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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

The 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Centre for Independent Living NI will take place at the CILNI Head Office at Beechill Business Park, 96 Beechill Rd, Belfast BT8 7QN at 12 noon on Thursday, 3 November 2011.

Registration with refreshments will be from 11.30 a.m.

Please let us know by telephone on 028 9064 8546 or by e-mail to [info@cilni.org](mailto:info@cilni.org) if you can join us on the day. Thank you.

## Our manager returns to work

Mike Hendra, our Chairman, was delighted to welcome the Manager, Philomena McCrory, back to work at the end of August after having been away on sick leave for 20 months. Philomena will be initially working part-time for three days a week and gradually building up to full-time. All of us welcome her back as her presence and leadership have been greatly missed.

In the current difficult economic climate and with an ever increasing demand for our services, there are many difficult challenges to be met. CILNI is constantly reviewing its operations and services in order to best meet the needs of our members.



*Mike and Philomena in her new office*

Philomena said "needless to say I am delighted to be back and look forward to leading the team during the next phase of our work. I would like to thank the staff team and CILNI board for all their hard work whilst I was off"

## DISABILITY EXHIBITION NORTH WEST 2011

CILNI recently took part at the **Disability Exhibition North West** on 10/11 May , run by Disability Action in association with Ability NI at the Waterfront Hotel and Country Club, in Derry/ Londonderry BT47 6TB.

The exhibition was opened by Mark Durcan, the local MP and provided people with disabilities, their families, carers and healthcare professionals with the opportunity to find out about the latest products and services. There were more than 40 exhibitors inside and outside the hotel providing information on and demonstrations of a wide range of mobility aids and equipment, sports activities, technology, benefits, services and much more.

Helen Anderson and Francine Magennis from the Western Area Office setup and manned the CILNI information stand on the first day, followed by Martha McWilliams and Rachel Harkness of the Northern Area Office on the second day. The exhibition was well attended on both days and our team distributed information on CILNI and Direct Payments.

Helen says that she was able to make contact with lots of disabled people, carers and interested trust/voluntary sector staff who were very keen to find out about the Direct Payments scheme. A surprisingly large number of people had never heard of Direct Payments and were very pleasantly surprised to hear of the scheme which they will keep in mind for possible future use. She added that it was also enjoyable to meet some current Direct Payments users who attended the event. The event enabled the CILNI team to set up a number of follow-up home visits to explain the concept of independent living and Direct Payments which has resulted in several new users in the Derry/Londonderry area.

### Some feedback

The CILNI Board is always interested to hear what our members think about our services and are keen to receive any feedback. Here are some comments received in the last few weeks:

*" In the past few months we have been in contact with CILNI and found them very helpful. We are in the process of recruiting a personal assistant. CILNI have guided us step by step so far, and we intend to take advantage of their payroll system. It was much appreciated when CILNI placed an advert on the web for the post, and we were able to interview three applicants in one of their offices. We have selected a suitable person and are just waiting for a security check to be completed. "*

Jim and Rosemary

## feedback continued.....

*"The adviser from CILNI was an absolute breath of fresh air. The adviser explained the whole process of Direct Payments in easy to understand language and advised me for a small fee that they could look after the Payroll process, tax, national insurance – all the scary stuff which was putting me off. All I would have to do is either write a monthly cheque or do a bank transfer which, in my case, was the easier option. I know that if I have any problems or queries, the CILNI adviser is only an email or phone call away.*

*My Social Worker had given me the 'Direct Payments' booklet. To be honest the process initially looked extremely daunting until CILNI explained how easily it could be done."*

Emma.

*"As a first-time recipient of Direct Payments I'm feeling quite out of my depth with regards to having to prepare wages, tax, national insurance, liability insurance etc. I made an appointment to see an adviser at CILNI. The adviser explained that CILNI could help with finding a suitable person to employ as a personal assistant and that their Payroll Service could make the role of employer so much easier.*

*All in all, meeting with friendly staff in a lovely new building (the head office in Belfast) and receiving expert advice have streamlined the whole experience of Direct Payments."*

Karline.

Do let us know what your experience has been.

## Judicial Review : "Capacity to Consent"

### Freeze on Direct Payment offers to new users who are unable to give consent

In March of this year a judgment was handed down in Judicial Review that has led to very significant and unexpected consequences for many possible new Direct Payment users. This case was brought by the relative of a man with learning disability to challenge the decisions of his local Health & Social Care Trust in relation to his care assessment and the level and amount of Direct Payments offered to meet his needs. The court ruled on the specific issues of the case but also ruled that the Trust had in fact no basis in law for entering into a Direct Payment arrangement with this man. Section 8 of the Carers and Direct Payments Act 2002 states that Trusts may make a Direct Payment to a service user "with that person's consent". In this case the service user was judged unable to give consent or enter into a complex contract with the Trust due to his mental incapacity. The outcome of this ruling is that Trusts in Northern Ireland are unlikely to offer Direct Payments to anyone where consent is a factor, particularly in Learning Disability, Mental Health, and Elderly Services.

In 2009, the legislation in England was amended to permit Direct Payments to be made to a suitable representative. Similar changes will need to be made to the legislation in Northern Ireland but it is likely that this will take 2-3 years to put in place. In the meantime the authorities are investigating the possibility of overcoming this problem in the shorter term:

## Judicial Review : "Capacity to Consent" continued

- through the use of existing powers of attorney where these have been created before capacity to consent becomes the issue and/or
- with the assistance of the Office of Care and Protection Northern Ireland.

It is very disappointing that many people who would benefit from Direct Payments may not be offered this as an option or experience long delays and additional complex procedures. It is essential that everything possible is done to overcome this hurdle as quickly as possible.

## Very Important

### Advance notice to all users of the CILNI payroll service

**Please note that with effect from 1 January 2012 the standard Payroll Service charge will increase to **£25** for a 4-weekly payroll or **£27.09** for a monthly payroll.**

CILNI is very aware that this increase will be difficult for many of our clients and supporters. We would however point out that:

- ★ This is the first increase that we have made since the Payroll Service was introduced in 2003.
- ★ Since then we had to start paying VAT on the payroll service in April 2008 and have absorbed increases in the rate of VAT (back) to 17½ % on 1 January 2010 and up to 20% on 4 January 2011.
- ★ All CILNI's overheads are rising constantly either in line with inflation, or by even more e.g. electricity, gas and fuel costs.
- ★ Our core funders have been unable to increase their funding in line with inflation for some time.
- ★ Other sources of income and support are very limited and uncertain; many voluntary organisations such as CILNI are facing funding cuts (and some are having to close down).
- ★ Whilst we have sought over recent years to make as many operational economies and efficiencies as possible, there is a limit as to how much we can save internally without impacting on our client services.

Payroll service users will shortly be receiving a personal letter and revised Standing Order mandate form with their next payroll mailing and we shall be grateful if these could be returned to us by the beginning of November.

CILNI will also be writing to the Health and Social Care Trusts to inform them of this increase to the Payroll Service charge and hopefully they will take this into account in their own calculations.

As always, you will be very welcome to come and discuss this, or any other issue, with us at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

## Association for Real Change – Get a Life! Project

Traditionally we in Northern Ireland have relied on day centres to provide day opportunities for people with a learning disability.



Over recent years, in keeping with Equal Lives values, the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust has supported a range of initiatives to change this. The thrust has been to enable men and women from across Belfast to have valued day opportunities within, not apart from, their communities.

ARC (NI) is excited to announce a new partnership project – GET A LIFE! – which will further support this approach.

Over the next three years ARC NI, in partnership with the Trust, Community Catalysts, Department for Employment & Learning and the European Social Fund, will be working with individuals to set up community-based activities for people with a learning disability in the Belfast area.

There are many people with brilliant ideas for alternative activities which could give people with a learning disability more choice on what to do during the day. Given the right support, these individuals could set up their own micro enterprise in the community. 'Get A Life!' will promote and encourage micro enterprises in North and West Belfast.

### **What are Micro Enterprises?**

Micro enterprises are small businesses independent of any larger or parent organisation, with five or fewer employees. They will deliver a service within the community and as they are small, the service delivered tends to be tailored to their individual customers.



*“Small Scale High Quality”*

They are local people, firmly rooted in their communities with a good understanding of local issues, providing local services to other local people. They offer a range of very different types of service and have many different motivations. What they all have in common is that they work independently, want to make a difference to the lives of the people who they support, and have a personal interest in the service that is provided.

Additionally, they are able to offer services that are much more flexible and responsive than those which can be offered by larger providers.

The “Get A Life!” project will work with individuals and assist them in overcoming barriers and challenges. Services offered will include:

- Advice and guidance
- Information on training & learning opportunities and requirements
- Business Support
- Clarifying current commissioning and contracting practices
- Networking opportunities

## Get a Life! Project continued.....

If you are one of those people (or you know someone) with a brilliant idea who wants to set up a micro enterprise in the Belfast area, contact **Mariead Magill** at **ARC NI** on telephone **028 9075 1454** or by e-mail: [mariead.magill@arcuk.org.uk](mailto:mariead.magill@arcuk.org.uk)

## The New CILNI Website

Since the CILNI website was updated and re-launched in April this year, the site has been visited more than 3000 times representing just less than 18 visits per day and many visitors have visited the site more than once. The total of 2430 unique visitors from 53 different countries have spent time reading various pages on the website with a bounce rate of 43.22%. The top 10 countries from which visitors came were:

1. United Kingdom
2. United States
3. Canada
4. Republic of Ireland (a bit of a surprise?)
5. India
6. Russia
7. Hungary
8. South Africa
9. Poland
10. Australia

*We are very pleased that our website is proving to be a valuable source of information for people from all over the world! Check it out at : <http://www.cilni.org> and let us know what you think.*



CILNI would like to bring your attention to a service designed to help those in receipt of Direct Payments, find and secure Personal Assistant staff (PAs). PA Pool provides members with a browsable database of PAs and PA Users, where information about each person, plus who and what they are looking for, can be accessed at the click of a button.

Unlike conventional advertising, you can search the database whether you are recruiting or looking for work and then contact people instantly. It is free to register and takes only 5-10mins. Contact with other users can be made from as little as £5. To find more information or obtain a user guide, telephone 028 9064 8546, e-mail [staff1@cilni.org](mailto:staff1@cilni.org) or log on at <http://www.cilni.org/>

## Advertisement

The advertisement is a red and white graphic. At the top, it asks 'do you know someone with a disability?' and 'would they like a short break?'. Below this, it says 'we can help!'. The main heading is 'CORE RESPITE SERVICES', followed by the text 'provides new and exciting social opportunities for people with both learning and physical disabilities.' At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'for more information please visit our website: [www.corerespiteservices.co.uk](http://www.corerespiteservices.co.uk)' and 'or contact us by calling 02890 853286 or 07976926684 / 07917802564'. It also says 'follow us on facebook [corerespiteservices/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/corerespiteservices/)'. There is a small graphic of a red apple with a bite taken out of it, and the text 'CREATING OPPORTUNITIES RESPITE EVERYONE' next to it.

# Why not get more involved? Why not become a member of CILNI?

*Simply fill in, cut out and send us the form below.*

**CILNI is a membership organisation.** Membership is free (although donations are always welcome) and we are always looking for people to become more involved.

Full membership is available to disabled people over 16 years in age and full members have voting rights at AGMs etc. Associate membership is available to non-disabled people organisations who support our aims.

All full and associate members are bound by the following conditions:

1. Members, individuals or groups must not present themselves as spokespersons for CILNI under any circumstances without express agreement.
2. Membership does not give full or associate members the right to use CILNI's name to promote their work and personal objectives by implying that CILNI approves their projects or bids for funding.

If you apply for membership, you will be deemed to have agreed to these terms and breach of the terms may lead to your membership being reviewed and possibly terminated. [Application forms in alternative formats are available on request.](#)



## APPLICATION FORM

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: .....

Tel: ..... Textphone.....

E-mail:.....

Full membership:

I am a disabled person:

Associate membership:

or

I am a representative of:

Name of organisation:

.....

Position:.....

I confirm that I agree with the principles of Independent Living and I support the aims of Centre for Independent Living NI. I have read the conditions of membership in the September 2011 newsletter and wish to apply for membership.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**Please** cut out and send completed application form to:

The Chairman  
Centre for Independent Living NI  
Linden House  
Beechill Business Park  
96 Beechill Road  
Belfast BT8 7QN

Tel: 028 9064 8546  
Fax: 028 9064 0598  
Textphone: 028 0598  
E-mail: [info@cilni.org](mailto:info@cilni.org)

Please advise if information is required in another format.

**Remember:** We do not have a membership fee but any donation will be welcome.



## Looking ahead.....

*The next edition of the newsletter will include an update on the first phase of Self-directed Support in Northern Ireland, which is being pioneered by the Southern Health & Social Care Trust in partnership with the Health and Social Care Board. This pilot is intended to “inform and redesign that social care resources are allocated, controlled and used by enabling individuals and their families to exercise more choice and control over their lives”.*

You can find more information on the topics of Personalisation, Self-Directed Support and Personal Budgets on our website at:

<http://www.cilni.org/content/personalisation-self-directed-support-and-personal-budgets>

### Contact us at Centre for Independent Living NI

#### Head & Eastern Area Office

Manager - Philomena McCrory

Independent Living Advisers - Paul Anderson & Deena Nimick

Support - Irene McWatters & Chris Carr

Admin - Debbie Whitson Finance - Ann Benade

Linden House, Beechill Business Park, 96 Beechill Road, Belfast BT8 7QN.

Tel: 028 9064 8546 Fax: 028 9064 0598 Textphone: 028 9064 0598

E-mail: [info@cilni.org](mailto:info@cilni.org)

#### Southern Area Office

Independent Living Adviser - Anne Mallon

Unit 10, Ulster Gazette Arcade, 56 Scotch Street, Armagh BT61 7DQ.

Tel: 028 3752 2282 Fax: 028 3751 8432

E-mail: [southern@cilni.org](mailto:southern@cilni.org)

#### Western Area Office

Independent Living Adviser - Helen Anderson Admin - Francine Magennis

Anderson House, Market Street, Omagh BT78 1ES.

Tel: 028 8224 8926 Fax: 028 8224 9878

E-mail: [western@cilni.org](mailto:western@cilni.org)

#### Northern Area Office or

Independent Living Adviser - Martha McWilliams Admin - Rachel Harkness

Unit C9, The Business Centre, 80-82 Rainey Street, Magherafelt BT45 5AJ.

Tel: 028 7963 4932

E-mail: [northern@cilni.org](mailto:northern@cilni.org)

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