

ROVING REPORTERS

Our First Year Adventures





ARC NI facilitates groups of adults with a learning disability called 'Telling It Like It Is' (TILII) to speak out on issues that matter to them. There are TILII groups within Bangor, Belfast/Lisburn and Downpatrick community. There are also two TILII groups at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

In 2016/17 TILII members had the opportunity to develop new skills in reporting. TILII members wanted to tell you about their journey.

TILII is supported by:



Association for Real Change, Northern Ireland

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🔗 arcuk.org.uk/northernireland/influence-voice/telling-it-like-it-is/

🐦 @arcni

📘 facebook.com/TILIItellingitlikeitis/

Extra! Extra!

This year we started a new project called Roving Reporting. TILII members had to learn new skills like researching stories, planning questions interviewing people, taking photographs and designing the report.

Interviewing people was easier than we thought and we get to visit some great places, meet some VIP's and report on important issues that really matter to us. We have completed fun stories talking about many different aspects of life. Our reports showed cafés that support people with a learning disability to learn and have a career in hospitality, and how the Northern Ireland Fire Service help raising awareness of fire safety. There were many more and hopefully many more to come!



We struggled with the design and layout of the reports as we had never done this before so ARC NI asked The Down Recorder newspaper team to come in and help us. They spent time talking about the need to choose the right pictures, stick to the same font and different layouts and designs.

Our first reports were too busy, with too many pictures and different fonts. We learnt it was important to have a main heading, the by line and one good picture at the beginning. Trying to think of the different headlines which needed to be snappy and get the readers interested was also hard but it was fun and we shared them around the different TILII groups to get lots of



ideas. It is important to work together and that is what all the TILII members do. We had lots of quotes from all of us and everyone said they enjoyed being roving reporters. Below is the quote that we all chose to go on our front page.

It's been a long Journey but we have come on leaps and bounds. The hard work has been worth it. We are all growing in confidence and are now becoming skilled roving reporters.

We have a lot of interesting stories for you to read, we hope you like them!

Abbey Arts Awards

Roving Reporter, Philip Foster of the Muckamore Patients Council TILII group spoke to Frank Holmes, about the Abbey Art competition. Frank has been doing the competition for many years and has a great time helping the patients.

[Read the full report](#)

The Gatelodge Cafe

Ministers Dr Stephen Farry MLA and Simon Hamilton MLA officially opened the new supported employment service for people with a learning disability in Newtownards.

[Read the full report](#)

Be Fire Safe in Your Home: Downpatrick Firefighters

TILII reporters were very excited to visit the NI Fire and Rescue Service in Downpatrick. They met Firefighters Peter, Ernie, Colin, and Gerry, who is the District Commander over five districts.

[Read the full report](#)

Getting Started: Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

'Getting Started' was a project that came about through ARC members talking together about the difficulties in getting more people into work, to support people with learning disabilities. It was difficult to find new support staff to help people with a learning disability live their life to the full potential, so ARC NI developed a programme to address this issue.

[Read the full report](#)



A Therapy to Help You have a Good Life

Six Mile Patients Council TILII group interviewed Garvin McKnight about Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT). The word dialectics describes the mind's way of understanding concepts by appreciating their polar opposites. For example, what would light mean without darkness?

[Read the full report](#)

The Health Equalities Framework

Roving Reporters Kerri-Anne, Jonathan, Gregory & Philip from Muckamore Patients Council interview Rhona Brennan-Ward Sister on Donegore Ward, to find out about HEF-Health Evaluation Framework.

[Read the full report](#)

Once Upon a time at an ARC NI Fairytale Conference...

A long time ago in a land far away, a professor named Bamford did a 'Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability'.

[Read the full report](#)

Mairead Mitchell – From Student Nurse to Learning Disability Director

Roving Reporters Laura, Kerri-Anne, Philip, Gregory, and David, from Muckamore Abbey Hospital Patients Council interview Mairead Mitchell about her new role as Learning Disability Director in the Belfast Trust.

[Read the full report](#)

Personal and Public Involvement (PPI) Conference

Roving reporters from all the TILII groups attended a conference highlighting the importance of involvement in the design and delivery of services. The Roving Reports interviewed the then Minister of Health, Michelle O'Neill and delegates including people who use services and providers.

[Read the full report](#)

Make our Hospital a Bully Free Zone

Six Mile Patient Council decided to do a report to raise awareness of bullying, to find out how this type of behaviour affects people, patients and staff and most of all, to find out what everyone can do to stop it if it happens.

[Read the full report](#)



