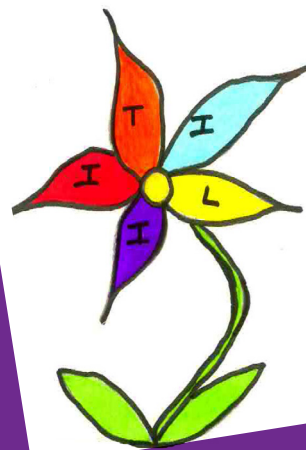


Totally

TILII



The Telling It Like It Is! Newsletter - November 2014



Hello

and welcome to our latest newsletter 'Totally TILII!'

To say TILII have been busy over the past couple of months is an understatement! TILII have been working hard making changes and improving the lives of people with a Learning Disability. Changing the name of our newsletter to Totally TILII is just one of the changes we have made. We have also launched a new logo, started a new group in Down, delivered training to the PSNI, interviewed for the ARC NI Director and ARC UK Chair.

TILII are advocacy groups of men and women with a learning disability who come together to speak out about what matters to them. There are currently 5 TILII groups, across Belfast, Lisburn, Bangor, Down and Muckamore Abbey Hospital. Funded by Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, TILII Groups are facilitated and supported by ARC NI- Association for Real Change.



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust



Belfast Health and
Social Care Trust



Totally Launch of a new logo

Telling It Like It Is groups launched their new logo on Thursday 20th March 2014 at the ARC NI office, Belfast.



TILII members have been working over the past year to develop and enhance the project. TILII members from across all groups came together to create the new logo, ensuring the ethos and aims of TILII are reflected. The TILII Project Ultimate Goal is to make a better future for people with a Learning Disability! TILII members wanted a new logo that would be recognised across Northern Ireland and state what TILII is all about.

TILII Member Alex said, "The new logo is something that everyone can relate to and appreciate, flowers, like people open up and grow strong. TILII has helped me to open up and learn that my opinion as someone with a Learning Disability matters."



TILII groups are in Belfast, Lisburn, Bangor, Downpatrick and Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

"A new logo is bringing new life to TILII, it shows like flowers people with Learning Disabilities are living and need help to grow and develop, TILII is rising up." said Robert from TILII.

Representatives from the Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and ARC UK Board members were present at the launch of the new logo.





Alex Interviews ARC NI's New Director

Alex Parkinson from the Belfast TILII group and the TILII Forum played a key part in the recruitment and selection process for the new ARC NI Director, Leslie- Anne Newton.

Alex said, **"I represented all TILII members and people with a Learning disability when recruiting the new director. It is only fair that people with a learning disability have a part in recruitment; we are the people that staff are supporting and it is important to us to be included. I really enjoyed the interview process and felt that the panel listened and cared about my opinion. I felt equal in the panel and it is not very often I feel equal!"**

Speaking about ARC NI's new director Alex commented: **"Leslie- Anne was so passionate and seemed very**

dedicated in the interview. She knew what she was talking about- she blew my socks off!"

Alex and all the TILII members would like to welcome Leslie- Anne to ARC NI. We are excited to work together, to make a positive change to the lives of people with a learning disability.



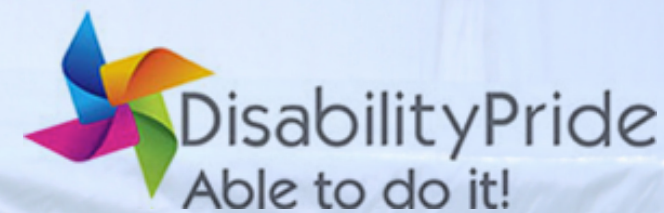
Disability Pride Belfast

Disability Pride took place in Belfast on 20th September 2014. TILII and ARC NI celebrated Disability Pride with a carnival parading through the streets of Belfast to a concert on the grounds of the City Hall. Belfast was the first city in the UK to be asked to hold the Disability Pride Parade.

17.4% of the population in Northern Ireland are living with a disability. The overall mission of the Disability Pride Parade was; **"To change the way people think about and define 'disability'."**

It was fantastic opportunity for everyone to get together, celebrate and take pride in their abilities in the Centre of Belfast.

The day was a riot of colour, TILII and ARC had a prime position in the parade and enjoyed getting the spectators to join in with the fun.



Meet the TILII Forum



The TILII Forum looks at how all TILII groups plan strategically. This means looking at how plans are made and delivered in TILII. The TILII Forum speaks up about what matters to people with a learning disability, they educate people on how to support someone with a learning disability and influence policy. The Forum campaigns to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities. The Forum has representation from the TILII groups.



John

Hi my name is John and I am the Bangor representative on the TILII Forum, I find out what other TILII groups have been doing at their meetings and share ideas. If members from TILII Bangor have ideas or concerns that they want me to pass on to the Forum to talk about, I do that. I feel brilliant to represent Bangor TILII. As part of the Forum I interviewed for ARC NI's Get A Life Project Officer.

I am the Lisburn representative; I have the voice to get things done. I like achieving goals and doing tasks to get things done for people with a learning disability and other TILII groups. I went to ARC England to interview for the ARC's new Chairman, the Forum members helped me prepare and decide what I should asked the new Chair in the interview.

Robert



Alex

As the Belfast Representative, I feel I can speak up on behalf of other TILII Members; it's good that other people with a learning disability can come and speak to me one to one, which can be less scary than in a group. The TILII Forum has a powerful voice for all of TILII, we share ideas and views on the work that each of the TILII groups do and campaign to make life better for all people with a learning disability. As part of the TILII Forum I interviewed for the new ARC NI director, it is important that people with a learning disability are part of the recruitment of staff that are going to support and work with us.

The Down Sector:

The new TILII group in the Down area is now up and running with some fantastic new members.

New TILII members are busy getting to know each other and learning how to support each other in the group. Catherine from the group said: **"I like getting together; it is brilliant encouraging others to have their say and opinion."**

TILII Down have been learning about advocacy and developing new skills to help them speak out about issues that are important to people with Learning Disabilities.

"We talk about speaking up and standing up for ourselves. We have been learning about advocacy and what it means for people with a learning disability. We want to make sure people get a good service"



Francis Kearny
"What I like about this group is speaking up and learning. I would like to have more members to be bigger!"



Theresa McNabb
"I like the group, coming to the group has helped me. The group has helped me speak out more."



Stacey Cox
"When I first came here I was a wee bit shy but I broke my shell and now I can stand up for myself more and enjoy the meetings"



Catherine Orr
"I like the TILII group and taking notes and learning different skills"



Derrick McCully
"I love TILII because I learn how to speak up and meet new friends, I also like getting a nice cup and tea and biscuits"



Kevin Murphy
"I would like to give talks and give people a hand; I help other people in the group"

Robert interviews for the new ARC Chair



Robert Watson from the Lisburn and Belfast TILII group, represented TILII members in Northern Ireland, when he went to England to interview for ARC UK new chair person.

“On Tuesday 21st January 2014, I went to England with Margaret from the TILII group. We met in George Best City airport and flew to East Midlands airport very early in the morning. I went to the ARC UK head office and met the Big Boss Jac Bell I also met Vicky and John who work in the office. I then met everyone that was going to be on the interview panel. I got to meet Lynette from National Service User Involvement Scotland; she was also sitting on the

interview panel for the new Chair.

After I met everyone we talked about our questions, I had my own question to ask. We did the interview and talked about if he was the right person to do the work.

He decided that he was the right person for the work, he understands people with learning disabilities and he will be a good chairperson for the whole of ARC.

I enjoyed it, it was a long day and hard work but great to do.”

Robert



TILII deliver training to the PSNI

TILII Bangor delivered Disability awareness and communication training to PSNI Officers from across Northern Ireland.

Over 60 PSNI Officers attended the training to hear TILII Bangor members discuss issues such as, Rights,

Respect, Partnership, Independence and Communication. TILII talked about having a learning disability and keeping safe in the community. TILII delivered an informal and interactive training session that was a huge success amongst PSNI officers.

One member from the PSNI commented: **“Very worthwhile, glad I came to the training, I enjoyed the personal input of everyone, and the training will help me in my job”.**

TILII member Susan also taught some Makaton signs to help the PSNI communicate more effectively with people with a learning disability.



TILII to become RQIA Voluntary Lay Assessors

John, Alex and Robert from the TILII Forum have become successful in becoming a Voluntary Lay Assessor for **RQIA. The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)** is Northern Ireland's independent health and social care regulator.

The RQIA encourages continuous improvement in the quality of health and social care services through inspections and reviews. This is a fantastic achievement for TILII and all three TILII members were supported by ARC through an interview process.

John, Alex and Robert have completed induction training with RQIA and met with many of the staff and inspectors. RQIA will be mentoring and supporting the guys in their role as a Voluntary Inspector which will hopeful start in November.

**Well done and good luck
in your new roles!**



The **Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority**



If you would like to find out more information about TILII or become a member please contact: **Margaret Sharvin**, Email: Margaret.sharvin@arcuk.org.uk
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