



DONEGAL CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

WELCOME



2015 saw Donegal Centre for Independent Living (DCIL) officially open and celebrate our new premises here in Ballymacool House and what an achievement it has been. We have been in operation now for 16 years and it has been a tough but incredible journey.

The vision and pioneering spirit of the DCIL Board and Staff Team - and the work and commitment of everybody involved with this unique organisation, has meant that we have made huge strides in bringing meaning to the term "Independent Living."

In 2015 we entered into another period of austerity where belts had to be tightened right across the board, from businesses to households to individuals, with its inevitable impact on the quality of life for people with a disability and their families. This Annual Report describes some of these negative impacts, but it also shows the efforts made by DCIL to continue to provide the highest level of service despite such constraints.

Special thanks go to the brilliant DCIL staff, who for a small group of people, have continued to go beyond their call of duty throughout the year.

Our Leaders and Personal Assistants having worked tirelessly this year in their involvement in both fundraising and promotional campaigns and I thank you for these efforts as additional funds are crucial to our ongoing services and development.

DCIL is one of Donegal's wonderful success stories. In DCIL people with disabilities have established, grown and developed an organisation that is here to support people in leading active and independent lives whilst also ensuring that society have the opportunity to embrace and understand the necessity of equal rights for all.

We look forward now to continuing to lead the way in quality inclusive services and remain innovative in the services we are developing and in our positive promotion of disability rights and equality throughout Donegal, nationally and at a European level. As we move forward in 2015 and beyond, I am proud of what DCIL has accomplished since our establishment in 1999 and am excited about the future. Our organisation is strong and vibrant, and together we will continue our efforts to provide valuable Independent Living services and contribute to the realisation of rights for people with disabilities.

Rosaleen Bradley

DCIL General Manager



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Donegal Centre for Independent Living (DCIL) has evolved over the past 15 years to become the primary service provider in the Northwest, delivering 1,728 hours PA service per week to Disabled People (Leaders) all over Donegal. The Personal Assistant (PA) service is the integral part of the Independent Living Movement providing assistance to disabled people to live independently with choice and control over their own lives and live a life of their own choosing.

DCIL currently support 123 Leaders with their PA service on a weekly basis employing a staff of 137. DCIL has the opportunity to see on a daily basis the impact PA'S have on the lives of disabled people in Donegal, and are highly aware of the serious difficulties imposed on people with disabilities by the severe cutbacks over the past few years and the impact this has on the PA service, because an effective Personal Assistant service is an essential part of the social justice infrastructure, as it enables people with disabilities to participate in society as rightful citizens.

The way the PA service has fared is an important indicator of the present financial climate and policy. When austerity appeared, funding for the PA service decreased, prioritization of 'care provision' over social support has increased, and the meaning and understanding of a PA service has been challenged, with the over 66's suffering the most. DCIL strive in their power to cushion, absorb and minimize the impact this has had on the Personal Assistant service 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 that they are unable to do for themselves.

DCIL continue to support students who come from far and near to the LYIT with the Educational Support Workers (ESW) service, enabling them to have the first taste of independence and student experience while studying their chosen subjects and gaining their qualification. Having an ESW gives the student who may not have had a PA before, an experience of an Independent Living service, opening their minds to the possibilities of having a PA to support them while moving on to the next phase of their lives.

This year as part of DCIL Developments, a decision was made to lower the entry age of the PA service to 12 years of age, allowing younger people with disabilities who have the ability to access the PA service at an earlier stage, with the vision that early intervention with training and suitable supports are the key to a successful service assisting them to reach their full potential throughout their life.

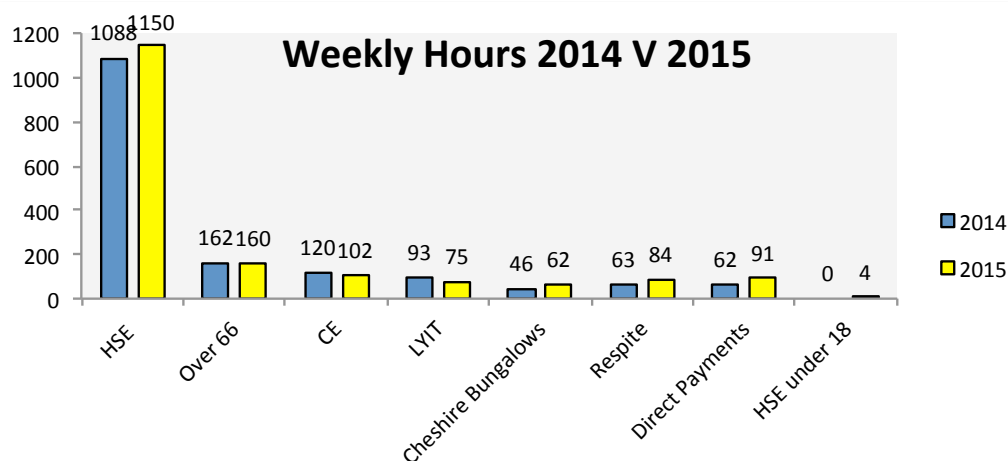
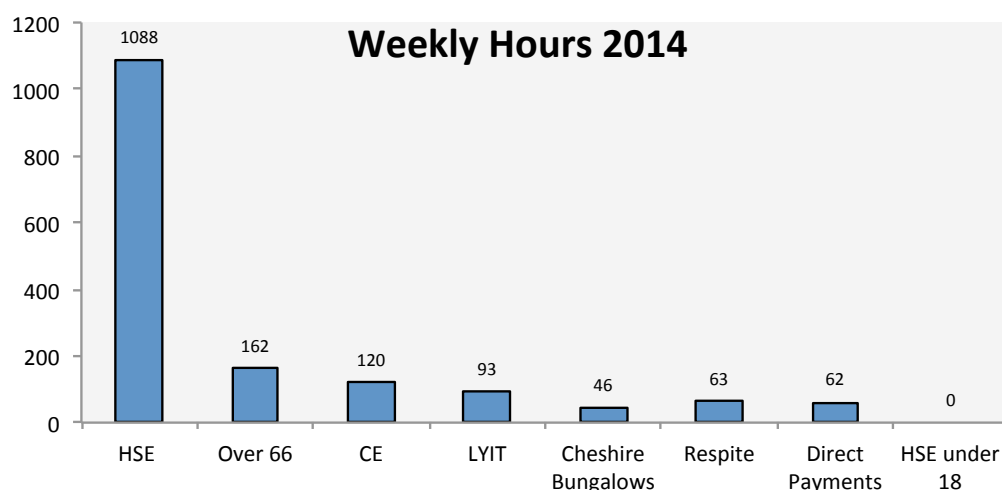
DCIL have embraced the new world of technology e.g. facebook, twitter etc. to facilitate communication of information to and from the Leaders and Pa's while preserving the human touch by means of an open door/line policy with home reviews enabling DCIL to provide a user friendly supportive service at all times while fulfilling our obligations to all stakeholders in a professional and transparent approach.

DCIL PERSONAL ASSISTANT SERVICES

The table and charts below illustrate the breakdown of the total weekly hours of 1728, the variance between 2014 -2015 and DCIL Funders.

Services	2014	2015	Variance	Funding
HSE P&S	1088	1150	+5.7%	HSE Physical & Sensory
Over 66's	162	160	-1.2%	Older Person
CE	120	102	-15%	Dept of Social Protection
LYIT	93	75	-19.3%	LYIT (HEA)
Cheshire Bungalows	46	62	+34.8%	HSE Physical & Sensory
Respite	63	84	+33.3%	HSE Respite Care Services
Direct Payments	62	91	+46.8%	Leaders
HSE under 18	0	4	0%	HSE Physical & Sensory

Overall DCIL PA Services has increased by 5.75% per week



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT 2014 – 2015

WHAT IS COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT?

“The Community Employment (CE) programme is designed to help people who are long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged people to get back to work by offering part-time and temporary placements in jobs based within local communities”.

DCIL's CE Project has certainly achieved these objectives and many more besides. We continue in our 16th year with an increased number of 18 participants. To date, Aug 2015, 27% of these participants have progressed into employment. We are confident that this trend will continue and we have already exceeded the 20% target that we had set ourselves for October 2015.

Our directive from DSP is that participant's roles within the project should be rotated throughout the year giving them experience in different positions within the organisation. This year we have indeed incorporated this into the participant's work/training week with people gaining experience in:

- PA Service/Training Support – Liaising with Leaders and PA's re-training, cover, events etc
- Direct payments – Research and planning
- Finance – Bank accounts, payroll, budgets
- Schools Program – PA Assistance
- Fundraising – Skydive, quizzes, ticket selling
- Maintenance – Grounds, interior and exterior of building
- Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Website



Eric Funston maintaining the lawns



Kevin Reilly tending to the flowers



*Aine Friel welcoming
UN Delegation to DCIL*



*Martin McBride with his PA Tony McNamee
at Dunfanaghy Golf Club*

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT 2014 – 2015

TRAINING

A full and extensive training programme continues with the introductions of the Health Service Skills FETAC Level 5 for those participants who are eager to complete the accredited award.



CE Participant who completed the “Skills for Gaining Employment” course Accredited through OCN NI



CE Participants Sean Dougan & Seamus McGrory, hard at work in reception

SOCIAL INTERACTION

For many people on CE the social aspect of work and play can have a very positive influence on their lives, and this year there has been plenty of both. Social outings for some have included concerts, quizzes, and late night parties! Xmas lunch and of course an overnight on Tory Island hosted by our own Christina Rodgers (Princess of Tory).



Attending the Errigal Arts Festival at the Mt Errigal Hotel



Partying on Tory Island

DCIL SUPERVISOR TRAINING

In line with DCIL's policy of continual training and up-skilling of core staff, the CE Supervisor, along with 2 other staff members, has completed the 4 day intensive Self Supported Directed Living (SSDL) programme. This training was delivered by Dr Paul Doherty through GENIO. The basis of the training was an in-depth coaching and mentoring programme to encourage and support people towards independent living. The supervisor's participation was part funded by DSP and DCIL.

REVIEW

DSP have carried out their annual financial and training audit. The CE bank account and finances were found to be in order and the Project has been deemed complainant. We are actively recruiting for next year.

We are delighted that the Berkeley Suite has been very busy this year with the Education Training Board, Donegal Carers, Donegal Ambulance Service, Irish Wheelchair Association and the HSE to name a few have all availing of the suite in numerous occasions. The Berkeley Suite is the main hub for Donegal CIL's training and upskilling. We have run various in-house training days and workshops for Leaders and PA's throughout the year; these include Independent Living Workshops, People, Moving and Handling, First Aid and the Maynooth University's Disability Studies Course.

DISABILITY AWARENESS SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Disability Awareness programme was first rolled out in National Schools in 2010 and continued to 2013. The programme was aimed at children between third and sixth class, and was delivered over two weekly one-hour sessions.

The Children participating had the opportunity to learn about different types of disabilities, physical, sensory and hidden disabilities, which are not always obvious when you first meet somebody. They learned about the barriers and challenges that these people might face, and ways that these can be overcome. Approximately 1,400 children throughout the county participated in the programme.

From late 2013, DCIL began providing Disability Awareness workshops to transition year students in secondary schools. The workshop was funded and supported by Irish Aid's, World Wise, Global Schools programme, and 2014 - 2015 was another very successful year. 29 workshops were delivered in total, to 712 students around Donegal.



INDEPENDENT LIVING WORKSHOPS

These workshops are very important for both Leaders and PA's. They challenge Leaders to direct their own service and identify the role & responsibilities of both a Leader and PA. At the end of the workshop you are able to understand how the barriers in society can 'disable' a Leader and have some knowledge of the history and background to the Independent Living movement.

These Independent Living Workshop are a great opportunity for you to check out our new building and training centre, specifically made for Leaders and PA's to help develop your skills and have a better understanding of Independent Living, also learn with others ways in which you can manage your PA Service more efficiently.

We want to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all Leaders and PA's who have attended this workshop and we're delighted with the feedback so far.



Leaders and PA's who attended the workshop in Donegal Town

DISABILITY STUDIES COURSE (HETAC LEVEL 7)

The Berkeley Suite also hosted the Maynooth University's Certificate in Disability Studies Course, this was the third year DCIL have facilitated this course. On completion the participants obtained a high level of qualification at HETAC Level 7, many of these are working within DCIL, social services, the HSE, education, voluntary sector and care sector and have found this qualification very beneficial.



The number of participants was up from the previous year from 10 to 14, with 13 participants successfully completing the course. The course examines the Medical and Social Models of disability and addresses current issues experienced by disabled people it also provides an in-depth insight to the Independent Living movement in Ireland and Europe. The teaching style of the tutor proved hugely beneficial to Leaders and PA's who participated enabling everyone to share their experience and learn from each other.

DCIL are hopeful the next course will commence in October 2015, this will be subject to acquiring the correct amount of funding.

PEOPLE, MOVING & HANDLING

The People, Moving & Handling training is designed to provide the participants with the knowledge and skill they need to carry out a Manual / Person, Handling Risk Assessment and to move people and loads safely. Within the course the PA's are made aware to contact DCIL of any tasks become unsafe to themselves or their Leader so DCIL can introduce control measures to prevent injury accruing.

This year DCIL was contacted several times by various other organisations looking for DCIL to up-skill their staff, this has been beneficial to DCIL not only financially but also we are able to promote the ethos and philosophy of Independent Living to people who may have a different view on disability. Thankfully with the Health Care Skills course more and more new employees are trained in this area with our current PA's refreshing every two years. The remaining PA's who needs refreshed will be completed by mid October 2015.

FIRST AID COURSE

This summer we rolled out a list of dates for First Aid courses for all PA's weather it's the full course or a refresher, this will bring all our staff up to date with current technique used during First Aid. The Cardiac First Response - Community Level Course is designed to provide the ability to recognize several life-threatening emergencies, provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - CPR, use an Automated External Defibrillator - AED, and relieve choking in a safe, timely and effective manner.

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) has put in place national guidelines to ensure the participants are practicing to best international standards; these guidelines are designed to set and maintain standards of Pre-Hospital Emergency Care for practitioners and responders in Ireland.



The feedback from the participants who completed this course to date has been positive notably how hands on and practical the course is; these participants have participated fully and to a high standard. The attendance at these training days have been poor however DCIL acknowledge it may be difficult to attend some training days but it is part of your contract and a legal requirement that all PA's attend training.

DCIL CORE STAFF TRAINING

As DCIL is an ever changing organisation it is imperative that the core staff have the skills to drive forward these changes. With this in mind three staff members attend a four day course in Self Supported Directed Living (SSDL). The training introduces SSDL practice to frontline service personnel in the statutory and voluntary sectors. A number of approaches have been found to contribute towards the achievement of SSDL, the most prominent being 'Independent Living', 'Recovery', 'Social Role Valorisation' and 'Person-Centred Dementia care'. Whilst these various approaches adopt somewhat differing focuses and frames, they share in common a powerful commitment to facilitating good life outcomes for people, as well as an ability to demonstrate effectiveness in bringing such outcomes about.



SSDL Tutor Dr. Paul Doherty with Shane Bradley, Pat McCafferty and Seamus McGrory from DCIL

Our three staff members have returned good feedback from this intensive course and are incorporating some course content to their work which can only enhance our organisation further.

Many thanks to all who has contributed and/or has assisted in any way to DCIL Training this year, notable Leaders and PA's. It's our goal to have a highly trained workforce within DCIL however we need Leader's and PA's assistance to achieve this, it is imperative that all who are invited to any training especially Independent Living - People, Moving and Handling and First Aid, please attend.



It's been a very busy year in HR at Donegal Centre for Independent Living and hard to believe another year has passed.

DCIL continues to attract applications from Personal Assistants and we retain potential suitable applicants on a database from which we can draw PAs across the geographical areas in the county. This means that when, sometimes at short notice, we need a PA in a particular area, we can review our database and quickly see if we have PAs in the area.

We ran a number of competitions during the last year and it's obvious from the high response that DCIL has become an employer of choice. This was reinforced yet again during the recent competition for P/T Finance administrator when we had a huge volume of high calibre applicants for this position from across the country. We had to shortlist candidates and are thankful for the assistance of HR Team during this competition. We are happy to welcome Fiona Farren on board who was the successful applicant and took up her post on 1st July 2015.

The short timeframe in which to engage Education Support Workers (ESWs) has always been a challenge for DCIL, in that the timeframe between Leaving Cert students obtaining their results and uptake of courses at the LYIT gave very little room for appropriate selection processes to take place. To try to overcome this difficulty, we advertised through DCIL Facebook page in June for ESWs, interviewed potential candidates in early July and have created a panel of suitable ESWs from which we can match to students attending LYIT for the next two years, depending on uptake numbers. Thank you to Roisin Mc Cormack Access Officer at LYIT for her assistance during the interview process.

We continue to utilise technology in our recruitment campaigns to ensure efficient and cost effective measures in all that we do – postage has become quite expensive so where we can we will use emails and text messaging systems.

Policy up-dates are ongoing and are just one of the many important functions of the HR department. Our job is never done in this regard and it's a continual process.

Last and definitely not least, our PAs know the HR Department is here for them too and they have increasingly sought our advice and information. We are always glad to help at berniedcil@eircom.net



DIRECT PAYMENT

DCIL are in the process of researching the benefits of implementing a Direct Payments Scheme. Direct payments have been operating in the UK for almost twenty years. Both the Government and the HSE have been considering the benefits of the implementation of Direct Payments for the past few years, but as yet no firm decision has been made and there is no legislation in place that would entitle a person with a disability to a Direct Payment. Over the past couple of years however the HSE has implemented several pilot schemes around the country to establish the potential take up and what the likely benefits of operating a Direct Payment Scheme would be. After being assessed by the HSE, a support plan is written up, which identifies the type of support required, the number of hours allocated and the budget allocation. Direct Payment is money paid to people with disabilities to enable them to employ, either directly or indirectly, people and services to assist them with everyday tasks. The main objective of direct payments is to increase a person's independence and enable the individual to have more choice and control. The person with a disability is in control of the budget which is allocated to them and the payment must only be spent on the services identified in their support plan.

The person with disabilities may then be responsible for recruitment, PAYE, insurance, training and managing staff.

Because this may seem quite daunting and complex, DCIL are researching various ways in which it can provide support and assist the person with a disability in managing their Direct Payment.

Our research is at a very early stage and we hope to provide our members with the findings over the next few months.

DCIL Leaders should not be scared of considering a Direct Payment when the scheme is officially in place. DCIL will provide all participants with the information, training and Support to operate a Direct Payment if that is the choice of the Leader.

As they say in the newspapers, watch this space.



ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS & CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Christmas Party took place in the Silver Tassie and once more it was a huge success, there was a great turnout with Leaders, PA's, Core staff and Guests in attendance, enjoying good food drinks and the craic. The lively music was provided by the talented Jackson Rox who with their infinite repertoire of good music that got people up and dancing on the floor for the duration of the night.



DCIL ANNUAL AWARDS 2014

Once again there was a huge interest in the Leader of The Year and PA of the Year awards with a large nomination for both, leaving a difficult task for the DCIL judges who after a lot of deliberation selected a winner from each category. The Leader of the Year award 2014 went to the much worthy Patricia Mc Caffrey from Donegal Town and the PA of the Year award went to the hard working enthusiastic recipient Emma Shields from Glen, Carrigart.



Patricia Mc Caffrey receiving her Leader of the year award from DCIL's Marian O'Donnell, also pictured is Sandra McGrory who nominated Patricia



Christopher McBrearty receiving the PA of the Year award on behalf of this PA Emma Shields.

Thanks to all the Leaders and Pa's who took the time to enter their nomination as this is an opportunity to acknowledge the effort your Leader/PA make during the year.

An Appreciation Award was presented to John Mc Nutt by who was retiring in the New Year, and had worked as a Personal Assistant with DCIL for 7 years. This award was presented to John by his Leader Dinny O Leary who said a few words of appreciation to John for work and dedication over the years.

DCIL MEDIA AND INFORMATION

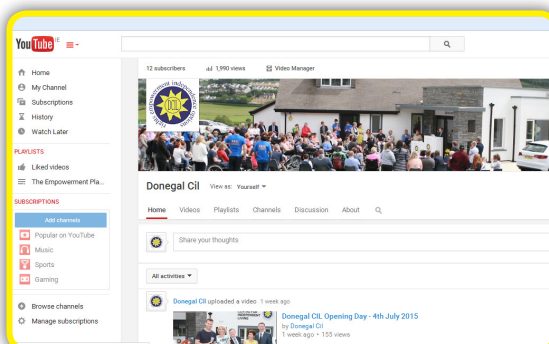
DCIL have been very active on social media in the last year, we have worked at aiming to keep our online profile at the forefront and continue to raise public awareness of DCIL through Facebook, Twitter and our website. Facebook and Twitter have now become of the most effective, instant and influential methods of communication and getting the message out there to our followers. We have seen a further increase in our followers likes and visits to our page, this is excellent and we hope will continue to grow.



www.facebook.com/donegal.cil



www.twitter.com/donegalcil



www.youtube.com



www.donegalcil.com

We try to keep everyone update with anything that is going on in the office and throughout DCIL – this is a great way of keeping people informed and being interactive with our leaders, PA's and supporters. We share issues that we think may be of interest to our followers, such as local events, articles relating to disability or independent living as well as general information.

We are very grateful to Liam Callaghan, as he continues to provide invaluable guidance and support to our Social Media officer and continues to update our website, on a regular basis, all completely voluntary.



DCIL OFFICIAL OPENING OF “BALLYMACOOL HOUSE”

From our tiny shoots at Larkin’s Lane (in 1999) we branched out to Long Lane and then to McCaul House, Pearse Road, but DCIL have now finally put down it’s roots in our newly renovated building at Ballymacool House, Letterkenny. Ballymacool House provides for the administration of all our services as well as the brand new Training Centre which we believe is key to the future of DCIL and its potential.

We were honoured to have Republic of Ireland goalkeeper, Shay Given, and Martin Naughton one of the founding members of CIL’s movement in Ireland performed the Official Opening of our magnificent new Donegal Centre of Independent Living premises “Ballymacool House” on, appropriately, Independence Day, 4th July 2015. We cannot thank these two enough for taking the time out of their busy lives to do this for us.

The Ballymacool House Official Opening was an opportunity for DCIL to highlight its achievements and to acknowledge the hard work of the many people involved over the years including its Board, past and present. Donegal Centre of Independent Living has a future that is as bright and gleaming as its new premises.

SOME PICTURES OF THE OPENING



DCIL OFFICIAL OPENING OF “BALLYMACCOOL HOUSE”



Donegal Centre for Independent Living would like to say a massive thank you to all who attended our Official Opening at Ballymacool House. We were blessed with good weather, chat, food, music and a few special guests.

DCIL POSITIVE PROMOTION & AWARENESS VIDEOS

We continue to strive to inform the public the positive impact DCIL have on the lives of Disabled People in Donegal and what Independent Living really means. These videos enable us to promote a positive perception on disability not only here in Donegal and Ireland but with social media these messages can be spread worldwide in a short period of time. Over the last year we produced three new videos.

**The first video was “European Independent Living Day”,
which was to mark Independent Living Day 5th May.**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O95G_vY7jmQ

**The second video was “Equal Rights for All” featuring the Donegal GAA Team.
This promotion was to help create a better future for all.**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4U-d1R3G-U>

The third video was DCIL Official Opening of “Ballymacool House”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVBbprO2vgE>

All of DCIL's videos can be viewed through our YouTube page, please feel free to “Share”

DCIL POSITIVE PROMOTION & AWARENESS VIDEOS

SOME PICTURES FROM OUR “EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL” VIDEO
FEATURING THE DONEGAL GAA TEAM



DCIL HOST THE EHEALTH: INDEPENDENCE AND INCLUSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

On the 20th of October 2014 DCIL welcomed a large congregation of EU delegates to our new premises at Ballymacool House, the team were visiting us as part of the Ehealth: Independence and Inclusion in the 21st Century Conference.



DCIL was chosen of one of the site visits by the Assembly of European Regions (AER), in partnership with Donegal County Council. The delegates came from across Europe and include such countries as Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Denmark and Spain.



This was a very welcomed networking opportunity for DCIL where we showcased our current services and commitment to social inclusion, we would like to thank the Donegal County Council for selecting our organisation.



DONEGAL LEADER FORUM (DLF)

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 Donegal CIL Leader Forum provides peer support and is committed to advocacy and membership is open to all Leaders in the county.

As members of the Public Participation Network (PPN) in Donegal, the Forum made a submission to the Council to highlight issues of inequality and lack of access experienced by people with disabilities in Donegal. Key themes included accessibility of public spaces, accessible parking and the lack of public transport.

The Donegal CIL Leader Forum also recommended that the DCIL Disability Awareness School Programme should be resourced and supported by Donegal County Council, that the Council provide financial support to community based organisations supporting and delivering on goals to develop community development and inclusion, that the Council support training of community members and groups through organisations like ourselves.

The Donegal CIL Leader Forum has played a significant role in the National Leader Forum (NLF) project this year. Members of the group attended the National Leader Forum events and at the NLF event on transport member Tommy Halligan represented the Leaders of Donegal and elsewhere discussing the lack of public transport in rural areas and the need for supports like Mobility Allowance, Motorised Transport Grants and tax back on fuel to facilitate private car ownership to access work, community life and to maintain independence.



Tommy Halligan addressing the forum regarding public transport in rural areas



Donna Russell Representing DCIL

The Donegal LF has worked in co-operation with CIL Leader Forum groups around the country on the putting together an election manifesto in anticipation of a general election next year. The National Leader Forum will support this with a national training and peer sharing day in September around developing advocacy skills.

New members to 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. Membership is open to all people with disabilities that support the independent living philosophy. Further info on upcoming meetings is available from Marian O'Donnell in the DCIL office or via Naoise Cunningham at naoiscunningham@dublincil.org.

“TIME OUT FOR YOU” PROJECT

Time Out for You (TOFU) group continues to provide an opportunity for like minded women with disabilities, to meet on a regular basis to socialise and participate in information sessions, providing support to each other while learning new skills and having fun.

This year the group have the added bonus of DCIL’s new Berkeley Suite, where they group can meet over a cup of tea scones and chat, deciding what topics they would like to explore and where they can have their facilitated sessions in high-tech ambience.

Funding from Donegal Local Development was utilized by the group to buy in facilitators for interesting and enjoyable sessions for mind body & spirit care. Meditation classes taking place in a calm relaxed atmosphere and learning practices of staying with the present. Looking after You/Health/Body sessions with simple exercises to suit all, nutrition discussion with questions and answers were benefited by all.

TOFU also tapped into HSE Self Management classes covering topics of healthy eating, weight management, sleep management and exercises.

Funding from the Vec was sourced for a Mindfulness course covering stress relief and relaxation techniques. The women also enjoyed visits from inspirational speaker Sr. Helen Kelly who covered several topics with the primary focus on ‘living in the moment’.

Again back by popular demand by TOFU was the Card Making & Crafting classes enjoyed by all.

The group meet after the summer recess in September over lunch to regroup discuss and plan what they want to do over the coming year.

TOFU is supported by DCIL and DWN- Donegal Women’s Network.



DCIL FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

DCIL “PARACHUTE JUMP”

We had one of our most adventurous and fun events arranged for the August bank holiday this last which was a “PARACHUTE JUMP”. This event was equally about raising awareness for DCIL and to highlight that despite having varied abilities or disabilities, this event was limitless and was open to everyone to take part in, no matter what your disability. The money raised to purchase an accessible van, the van would be available to all the Leaders throughout Donegal. This would be of huge benefit to many of our Leaders and would enable them to have easier access to their communities and fully participate in society.

A number of events were held to help with the substantial registration fee required for each participant which included a successful Coffee Morning hosted by Donna Russell as well as a Quiz Night held in Arena 7 organised by Brian Gallagher.



Unfortunately the Parachute Jump had to be postponed due to stormy weather conditions. All parachute dives for that particular weekend were put on hold. This will now be scheduled for early next year and DCIL would like to thank you all for your continued support and patience.



DCIL ACTION PLAN 2015 – 2016

- DCIL will continue in its success of this year in developing and broadening our range of services and supports to a wider range of service users.
- The DCIL Training centre will be used to create further links, networking opportunities and awareness within the wider community.
- DCIL will this year continue to raise the awareness and profile of our organisation through our various media projects and public relations.
- DCIL will continue to support Leaders in taking control of their own lives and to embrace the philosophy of Independent Living through training and support.
- DCIL will continue to provide appropriate training to Personal Assistants and Leaders (service users) including refresher courses throughout the year.
- DCIL will investigate ways in which we can ensure that our teenagers with disabilities have an understanding of what it is to engage in Independent Living prior to reaching the age of 18, which will help them plan for the future with confidence.
- DCIL will carry out research to establish current level of skills and qualifications amongst staff and draw up a report and action plan based on its findings.
- DCIL will provide disability awareness training programmes to schools around the county whilst also looking at furthering the sustainability of this programme over the coming years.
- 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 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 seek further funding opportunities that can enhance the organisations future development.



CONCLUSION

It has been yet another successful year of services, activities and development within DCIL where we have continued to review our services and ensure that they are provided in a manner which is responsive to the needs of our Leaders using our services and that we deliver them in the most effective, efficient and dignified way.

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 look forward with enthusiasm the challenges that the next year will bring and hope that you have found this report to be both informative, comprehensive and an accurate reflection of our work this year.

DCIL would like to use this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and 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 we wish to thank them for their service and contribution to the DCIL Board throughout the year.

We offer our extended thanks for your continued support and interest in our organisation and look forward to your continued support in the coming year.





DONEGAL CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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www.donegalcil.com