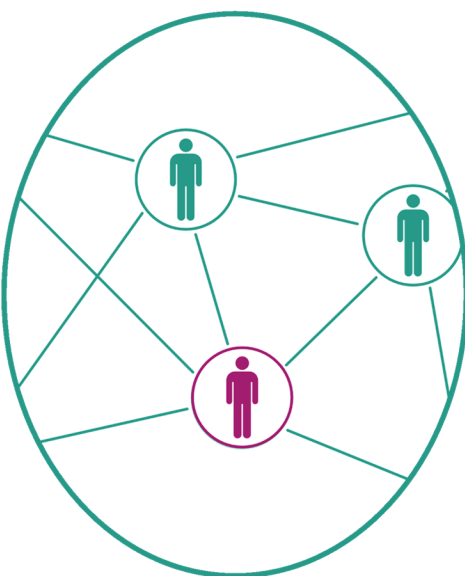
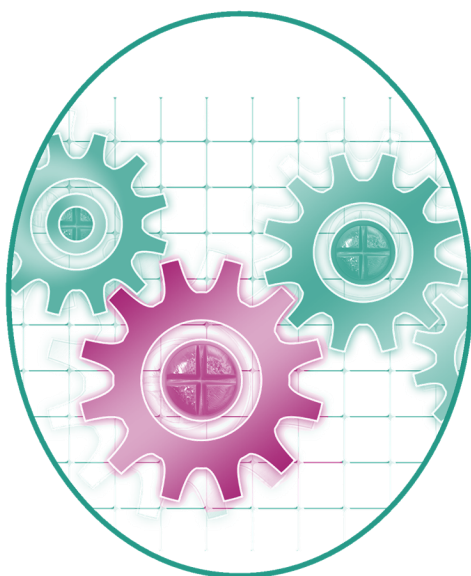




Impact report 2017/18

Association for Real Change
Northern Ireland



Reflections of the past year

Whilst every year feels a busy one, this year has felt exceptional with the NI team engaging a large and diverse range of stakeholders! This report is our opportunity of highlighting some of the key achievements that have aspired to put people with a learning disability at the centre of decision making and helped anyone who is involved in the planning or delivery of services.

ARC NI supported 39 cross-sector members this year, welcoming Support Care Recruit to the family. We bid a farewell to Health Matters, USEL and Willowbank as members of ARC NI and thank them collectively for their years of contributions.

Over the past four years I have observed a strengthening of peer relationships between members, with 2017-18 really demonstrating true collaboration. In particular, the challenge of sleep ins has brought many members together, sharing sensitive information to challenge and lobby for change. Our members take great pride in meaningfully supporting people and are continuing to manage the risk of back pay liability, in the absence of an adequate Government response.

I have been frustrated, but proud to support their collective voice being heard. A special thanks needs to be given to Inspire, Mencap NI, Positive Futures and The Cedar Foundation in working together with ARC on this.



Our Telling It Like It Is (TILII) members, groups of self-advocating adults with a learning disability, worked exceedingly hard and had their hands in many pies, including being active contributors with RQIA's review of services and support in Muckamore Abbey Hospital. They are also helped me celebrate a birthday!



Changes to the NI Team included Jude Pollock, OPTIO Coordinator moving onto pastures new in August. This resulted in Stephen, Louise and myself strengthening our amazing juggling skills, but with the additional support of Suzanne McStravick, who helped us complete the final year of our OPTIO project, we got there.

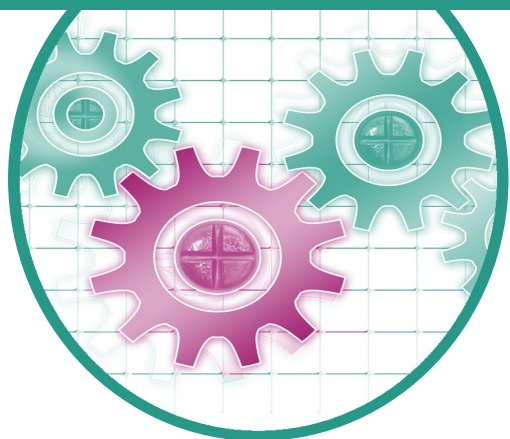
A special note of acknowledgment needs to be given, to one of our longstanding Trustees, Gary Bye, whom we lost very suddenly in September. Gary dedicated over 20 years of time, support and expertise to ARC, including 6 years as Honorary Treasurer and we miss him both as a volunteer and friend.

And speaking of Trustees, a special thanks to Agnes Lunny, Chief Executive of Positive Futures, and ARC NI Chair for her commitment to ARC NI, not least time and expertise but lifting spirits with her humour.

To conclude my reflections - challenging, exciting, frustrating and yet thoroughly enjoyable are a few words to describe the past year. And a sincere thanks to all of our members, with whom I thoroughly enjoy collaborating with and look forward to another busy year ahead in 2018/19!

Leslie-Anne Newton
Director, ARC NI

Support & Develop



In 2017-18 we:

- delivered a total of 68 courses
- reached over 850 learners
- Re-engaged the sector in Active Support
- Re-introduced our accredited training offer
- Offered a new peripatetic assessor service

(↑ of 5% of social care staff reached in comparison to 2016/17)

Every year we look to grow our Learning and Development Programme and in 2017/18 we introduced new courses targeting management and leadership roles.

These included *The Legalities of GDPR; Managing Work Performance*; delivered by experts Blair Employment. More are planned for 2018/19 including *Social Media in the Workplace; Preparing and Leading a Restructure*; and *Preparing for Tribunal*. Joyce McKee from the Health & Social Care Board also delivered a session to Chief Executives and Trustees on *Safeguarding Governance and Accountability*.



Expanding our services

ACTIVE SUPPORT: A two-day course on Active Support was delivered to provide managers with tools to further enhance their person-centred practice, and embed it across the whole organisation. 20 participants attended from 12 organisations. ARC NI also facilitated follow up consultancy work regarding Active Support in-house with Triangle Housing Association and The Cedar Foundation.

ACCREDITED COURSES: ARC NI was successful in securing an Office of Social Services Training grant, enabling members to apply for free accredited Level 3 Health & Social Care places. Four members each secured 1 place, including L'Arche and incredABLE (formerly Enable).

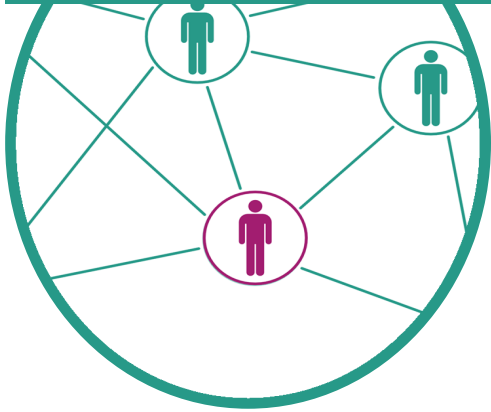
PERIPETETIC ASSESSOR SUPPORT: In response to a member's request, we introduced a peripatetic assessor service. ARC NI supported 5 staff from Triangle Housing Association to secure their Level 2 in 'Understanding the Context of Supporting People with a Learning Disability'.

"ARC NI's Training Coordinator took on peripatetic assessment of 5 Level 2 QCF Certificate candidates for us. One of them had dyslexia and another had English as their 3rd language. Louise was a supportive, knowledgeable and competent assessor who ensured that she met with candidates appropriately and encouraged them to complete their qualification within the required time-frame. Feedback from the candidates is excellent and all will be presented with their qualification at the annual award ceremony in June".

Bernie Gibbins, Learning and Development Manager

If you are interested in any of these services, please contact the Training Coordinator at the training.ni@arcuk.org.uk

Connect & Liaise



In 2017-18 we:

- Facilitated 11 member workstream meetings
- Enabled members to meet with the RQIA; Department of Health and NISCC, discussing Inspection changes; Sleep-in crisis; Workforce Strategy; & Qualifications Framework & Pathways
- Encouraged 8 organisations to showcase their practice to other providers regarding e-learning platforms and safeguarding

Adult Safeguarding Champion - PEER NETWORK

In 2017/18, ARC NI took a lead role in establishing a peer network for Adult Safeguarding Champions, supported by Regional Adult Safeguarding Partnership, NIASP. The Northern Health & Social Care Trust Adult Safeguarding Specialist lead (TASS) also attends. A total of 71 peers across 30 organisations joined together to learn of regional developments and discussed common concerns.

A number of presentations were delivered showcasing organisational practice, including Compass Advocacy Network's presentation on how to support safe engagement of people with a learning disability on social media; and Kilcreggan's presentation showing their approach to embedding the new change within their organisation. Evaluation confirmed the Champions' desire for continued conversations and continues to be facilitated into the next financial year.



"The support provided by the network enabled me to challenge what we had in place and make improvements re: knowledge, additional support for me as ASC, the involvement of management committee and their role in supporting the full implementation of the policy and their responsibilities."

Champion, anonymous

Projects

Our projects aim to develop connections, research reality and pilot practice.



This project is part funded through Northern Ireland European Fund Programme and the Department of the Economy.



OPTIO, a three-year project, funded under the Northern Ireland European Social Fund 2014-2020 Programme and including the Belfast and Western Health & Social Care Trust, concluded in March 2018. In partnership with East Belfast Enterprise, ARC NI engaged 92 people with a learning disability over a total of eight groups namely:

- Orchardville TRC (BHSCT), Belfast
- Livability (formerly Prospects), Newry
- Edgumbe Day Centre (BHSCT), Belfast
- Glencraig Camphill; Hollywood
- The Beeches, Aghalee
- Dromore Day Centre (WHSCT), Dromore
- Focus Club (BHSCT), Belfast
- Fresh Focus (WHSCT), Fermanagh

Of the 77 participants completing the project:

- 33 participants achieved unit(s) at OCN Level 1;
- 28 participants achieved unit(s) at OCN Entry Level; and
- 22 participants achieved a non-accredited certificate.



Furthermore a total of £1,336 net profit was generated across 8 pop up social enterprises, designed and led by people with a learning disability and connections with local business were developed including with the Kennedy Centre; Newry Market; Forest Side Shopping Centre; Bow Street Mall; Dromore Market; Erneside Shopping Centre; St. Johns Enterprise College.

An end of project report is available on the [website](#).

Influence & Voice



In 2017-18 we:

- Attracted 701 new followers on Twitter, tweeting 590 posts and receiving 479 mentions
- Represented the sector at over 60 meetings discussing issues including day opportunities, co-production and healthcare
- Responded to consultations including the Health & Social Care Trust Financial Savings Plan and the Expert Advisory Panel on Adult Care & Support

Learning Disability Week & Disability Pride

ARC NI planned a members profile raising campaign as part of the annual Learning Disability Week in June 2017, sharing videos, blogs and photos of activity. This resulted in over 2,000 profile visits on Twitter alone.

Our TILII members also attended the first ever Learning Disability Pride event in Northern Ireland, organised by Carrickfergus Gateway in May 2017. With over 2,000 walkers it truly was a brightly colourful display of positive pride!



Economic Value of Social Care - NISCC

ARC NI was invited to support a UK wide project, led by the four Social Care Councils, to scope the economic value of the social care workforce. This project is hoped to emphasize the meaningful contribution the social care sector makes to society, and used to lobby Government for the change required to stabilise the sector and professionalise further the role of social care workers.

Power to People

ARC NI actively contributes to shaping policy in Northern Ireland. In early 2017, ARC NI supported its members, including Caring Breaks; Positive Futures and Presbyterian Council for Social Witness to meet with the Expert Panel who were commissioned to explore the reform of adult social care in Northern Ireland. We were delighted to see that many of the recommendations within the published 'Power to the People' report, acknowledged the concerns we raised.

Mental Capacity Act—Code of Practice

Finally, throughout 2017/18 the Department of Health consulted on the MCA Code of Practice and supporting guidance. The Implementation Team requested the submission of scenarios to be considered and potentially included. ARC NI facilitated a workshop with its members to develop a range of options, which were finalised by a small working group of ARC NI members, namely Camphill Communities Trust and Mindwise. The Department responded confirming that some of the scenarios provided will be within the good practice guide.

Telling It Like It Is! TILII

ARC NI receives funds from the Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to support 28 people with a learning disability who live in the community across 3 TILII groups, namely Bangor; Belfast/Lisburn; and Downpatrick. We also support a TILII groups within Muckamore Abbey Hospital, specifically with Six Mile ward and a Patients Council. TILII members are recognised as experts by experience, who self-advocate on issues affecting people with a learning disability.



Training



TILII deliver training to Belfast Health and Social Care workforce as part of their induction for many years. TILII offered their services wider and delivered training to 21 staff within The Cedar Foundation, who evaluated it as 'Excellent'. Feedback include comments such as "The training was interactive, friendly and fun"; and "The role plays really made me think, I will remember this training for a long time."

TILII also deliver self-advocacy training to their peers and have delivered this 2-hour session within day centres across the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust. If you are interested in training delivered by TILII for the people you support, or your staff, please contact louise.hughes@arcuk.org.uk

Roving Reports

Last year, TILII produced their first annual summary of all their news stories and in 21017/18 their reporting abilities and popular stories continued to grow. Topics covered included accessible transport, the need for more Acute Liaison Nurses, the importance of volunteering, and raising the awareness of the 10,000 voices service. TILII are in the midst of finalising the annual summary report, detailing the 7 reports written which will be available on our website.

Projects

TILII were commissioned to deliver 2 new specific projects, seeking their peers' view in 2017/18. The first, commissioned by the Public Health Agency, was gathering views regarding the Hospital Passport as part of a larger evaluation. **TILII met with over 100 people with a learning disability.** Results will be available by June 2018.

The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust asked for TILII's support to gather their peers view on day services. Lots of planning meetings were held, with the Learning Disability Staff, Speech & Language Team, ARC NI and TILII. **292 peers were consulted by TILII,** the feedback analysed, followed by a presentation by TILII of the findings to the Day Services Forum. As a result of this invaluable feedback, alongside an acknowledgement of TILII's ability to include their peers meaningfully, a Learning Disability Forum is being established in 2018/19. Furthermore, the Belfast Trust felt so proud of this work, they entered it into a Regional Co-Production competition.



2018/19 PRIORITIES

On top of our usual activity, our new priorities include ARC NI:

- Facilitating a stakeholder conference on recruitment & retention – the biggest challenge facing the social care sector and in response we are hosting a 1-day conference bringing together policy makers, regulators and providers
- Expanding their training further with new courses including Moving and Handling; and Legal & Practical Aspects of Report Writing in Practice. We are also bringing back our course on Human Rights & Restrictive Practice, as requested by providers. To see the full range of courses offered, visit our [website](#).
- Creating a peer network for Registered Managers, offering support and the chance to share practice between providers
- Developing TILII in the west – we are delighted to announce that the Western Health & Social Care Trust have commissioned a TILII group in the Fermanagh/Omagh area

Association for Real Changes operates in 4 countries in the UK.

You will find more information on how the strategic vision is being delivered across the UK, as well as information on how to join or support our organisation, on our websites.

www.arcuk.org.uk

www.arcuk.org.uk/scotland

www.arcuk.org.uk/cymru

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