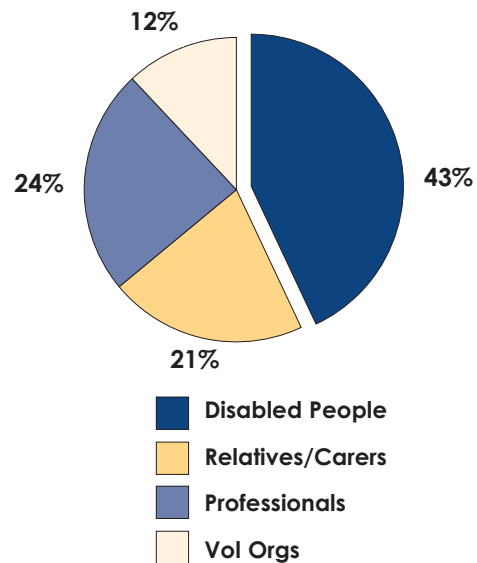
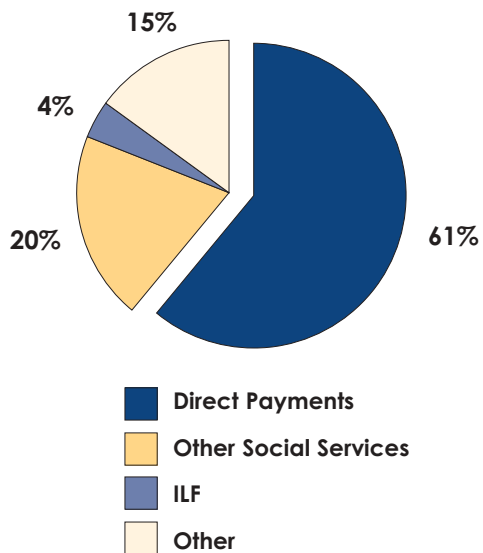
they become more familiar with Direct Payments and aware of the role of CIL.

Over the year we have dealt with over 400 queries, mainly by telephone, which represents a 35% increase on the same period last year. Of the total number, over 60% were about Direct Payments with a further 20% about a range of issues related to accessing social services. We delivered 21 training sessions to 355 people and 17 presentations to 393 people, Social Services staff, disabled people, carers, and voluntary organisations, mainly within EHSSB area. There has been a high level of interest in hearing about the implications of the provisions in new Carers and Direct Payments Act.

We also participated in number of events further afield. For example, we facilitated a staff-training day for social work staff in SHSSB and we ran a very successful series of awareness-raising sessions for social work teams in the NHSSB area. We took part in a Direct Payments Awareness day for Out and About at QUB in Armagh and we gave a presentation at a Mencap Support Group in Enniskillen.

Towards the end of the year we

# Enquiries Recorded April 02 – March 03 - Total – 418



developed a series of training modules that takes a step back from Direct Payments to explore in more detail the background to independent living. Initially this training will be targeted at young disabled people and we have started with a group of school leavers from Fleming Fulton School. The training is an opportunity for participants to explore ways that they can make choices and take control of their own lives as they make the transition to adulthood. Further sessions are planned

with young people who attend day centres.

The development of our Strategic Plan 2003-2006 has been useful in providing a focus for our work and has enabled us to set specific and challenging goals for the year ahead. We will work closely with Trusts to encourage a positive approach to Direct Payments and we will continue to work to improve our service to individuals. We will be proactive in supporting the establishment of peer support networks and encouraging disabled people to become actively involved in the work of CIL.

In the coming year we will continue to develop relationships with other disability sector organisations working to the same aims. Also, we will play our part in discussions on relevant policy developments such as the Department's Review of Direct Payments and Regional Strategy for Health & Wellbeing 2004-2020, and the EHSSB Disability Strategy. CIL recognises that there is a wide range of factors that impact on independent living and we will continue to represent the right of disabled people to have control over their lives.

*Philomena McCrory - Co-ordinator*



*CIL Staff Team, from left Philomena McCrory (Co-ordinator), Debbie Whitson (Administrator), Irene McWatters (Support Worker) and Paul Anderson (Personal Assistance Adviser)*



*Paul Anderson Personal Assistance Adviser with Anita Gracey, Direct Payments User*

## Making Direct Payments Work - Role of Personal Assistance Adviser

Paul Anderson, our Personal Assistance Adviser is usually the first point of contact for someone coming to CIL seeking information or advice on any aspect of independent living, particularly Direct Payments. Paul's role is to work with the person at a pace that will enable him or her to make an informed choice about Direct Payments. If the person hasn't already had a care assessment, Paul may assist them prepare for a self-assessment and accompany them to the assessment meeting if requested. It is often reassuring at this stage for the person to be put in touch with someone who is already using Direct Payments.

Once the decision is made to proceed with Direct Payments, Paul offers whatever level of support the person feels they need to get started. Some people may already have identified someone to work as their personal assistant and require very little assistance to get going. Others who need more help recruiting staff may be supported

through the various stages. This may include assistance with drawing up a job description, advertising, interviewing, an employment contract, dealing with income tax and National Insurance, making back-up arrangements etc.

Paul is available to provide ongoing support to deal with day-to-day issues as they arise. Direct Payments can seem daunting at the start but most people manage it without any great difficulty and will testify that the benefits far outweigh any extra responsibilities involved. Paul's role is to take the mystery out of Direct Payments and to provide practical assistance on an individual basis.

Anita Gracey who has been using Direct Payments for the last year comments ***"Direct Payments gives me greater freedom and flexibility in my life. I thought it would be much more difficult but it's actually fairly straightforward. It is good to have somewhere to go for help if you need it"***



# Accounts 2002 - 2003

## Income

EHSSB Grant	70,000
Employment Support	8,820
Consultancy fees	100
Other	495
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	£79,415
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## Expenditure

Staff Costs	62,448
Establishment Costs	7,544
Administration Costs	9,322
Depreciation	4,274
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	£83,588
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Designated reserve 2001- 2002	£40,861
Shortfall in income over expenditure	(£4,173)
Transfer to designated reserve	£36,688

(Full accounts, audited by Crawford Sedgewick & Co, are available on request)

# Centre for Independent Living – Belfast Management Board

Mike Hendra (Chairman)

Christine Ferrin (Treasurer)

Cathy Chivers

Angela Hendra

Linda McDade

Michael Morgan

Ronan Murray

Heather Nelson

Aidan Shortt

## MISSION STATEMENT

*CIL is an organisation of disabled people, supporting disabled people in Northern Ireland in their independent living choices. We believe that all disabled people should be in full control of their lives wherever they choose to live, and CIL exists to facilitate this.*



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**Registered Charity No:** XR62285

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