

Document Reference Number	1.3 The Philosophy of Independent Living (Introduction)		
Document developed by	CEO & Support and Development Team	Document approved by	CEO & DCIL Board Members
Approval date	May 2021	Revised: Next Revision Date:	January 2023 January 2025
Responsibility for Implementation	DCIL Staff	Responsibility for review and audit	DCIL Support & Development Team

POLICY STATEMENT:

DCIL's Philosophy of Independent Living should be clear and comprehensible to all Staff and Service Users.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that all DCIL Staff and Service Users (Leaders) have a clear understanding of the Philosophy of Independent Living.

SCOPE:

This policy refers to all staff working within the Donegal Centre for Independent Living, as well as Leaders accessing our services.

PROCEDURE:

- 1.2.1 DCIL aims to base its whole belief system on the Philosophy of Independent Living, which is the Social Model Approach to Disability.
- 1.2.2 DCIL believes that disability is caused by the social, physical and attitudinal barriers placed in their way by society in general.
- 1.2.3 DCIL believes that Society should expel all negative approaches to People with Disability.
- 1.2.4 DCIL believes that it should encourage People with Disabilities to be integrated as fully as possible into their local communities.
- 1.2.5 DCIL believes that People with Disabilities are discriminated against by inadequate building design, lack of Special Needs Assistants, etc.
- 1.2.6 DCIL believes that it is our job to Encourage, Promote and Empower People with Disabilities to become Independent with the support and assistance of a Personal Assistant Service.

- 1.2.7 DCIL rejects the Medical Model approach to disability which believes that Disability is the Individual disabled person's problem.
- 1.2.8 The medical model approach believes that the Doctor is always the expert.
- 1.2.9 The medical model believes that People with Disabilities cannot make decisions that affect their own Life.
- 1.2.10 The medical model believes a Non-disabled Person is more "Normal" than a Person with a Disability.
- 1.2.11 The medical model believes that it is ok to assume or prejudge a Person's Ability or Disability.
- 1.2.12 People with Disabilities totally reject being pitied or patronized in any way by other People in Society.
- 1.2.13 It is crucial for all staff to remember to treat everyone equally and work within a more empathetic and non-patronising way.
- 1.2.14 It is the responsibility by all DCIL Staff (Core Staff and PA's) and service users to embrace the Social Model approach to Disability, which is the Philosophy of Independent Living; empowering people with disabilities to live inclusively in their local communities.
- 1.2.15 We must reject old institutional attitudes towards Disability and strive towards educating people in a more positive and respectful way.

LEGISLATION/ REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY /OTHER RELATED POLICIES:

Centre for Independent Living, Carmichael House, Dublin
Donegal Centre for Independent Living, Dublin

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is the responsibility of DCIL staff to comply with the above policy.

It is the responsibility of the DCIL Support & Development Team to ensure the compliance of the above policy.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

It is the responsibility of the DCIL Support & Development Team to roll out and implement the above policy to all DCIL staff.

REVISION AND AUDIT:

This policy will be reviewed in January 2025 by the DCIL Support & Development Team and CEO of DCIL.