



DONEGAL CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

WELCOME

Dear Readers,

It is with great warmth, enthusiasm and pleasure that I welcome our readers to the DCIL Annual Report where it is our hope that you will gain an invaluable insight to the activities and services of our organisation and further your understanding of what we are as an organisation.

The Donegal Centre for Independent Living (DCIL) mission is to support and empower disabled people in Donegal to achieve independent living, and to actively participate as equal citizens in society by having choice and control over their own lives whilst providing essential support services.



It has been a truly unbelievable year within DCIL with the overwhelming priority for the major part of it being the building of our new premises here in Ballymacool which consumed a very significant amount of our time. The challenge that this project presented was met with great enthusiasm by all staff, Board and Leaders and together we now have a new building that we are more than proud of. The facilities within our new offices and training centre are second to none and offer us the much needed space and opportunity to grow in an exciting new accessible and welcoming environment. It also affords DCIL the opportunity to become part of the community and raise awareness of DCIL and our objectives as an organisation going forward.

As you will see from within this report, the services and activities within the organisation were certainly not at a standstill throughout the past year. DCIL have not alone maintained our existing levels of service and activity but we have also developed further services and projects to help meet the needs of our Leaders (Service Users) and staff.

DCIL has this year seen the development and launch of a DCIL Strategic Plan which was welcomed by all involved with DCIL. This plan is one in which most importantly we can be guided in the coming years of the directions in which our members want us to take but also with a strategy to getting us there.

The DCIL Leader Forum has continued to show great strength and ability in the past year and we know that its future is now showing very positive signs of growth and productiveness which we are very supportive of and have welcomed the group to use our new premises and certainly treat as their own going forward. The group are currently supporting the initiation of a Donegal Youth Leader forum which will focus mainly on the 18-35 year old leaders within the service.

DCIL very much hope to strengthen and raise the awareness amongst the community of our organisation in the coming year and we will endeavour to create events, fundraisers and programmes to help ensure our organisation gains the recognition that it certainly deserves throughout Donegal in the future. Our county has had a lot of significant achievements this year of which we are all very proud of – but let's not forget to acknowledge the work and the achievements of organisations such as ourselves who in many ways against the odds managed to reach great milestones, provided empowering services, diversified where necessary, insisted on member and service user involvement to develop an organisation which we can all be very confident and proud of today.

Rosaleen Bradley - General Manager

• DCIL Personal Assistant Service	1
• Community Employment Project	2
• DCIL Training	3
• DCIL Human Resource Department	6
• Annual Presentations	7
• DCIL Accessible Vehicle Service	8
• DCIL Media & Information	8
• DCIL Strategic Planning	9
• DCIL Premises Development	11
• Donegal Leader Forum (DLF)	12
• Time Out for You Project	13
• DCIL Fundraising.....	14
• Action Plan 2014 – 2015	16
• Conclusion	18

DCIL PERSONAL ASSISTANT SERVICES

Donegal Centre for Independent Living (DCIL) is the lead service provider of Personal Assistants in the Northwest and has been for the last 15 years. WE currently provide 1624 hours PA service per week. For Disabled People (Leaders) - Personal Assistant (PA) services are the key to Independent Living. Having a Personal Assistant provides disabled people with choice and control over their own lives and live a life of their own choosing.

DCIL currently provide 124 Leaders with a PA service on a weekly basis using a staff of 125 Personal Assistants to provide this service throughout Donegal.

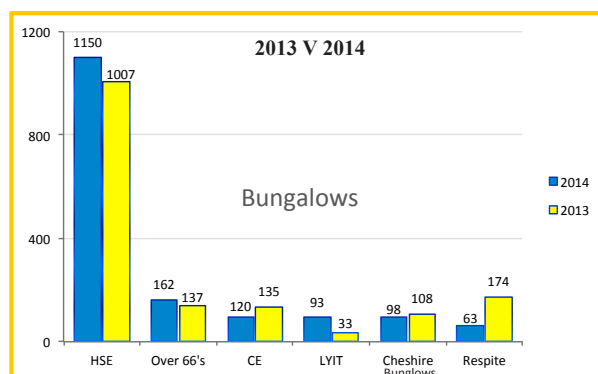
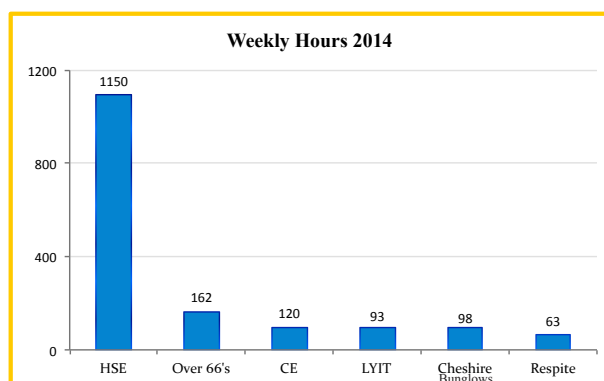
DCIL has the opportunity to see on a daily basis the impact having PA'S have on the lives of disabled people in Donegal. For many disabled people in Donegal they are living in very isolated areas and without this assistance would not be able to be part of the community and carry out basic daily tasks.

It is encouraging to see the growing number of young third level students with disabilities come through college now with the confidence of knowing that they will have a PA to assist them in participating in college life independently and without barriers.

DCIL place great value on its need as an organisation to provide this service in a professional manner whilst all the time respecting the choice and control of the individual in receipt of the service.. In order to fulfil our obligations to the HSE or other relevant funders DCIL carry out regular reviews and provide one to one support to Leaders in understanding the relationship of a Leader and PA. It is imperative for all Leaders and Personal Assistants to maintain contact with DCIL regarding their PA needs, ensuring we provide a supportive user led service at all times.

As you can see in the charts below the bulk of the weekly Personal Assistant hours are mainly funded through the HSE Physical & Sensory Disability Department – 1150hrs p/w, this has increased by 47hrs. The other Personal Assistant services we provide are funded through the Older Person Services – 162hrs p/w - increase of 25hrs, Community Employment Programme (Sponsored by Department of Social Protection) – 120hrs p/w - decrease of 15hrs, Letterkenny Institute of Technology – 93hrs p/w – increase by 62hrs, Cheshire Bungalows 46hrs p/w – decrease by 62hrs and Respite 63hrs p/w – decrease by 111hrs.

Summary of current DCIL PA Services which now totals 1624hrs p/w



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT 2014 – 2015

The DCIL Community Employment Project has seen many changes this year. We have retained our increased number of 18 participants which is working very well.

There have been numerous changes within the reporting and recording structure of the community employment project and the CE supervisor attended training in June 2014 to update our systems and information.

The participants continue to provide personal assistance to approximately 22 leaders (120hrs) per week. These hours have proved crucial to some leaders who have seen their social hours decreased or withdrawn due to cutbacks.

Our Administration and office based participants provide DCIL core staff with a lot of the support and backup needed to run a very busy organisation.

DCIL would also like to acknowledge the excellent help from our caretaker/maintenance personnel during our move from McCaul House to our new premises in Ballymacool. Due to the move the temporary maintenance service offered to our leaders last year will cease from October. The new building and surrounding grounds require a lot of maintenance and the participants will put their training to good use keeping everything in order.

Participants continue to undertake training in various disciplines such as Health Care, Disability Studies, Administration, Horticulture, payroll and accounts, along with DCIL's in-house training.

The review and financial monitoring visit undertaken by DSP in June 2014 showed that all records and finances are in order. We are in the process of recruiting and interviewing for the next project, which starts on the 13th October 2014. DCIL welcome Disabled People to participate on our CE Schemes.



These pictures are a glance of some of the work carried out through community employment project.

SCHOOL DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

In 2010, DCIL began delivering a disability awareness programme to primary schools throughout Donegal. Children and teachers developed a greater awareness of people with disabilities, and of the concept of independent living. Over the next three years, approximately 1,400 children participated in the programme.

In November 2013, DCIL began providing disability awareness workshops to transition year students in secondary schools. The content of the programme was partly influenced by the NUI certificate in disability studies course. Nineteen workshops were delivered in total, to 501 students around Donegal.

DCIL has secured funding from Irish Aid's World Wise Global Schools program for another year of training. The funding was increased significantly, which will enable us to deliver workshops to twice as many students. We will also work with Leaving Cert Applied students, as well as providing a disability and development awareness workshop for teachers. Feedback from teachers and students has been very positive, and it has helped us to make significant changes to the new program for the coming school year.

DCIL will continue in their work in creating a much more informed and positive perception of disability amongst the younger generation which we believe will influence and shape the future regarding the inclusion of disabled people.



DCIL would like to thank all the principals, teachers and staff who welcomed us into their schools and showed a great interest in the programme.

DCIL TRAINING

INDEPENDENT LIVING WORKSHOPS

DCIL continue to provide Independent Living workshops which have been well attended this year, the venue's being Letterkenny and Donegal Town. During the workshop Leaders and PA's learn the history and background to the Independent Living movement, examine how a Leader can direct their own service by identifying the roles & reasonability's of both a Leader and PA. Explain how the barriers in society can 'disable' a Leader and the importance of terminology when speaking to a Disabled Person.

With more and more new Leaders and Personal Assistance involved in DCIL this workshop is of huge importance for both, with this in mind DCIL can't stress highly enough the importance to attend the workshop either to educate or refresh your knowledge in Independent Living. DCIL would like to thank all persons who attended the workshops and we are delighted with the feedback so far in relation to the above.

NUI DISABILITY STUDIES COURSE (HETAC LEVEL 7)

DCIL in conjunction with Maynooth University have this year completed the Disability Studies course. The aim of this course is to examine the medical and social models of disability and provides an in-depth insight to the Independent Living movement in Ireland and Europe. The course critically evaluates issues of oppression and power and considers the barriers to a fully inclusive society.

This year was again highly successful, however numbers where down from the previous year from 13 to 10 participants. The course was held one day a week for 20 weeks, this equated to 100 hours of classroom based learning, it was extremely participative which lead for fantastic course morale and atmosphere, although the classes were thought provoking and challenging, the sessions are mixed with fun and humour DCIL received tremendous feedback from everyone who participated in the course and it certainly helped to in the personal development of the individuals who participated.



DCIL TRAINING

PEOPLE MOVING & HANDLING

The People Moving and Handling courses are now mainly refresher courses for all Personal Assistants, the reason being is that most of the new employees have completed the course through the FETAC Level 5 healthcare skills course, with DCIL's employees updating their skill by attending the course ever two years.

When people moving and handling is performed correctly, Leaders can be moved with ease and with reduced risk of injury, to both the Leader and their Personal Assistants DCIL cannot stress enough how important this course is to attend, as nonattendance continues to be a major challenge to DCIL, and poses a risk of injury for the Personal Assistants and Leaders.

All staff will be upskilled to the required level in relation to the People Moving and Handling course by the end of October as courses have been scheduled in our new premises.



Participants up skilling on the people, moving and handling course.

FIRST AID COURSE

The First Aid course is designed to provide a basic level of training in the use of a defibrillator and treatment of other cardiac illnesses to those that have no previous experience of responding to a cardiac event. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills to respond and assist at any medical or trauma incident. Implementing the chain of survival and applying care to the standards set down by the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). The course utilises both theory and practical learning which encourages participation and ensures strong knowledge of practical skills.



As mentioned in the People, Moving and Handling report, most of the new Personal Assistants have already been trained in the area of First Aid with the DCIL employees either up skilling by doing the refresher course or completing a full CFR course. The results and feedback from these courses has been positive as all participants have successfully complete and passed the assessments involved.

DCIL HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Our most significant development in the Human Resource area for us this year has been the introduction of a much welcomed HR post to the Core staff team. Although the post is only currently a part time (1 day per week) one it was a great development and we were delighted to welcome Bernie Walsh who brought a vast amount of experience to the position in February of this year. We started by taking stock of what was already in place and through time, in consultation with management and staff, implement and update HR policies and procedures to make sure DCIL systems work for the people who work for it! The Human Resource Officer will ensure HR policies and practices are complaint with employment law and kept up to date with any necessary legislative changes, thus ensuring DCIL is not left exposed or vulnerable to potential claims.



In August of this year DCIL changed HR consultant companies from Graphite to HR Team, whom we consider were more able to meet the demands of DCIL and operate within the same geographic area. In conjunction with HR Team, we have and are continuing to implement changes which are intended to assist our staff and help them access necessary HR information easily. For example we have updated DCIL's Staff Handbook, which now available on line. This book gives important information such as Dignity at Work; Grievance Procedure; Disciplinary Procedure, Annual Leave entitlements etc which operates within DCIL.

Giving staff and Leaders access to the DCIL Staff Handbook on-line was not an option with our previous HR Company and this small change will see a significant reduction in paper, postage cost and the work involved. For staff who don't have a computer we will, of course, provide a paper copy. We recognise that not everyone has a computer but also that by utilising information technology we can greatly reduce costs and make DCIL more environmentally friendly.

Database systems, file systems and retention of documentation are all presently being reviewed and updated to ensure maximum effectiveness for those using the system. DCIL continues to strive to ensure only necessary documentation is appropriately maintained.

Health & Safety and updates in H&S Training have been made in consultation with Shane Bradley –DCIL Training Co-ordinator. DCIL will continue to monitor and review our systems to ensure our staff can work safely, protecting themselves and our Leaders. This type of work is ever changing and whilst this in itself is challenging, it a challenge that thankfully DCIL are confident in their capabilities.

ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS

ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS & CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party and Annual Presentation were again held in the Silver Tassie, Letterkenny in early December. The large number of people in attendance had a fantastic night, enjoying a lovely dinner and the entertainment coming this year in the form of our very own personal assistant Martin Friel who from early in the evening had the dance floor buzzing.



DCIL ANNUAL AWARDS 2013

This year DCIL received a large number of nominations for, the Leader of the Year and PA of the Year award. This led to a difficult decision for the judging panel to pick a winner from each category, but we were confident in our decision to award Kitty Mooney with Leader of the Year and Kerry McGlynn with PA of the Year. The Fundraiser of the Year award was also presented to Rose Baird who had done a remarkable job in raising funds for DCIL which was very much appreciated.

DCIL would like to take this opportunity to thank those leaders and personal assistants who nominated this year.



Kitty Mooney receiving her Leader of the year award from DCIL's Rosaleen Bradley and Marian O'Donnell, also pictured is PA Nuala Sweeney who nominated Kitty



Kerry McGlynn
PA of the Year



Rose Baird
Fundraiser of the Year

These awards are a fantastic way to acknowledge the work your Leader/Personal Assistant does throughout the year to enhance the service, so please take a little time to consider whether you would like to nominate a Leader or a Personal Assistant for this year's Annual Awards.

DCIL also saw a number of board members step down from the board and PA's retire from their positions, these PA's were presented with a gift from DCIL to say thank you for all the dedication and commitment shown to the organisation down through the years.

DCIL ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE SERVICE

DCIL continue to provide the invaluable van service for our Leaders who do not have any other means of accessible transport. This service is hugely popular amongst our Leaders but we cannot always meet the demand that exists for the vehicle but try our best to distribute its usage as evenly as possible to its users.

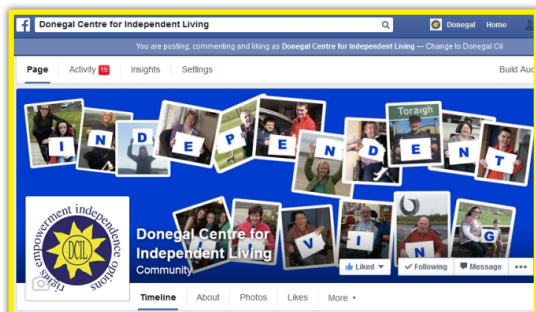
DCIL would welcome any fundraising opportunities that would see us in a purchase another of these vehicles to provide a wider service. DCIL do not provide a driver so it is the responsibility of the Leader (Service User) to have a driver over 27 year of age with a full clean driving licence. If you are interested in booking the vehicle please contact the office for available dates.



DCIL MEDIA & INFORMATION

SOCIAL NETWORKING / AWARENESS

The three streams of social networking Donegal CIL website, Facebook and Twitter have been very active this year and is growing more and more each week, this can be judged by the increase in the number of hits, likes, shares, favourites and retweets. This form of communications enables Donegal CIL to bring current events, articles, stories and general information to people as soon as it happens.



www.facebook.com/donegal.cil



www.donegalcil.com



www.twitter.com/donegalcil

DCIL MEDIA & INFORMATION CONTINUED

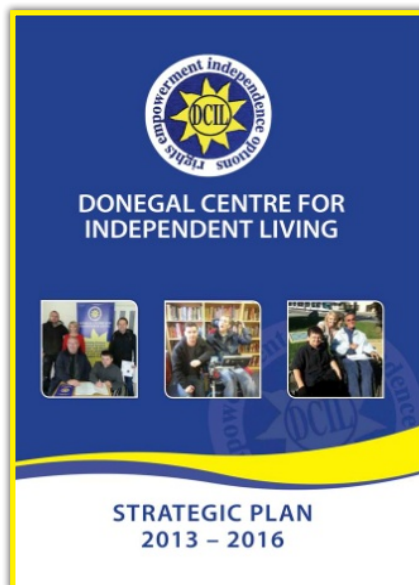
Liam Callaghan continues to update the DCIL website on a voluntary basis and DCIL would like to thank him for his commitment to DCIL.

DCIL continues to publish and distribute by email and post its quarterly newsletter, spring, summer, autumn and winter editions. We would love to hear some feedback and suggestions on this resource! Please contact Pat in the office on 074-9128945 for further details.

Donegal News continues to support DCIL in their endeavours to create better public awareness of our organisation and featured a number of articles this year around the move to our new premises etc.

DCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING

The development of the DCIL 3 year Strategic Plan has given us the opportunity to reflect & analysis on the current status of Independent Living within the Disability Sector and our direction as an organisation who is striving to meet the needs of disabled people in these challenging times. Jason Black (First Donegal Man to reach the Summit of Everest) officiated at the Official Launch with some of his inspiring words and DCIL were overwhelmed with the large turnout on the day which included leaders, personal assistants, local councillors, HSE staff, the King of Tory and one of the founding members of CIL's in Ireland Martin Naughton.



DCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING

DCIL VIDEO PROJECT

DCIL have been working relentlessly over the past year to create much more awareness of our organisation. We wanted the public to know the positive impact DCIL have on the lives of Disabled People in Donegal and what Independent Living really means. Therefore we decided to go down the very popular route of a “Video Project” (It’s My Life) which enables us to share with the world what Independent Living means to disabled people and their families in Donegal. The images within the video are of mainly people in receipt of our services in DCIL and also some supporters. The soundtrack was provide by a very talented young 15 year old girl from Burnfoot – (Caitlin McLaughlin) who provided us with her own interpretation of Bon Jovi’s “It’s My Life” which was very fitting for the video ! The video was launched officially in the Radison Blu Hotel together with our strategic plan where both projects complimented each other very well.



The Video can be accessed through our Donegal CIL Facebook page, YouTube and Vineo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoO5zywG7qQ>

<http://vimeo.com/92879170>

DCIL PREMISES DEVELOPMENT



This summer has seen the completion of our much awaited new premises in Ballymacool House, Letterkenny. DCIL Management, Directors and Architect Barry McCullagh have since 2011 been working relentlessly in developing plans to ensure they are sufficient to house DCIL operations, administration and management, whilst also providing the space to grow as an organisation. The actual construction of the project commenced only in December 2013 so it was with great pride that we achieved a very quick completion to the project in August of this year.

The new building now provides us with both versatility and stability to our organisation going forward. We also developed a superb new training/Resource Centre and Meeting Room which will serve our existing need and potential service development in the future.

The DCIL Staff, Leaders and Board have been delighted with the premises so far and have welcomed many visitors to Ballymacool already but we certainly plan on an Official Opening in the very near future.

DCIL again would like to extend their thanks to the Sub group – James McClean, Jennifer Doherty, Martin McIntyre, Donal K O'Boyle, Rosaleen Bradley & Frank Larkin who have given of their time to this project and we are in no doubt that this move marks the beginning of a new era for the organisation in the coming years.

DONEGAL LEADER FORUM (DLF)

The Donegal CIL Leader Forum continues to grow in numbers enjoying the support and sharing experiences and information. The forum is an independent space, led by Leaders of DCIL and supported by Donegal CIL and the Center for Independent Living in Dublin. The Forum has two main purposes;

- To provide peer support with an opportunity to share experience and ideas
- Is a commitment to advocacy

The group provides an important social outlet and is of great benefit to those experiencing isolation. An example of this is that members of the Donegal CIL Leader Forum attended a performance of 'Signs of a Diva', in February in An Grianan. The performance was innovative in that it was accessible to all audiences via captioned text, signed songs and audio description. The evening of music and dance was led by Caroline, a deaf actor who also presented a workshop on signed song the day before the performance.

The Donegal CIL Leader Forum acts as a voice for Leaders across Donegal. As part of that role, the group have registered with the Council for representation as members in the new Council led Public Participation Network. Membership of the Public Participation Network will allow the Donegal CIL Leader Forum to take an active formal role in the policy making and activities of the Local Authority's areas of responsibility. The group hope to continue in this vein and make representations on other relevant committees and groups in the community.

The group have been seeking to address issues of inequalities experienced by disabled people in Donegal. Work in the last year has included the addressing the issues of mobility allowance, water charges, employment and transport, in particular the Marley Hospital Bus and accessible public transport and bus options.

New members of the forum are always welcome. The forum acts as a voice for Leaders in Donegal on issues related to service providers as well as local and national government so participation of members is crucial.

The group are currently supporting the initiation of a Donegal Youth Leader forum which will focus mainly on the 18-35 year old leaders within DCIL and look at issues and organise activities which are of interest to this age group. The group plans to network with their European Counterparts within similar youth groups around Europe. This group is due to be co-ordinated by Seamus McGrory and other Leaders within DCIL.

Membership to the forums is open to all disabled people that support the independent living philosophy. The groups are always keen to welcome new members so if interested please get in contact with us if you'd like to become involved.

"TIME OUT FOR YOU" PROJECT

HOW WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

The Time Out for You(TOFU) group in Letterkenny provides a wonderful support to 12 women, each of whom are very aware of each other's limitations but speak to each other's strengths, this group is an invaluable source of support and encouragement to me and over the years we have formed great friendships.

Thanks to funding from Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) the support of DCIL's personal assistant provides a vital support in keeping the group going and this is very much appreciated by all. DLDC's funding also supports the cost of a number of facilitators that cover different themes and subjects. These interesting and motivating inputs help widen the discussion and add another dimension to the sharing.

This year TOFU participated in 'How women make a difference in the world'. This was a series of workshops that were held around the county and were facilitated by Kate Wilkinson, Donegal Change Makers. The age of the participants ranged from 13 years old to 86 years of age and while there was deep and meaningful discussion as with any women's group laughter and fun were part for the course!



The picture shows from left to right, Brenda Callaghan, Margo Thompson, Mona Dowling, Georgina Montgomery, Jacqueline mc Cready and Jean Devenney with other members of TOFU creating their collage.

Sadly, there was deep shock and sadness felt by all members of the TOFU group this year with passing of Deidre mc Morrow, her gentle presence is greatly missed by all.

The TOFU group is supported by NCCWN- Donegal Women's Network in collaboration with DCIL.

DCIL FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES 2014

As you all can imagine with DCIL's moving to the new premises this year the need for people to get involved in fundraising is of extra importance.

This is a great opportunity for Leaders and PA's to participate and promote independent living within their community by doing something positive, whether it's a coffee morning, cake sale, 5k event etc. Some of the fundraising events which were held around Donegal over the last year by leaders, PA's, friends and families where a sponsored Head Shave, Coffee Mornings, Car Washes and old clothes collections with transition year students. Two of our main fundraising events this year included the northwest 10K, and Shane and Jennifer taking flight for DCIL.

NORTHWEST 10K

A number of Leaders, PA's and DCIL staff participated in this year's Northwest 10K, which was held in Letterkenny at the start of May. This event is a fantastic opportunity not only to raise the profile of DCIL in the northwest and promote Independent Living but to give people a goal to complete 10K.



Some members of the DCIL who completed the North West 10K

If you wish to have that sense of achievement when crossing the finish line, please try to commit to doing the 10K next year and try to get as many friends and family to do it in aid of Donegal Centre for Independent Living....."You Can Do It"

DCIL FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES 2014

JENNIFER TAKES FLIGHT FOR DONEGAL CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Jennifer Doherty & Co-worker Shane Bradley flew a plane for the Donegal Centre for Independent Living in September.

The flight was arranged to fly from Newtownards Airfield, Co. Down on Tuesday 16th of September; Disability Pride Group had teamed up with Aerobility to make this possible, in the lead-up to the Disability Pride event in Belfast.



DCIL would like to say thank you to all the people who fund raised and organised events which helped raise funds and awareness for the Donegal Centre of Independent Living over the past year and again encourage more people to do the same.



DCIL ACTION PLAN 2014 – 2015

- The New DCIL Premises will be used to its full potential providing an accessible venue to host all administration, activities and projects of the organisation.
- The Training centres usage will be maximised to ensure that we create links, networking opportunities and awareness within the wider community.
- DCIL will this year raise the awareness and profile of our organisation through various media projects and public relations.
- DCIL will continue to support Leaders to take control of their own lives and to embrace the philosophy of Independent Living.
- DCIL will continue to provide appropriate levels of support to PA's and Leaders with regular reviews and contact from support workers.
- DCIL would like to this year facilitate and support the development of a Youth Forum / Network for 18-35 year old disabled people in Donegal.
- DCIL aims to this year further develop its capacity to produce and publish quality information relating to the organisation and circulate it amongst our Staff and Leaders, whilst also maintaining the DCIL website and Social Networking pages.
- DCIL will continue to provide appropriate training to Personal Assistants and Leaders (service users) including refresher courses throughout the year. The training needs of DCIL Core Staff will also be explored.
- Following on from the success seen last year, DCIL will continue in its efforts to host the NUI Disability Studies Certificate Course for a further year in Donegal.
- DCIL will this year investigate possibilities regarding both the establishment of a centre of excellence
- DCIL will continue to provide and develop supports and services to help bridge the gap that has developed for disabled people through cuts in PA hours.
- DCIL will continue to bring the disability awareness training programme to schools around the county whilst also looking at furthering the sustainability of this programme over the coming years.
- DCIL will this year seek to expand further the number of participants employed through the Community Employment Scheme.
- DCIL will continue with its research into the establishment of Direct Payment options/projects to help ensure we can provide an informed service and support to those in receipt of Direct Payments in the future.

DCIL ACTION PLAN 2014 – 2015

- The continuation of work in the introduction of PQASSO will be carried out to ensure our policies and procedures are operational and fit for purpose and comply with current legislation.
- DCIL Board of Directors will this year attempt to broaden the range of skills and expertise within the Board and continue to develop as a robust organisation on terms of governance and administrative competence.
- DCIL will this year embark on further fundraising campaigns in our efforts to retain services and encourage developments.

CONCLUSION

Both an exciting and challenging year has certainly been had within DCIL, where we have seen the growth, maintenance and development of our current services together with the establishment of our new premises in Ballymacool House. The new premises to-date has exceeded all our expectations. We as an organisation have finally taken our rightful place in the community and already have been overwhelmed by the interest and support shown to us by the general public. This obviously means a lot to us but more importantly for us in DCIL – Our Staff, Leaders and members have been absolutely thrilled with the end result which is and always will be our biggest priority. DCIL'S mission is to support disabled people in Donegal to achieve independent living, to have choice and control over their own lives, and to actively participate as equal citizens in society. DCIL now have a solid base in which we can grow and achieve our potential.

We in DCIL will continue to challenge and review our services and ensure that they are provided in a manner which is responsive to the needs of the Leaders using our services and that we deliver them in the most effective and efficient way.

DCIL has this year been presented with some significant challenges as an organisation; however we believe that those involved in the running of DCIL have the commitment, belief and capacity to see the organisation through this new and exciting era.

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the DCIL Core Staff Team & Personal Assistants. The resourcefulness and dedication which we very much depend upon as an organisation has been evident throughout the year and we would like to extend our thanks to all the team who provided this professionalism.

We wish to thank the Board of Directors and particularly acknowledge the support and commitment they have provided over the year. We would like to commend them on the positive developments throughout the year and on behalf of all members of DCIL I wish to thank them for their service and contribution to DCIL Board throughout the year.

We look forward with enthusiasm the challenges that this year may bring and trust that you have found this report to be both informative and a true reflection of our work to-date this year.

As Always – I offer our thanks for your continued support and interest in our organisation.

Rosaleen Bradley

DCIL Manager



DONEGAL CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Ballymacool House, Ballymacool,
Letterkenny, County Donegal.

Tel: 074 9128945

Email: dcil@eircom.net

www.donegalcil.com