

ASSOCIATION FOR REAL CHANGE NORTHERN IRELAND



2015-16 REPORT

www.arc.org.uk/northernireland/

OUR PILLARS

ARC exists to improve the quality of life for people with a learning disability by supporting anyone who is involved in the planning or delivery of support & services.



1. **Support & Develop** - ARC is committed to supporting and developing a competent workforce that are well equipped and suitably qualified to serve the learning disability sector, and wider social care sector to the highest standard.
2. **Connect & Liaise** - ARC encourages and enables providers of services, Commissioners and Regulators to work together, learn from each other and share best practice.
3. **Influence & Voice** - ARC is committed to ensuring the voice of our members and the wider social care sector is strong and we strive to achieve positive change for people with a learning disability.

2015-16 was a busy year for the team of four, with ARC NI welcoming three new members, namely Four Seasons Health Care; USEL; & UU Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Two new projects started and our 'Telling It Like It Is' group of self-advocating adults with a learning disability developed skills in becoming roving reporters.

Summarised below are ARC NI's key achievements this year:



Training sessions delivered to over 550 learners and a number of these being delivered free of charge.
Re-designed website hosting a range of information.
Over 650 Access NI applications processed.

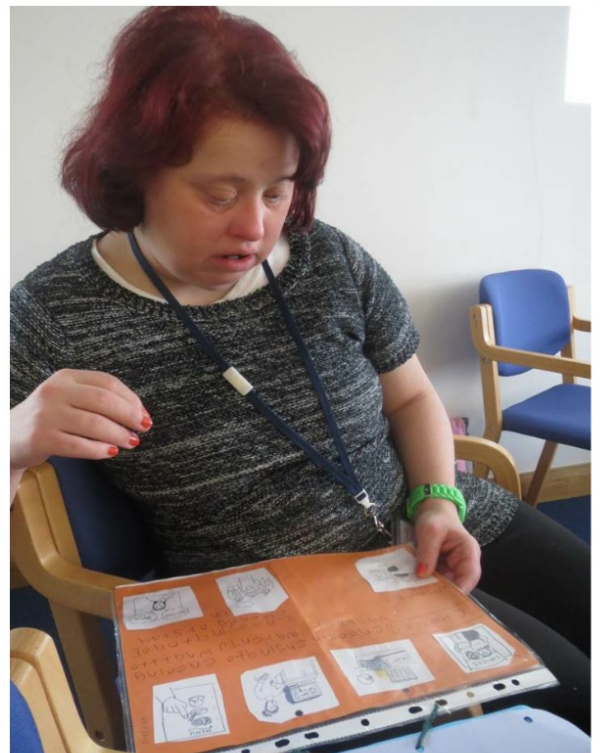


16 collaborative workstream meetings facilitated.
Engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders in the work of our projects.
4 key areas of development explored through collaborative solution-focused discussions



Representation of the Sector's views at 13 externally facilitated meetings.
10 responses to relevant public consultations submitted.
Scoping the additional costs to members in meeting National Living Wage and lobbying on a variety of issues.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Our work also benefits people who have other support needs and we are committed to sharing our learning and experience across all sectors that may benefit.

2015-16 HIGHLIGHTS



" Our organisation has benefited from ARC NI this year. Because of its connections we get lots of useful information and when there is a query in the sector, ARC NI will support us in getting answers. In summary the sector feels more listened to and real challenges facing providers and people with a learning disability have been placed centrally within ARC NI's activities. "

- ARC NI Member

" It's a new exciting experience and I am learning lots of new skills and building my confidence. I love being part of TILII it gives me a chance to do great things. I am going to meet the editor of the Down Recorder and he is going to help us learn how real roving reporters work so we can get our stories out there for everyone to read"

- TILII Representative



"ARC NI has established itself as a proactive umbrella organisation that is both campaigning and relevant to the sector at this time of change."

75% of respondents to a recent survey reported ARC NI as very successful in their influence and voice role



'Getting Started' Project enabled 28 long-term unemployed individuals to gain a European Certificate in Care, 14 of which also secured employment within ARC's member organisations

" Excellent course and facilitator. Very useful for dispelling fears, gaining understanding and gave me the skills needed to manage situations better. "

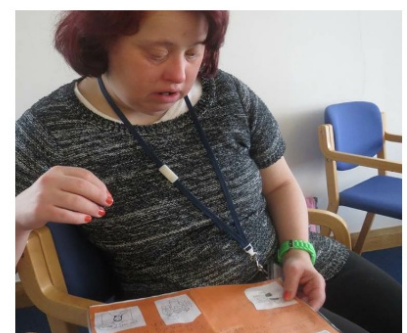
89% of learners report increased confidence following ARC NI's training



OPTIO Project supported 28 people with a learning disability to engage in 2 profit making Enterprise Challenges and over 70% of individuals achieved an accredited qualification

"ARC NI's workstream meetings accommodate different levels of staff connecting at regular intervals and tackle higher strategic issues and local operational issues."

62% of respondents to a recent survey reported ARC NI as very successful in their connect & liaison role



TILII responded to 6 public consultations and met with DHSSPS & RQIA to feed their views into regional reviews. They also trained 55 BHSCT staff and over 60 other stakeholders

OUR OUTLINE FOR 2016-17

Stakeholders told us that they wanted ARC NI to continue working within the three pillars, namely Support & Develop; Connect & Liaise; and Influence & Voice. We would like to thank all stakeholders, particularly our members for working with us in 2015-16 and look forward to our continued collaboration into 2016-17.

Outlined below is a brief summary of how we plan to do this.



Support & Develop

Annual Training Calendar delivered based on needs analysis of sector

Scope one stop shop concept for sector to meet Learning & Development requirements



Connect & Liaise

Continued workstream meetings and delivery of an ARC NI Conference

Introduce opportunities for more collaboration through consortium projects



Influence & Voice

Lead and facilitate solution focused action addressing policy and practice

Representation at meetings with Commissioners, Regulators and Policy Makers

GET IN TOUCH WITH US



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