SCIL Aims are:

To provide a means by which Disabled People may take control over their lives, achieve full participation in all spheres of society, and make changes to how they are viewed and treated.

To provide encouragement, assistance, advice, support and facilitation to individuals or groups wishing to live independently.

To raise the expectations of Disabled Persons, individually and collectively, and ensure that their voices are heard.

Everybody has the right to lead an independent life. Our aim is to support people in achieving this.

To be independent does not mean doing everything for yourself. Independence means having control over your life and having a say over what happens to you.
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Quotation: From SCIL’s co-founder and featured on the Launch Video

“Those Disabled People who have achieved independence in our society usually have done so through a process of struggle that continues, day in day out. Yet the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages of the struggle, and the struggle becomes less difficult as more and more Disabled People assert their right to live independently.”

Introduction:

This is a special launch edition of SCIL news, published on 30 January 2013 to coincide with the unveiling of SCIL's new name and general rebranding. SCIL was established in 1984 under the name of Southampton Centre for Independent Living. It remained so until 2013 when it changed to SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living maintaining the acronym SCIL.

This publication maps SCIL's history from its establishment in 1984, continuing through the 1980’s, 1990’s, 2000’s, into the current decade and then on into the future.

The top section of each page highlights the main achievements for SCIL in that decade by year of achievement. The bottom section of each page puts SCIL's history into a national context recognising the wider social, political and economic factors, as SCIL has not developed in a bubble or in isolation from the society around it.

This work has been reliant in parts, on people’s recollections of SCIL’s history, so is open to debate but much of SCIL’s history is part of the public record.

SCIL’s fortunes have waxed and waned over the years in relation to its financial sustainability and appeal to the policy making agenda. Ideas and concepts and thinking in general about Disabled People, their place in society, the language of disability and society’s attitudes to impairment have also evolved since 1984.

The social, political and economic barriers in place to the attainment of Independent Living and the fulfilment of the Social Model of Disability have also been fluid with changing social, political and economic context. All of these factors of course are all linked in terms of SCIL’s fortunes as a Disabled People’s User-Led Organisation.

SCIL has always been a key player in the Disability Movement influencing, not only its own disability policies on a local, regional and national scale, but its wider remit as an interest group representing Disabled People’s views and agenda.

SCIL has had to learn to play the political and economic game to survive, but as such, has never been afraid to campaign for the rights of Disabled People using direct action, and latterly, the political processes more effectively whilst trying to keep to its aims and objectives and independence in the process; a tricky balancing act at all times.

SCIL is under no illusion that it needs to continue to change to be relevant to Disabled People and the social, political and economic context it is operating within. Its success so far to my mind, has been its ability to adapt without compromising its core values. The rebranding is a part of this adapting to changing circumstances.
1980

**SCIL History:**

Southampton Centre for Independent Living was established:

1984: Simon Brisenden (see quote page 4), called a public meeting, the purpose of which was the setting up of a Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

1984: The structure and constitution of SCIL was finalised. Only Disabled Members had voting rights. The concept of ‘controlled and managed by Disabled People’ was legally enshrined in the constitution. SCIL’s first of 4 logos was based on the concept of Yin-Yang.

1986: SCIL became an active member of the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) and the wider Disability Movement.

National Context:

1983: Mike Oliver, a Disabled Person working as an academic, coined the phrase the “Social Model of Disability” for the first time.

1984: The Hampshire Centre for Independent Living and the Derbyshire Centre for Independent Living were established.

1986: The Audit Commission published a report called 'Making a Reality of Community Care'. This report outlined the slow progress in resettling people from long stay hospitals. It was this report which prompted the subsequent Green and White papers on community care.

1980s: Self Operated Care Schemes (SOCS) established in Hampshire. Disabled People lobbied Hampshire to access the SOCS, a forerunner to Direct Payments.
**SCIL History:**

1986: SCIL developed plans for a Disability Resource Centre, which was to be staffed by volunteers.

1987: SCIL moved into Canute Road in Southampton - its first Centre for Independent Living.

1987: SCIL registered as a Limited Company - charity status was out of the question; **SCIL wanted equality** not charity.

**National Context:**

1988: The Independent Living Fund was introduced, enabling top up funding for social care support packages. This enabled extra funding to be able to live independently.

1989: The campaign for Direct Payments legislation started; Disabled People wanted to have the right to live independently anywhere in the country, not just to do so at the goodwill of individual Local Authorities.

1989: Community Care White Paper, Caring for People. This was an attempt to redress the balance of an outdated organisational framework inherited from the past which placed undue emphasis on the role of services, with the needs of users and carers taking second place.
### SCIL History:

**1991:** SCIL refined its strategy; with a new dual role - providing funded services to empower Disabled People as well as campaigning for Disabled People to achieve full human rights.

**1991:** SCIL received funding for its first Coordinator which also enabled volunteering opportunities.

**1991:** Structural changes were made, providing more transparency & accountability to members.

**1992:** Centre for independent Living opened - providing SCIL with new offices and meeting venue in Northlands Road, Southampton.

**1992:** Developmental period began: we identified the need for consumer surveys and audits; peer support Direct Payments Service and; campaign for Inclusive Education.

**1993:** Grant from Kings Fund, for Disability Equality Training (DET).

### National Context:

**1990’s:** The slogan, **Nothing About Us Without Us!** came into usage in disability activism in the UK. This was used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy.

**1990:** NHS and Community Care Act. Aimed to produce a shift in influence away from services in favour of users and their carers. It created a planning framework that placed greater emphasis on consultation and collaboration at every level. It attempted to address inconsistencies between community care policies and social security arrangements for funding residential and nursing home care by transferring the care element of this funding to Local Authorities.

**1990’s:** Social Services started calling some day centres ‘Disability Resource Centres’ - undermining the terminology used by Centres for Independent Living.
**SCIL History:**

1990

1994: Secured funding from Living Options to establish SCIL’s Independent Living Support Service (ILSS); still operating today.

1996: Funding from the Department of Health (DoH) and Hampshire County Council to develop Consumer Audit Project based on the 12 Basic Rights for Independent Living.

1997: SCIL and Hampshire Centre for Independent Living (HCIL) established Direct Payments Consultation Group to bring the policies of newly separated Local Authorities of Hampshire, Southampton & Portsmouth together.

1999: **SCIL’s 15th anniversary.** Celebrated with a Festival of Inclusion event.


**National Context:**

1992: Hampshire County Council solicitors warn the Self Operated Care Scheme (SOCS) may be illegal. The predecessor to Direct Payments was saved by the Government praising the Hampshire model for its cost effectiveness and creativity.

1993: Independent Living Fund revised, tightening the eligibility criteria for new users.

1994: Minister of Health announced Direct Payments legislation.

1995: Disability Discrimination Act. Received mixed emotions from Disabled People’s Organisations being described as, “having more holes than a string vest”.

1996: Community Care (Direct Payments Act).

1998: Human Rights Act. To enable people to enforce their human rights in the domestic courts. Enshrined the principle that people in society are treated with respect for their human rights, promoting values such as dignity, fairness and equality.
SCIL History:

2001: Gained funding from Southampton City Council to extend Direct Payments to ‘hard-to-reach’ groups.

2002: Hosted ‘Barriers to Business’ Conference; the Minister for Disabled People was a speaker. The Conference theme was, “Why are Disabled People important to your business?”.

2002: Secured funding from ‘Wider Options’ National Pilot, to extend Direct Payments to Mental Health users.


2003: Supported European Year of Disabled People by organising, ‘Lift off to Inclusion’ festival.

2003: Secured funding from Department of Health to extend Direct Payments to Older People.

2003: Took part in first European Disabled People’s Freedom Drive, in Strasbourg.

National Context:

2001: Carers and Disabled Children’s Act; Direct Payments available to 16-18 year olds, parents of Disabled People and Carers.

2001: Valuing People. The first White Paper on people with learning difficulties for thirty years. Based on four key principles: civil rights, independence, choice and inclusion.

2003: In Control and other initiatives promoting a wider view of Direct Payments, particularly emphasising the benefits to Carers and that Direct Payments could be used for many more things than just employing Personal Assistants.

2003: Government placed duty on Local Authorities to provide Direct Payments.

2005: Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People.
Recommendation 4.3: ‘By 2010, each locality should have a user led organisation modelled on existing centres for independent living.’
**SCIL History:**

2004: **SCIL’s 20th Anniversary.**

2005: SCIL’s 1st subsidiary, Unity 12 CIC. SCIL became property owners, along with the Disability Advice and Information Network (DAIN). Unity 12 named after the 12 Basic Rights.

2005: SCIL changed its status to a Community Interest Company. SCIL’s Logo modernised.

2006: Consumer Audit Service stopped.

2007: One-third of Hampshire’s Direct Payments contract goes to non-user controlled organisation after tendering process.

2008: Established 2nd subsidiary, SCIL Continuing Care, for Continuing Health Care Budgets.

2009: SCIL’s Student Unit established with Student Social Workers on placement.

2009: **SCIL’s 25th Anniversary.**

**National Context:**


2006: Equality 2025 setup by Government, a non-departmental public body of publicly-appointed Disabled People. The group offered strategic, confidential advice to government on issues that affected Disabled People.

2007: Putting People First. A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care.

2008: Health and Social Care Act. The Act sought to enhance professional regulation and create a new integrated regulator, the Care Quality Commission, for health and adult social care, with focus on providing assurance about the safety and quality of care for patients and service users.

2009: Personalisation Expert Panel in Hampshire established by SCIL to inform adult social care and ensure co-production between service users/carers, service user/carer led organisations and HCC officers, who are responsible for reform implementation.
SCIL History:

**2010:** Common Assessment Framework Pilot site, included Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth. SCIL facilitated service user and carers’ group to change the experience of people accessing health and social care: “Say it Once” initiative.

**2012:** Undertook contract work from Skills for Care, involving employing Personal Assistants, and the Hampshire funded Personal Development Project, involving service users accessing day services.

**2012:** SCIL secured 3 year funding from Hampshire County Council to support user involvement and new and emerging ULO’s in Hampshire.

**2012:** SCIL supports Remploy employees, initially at its own expense, then with a grant from the Office for Disability Issues.

**2012:** Initiative to develop Personal Budgets for Special Educational needs (SEN), and Individual Service Funds in Southampton.

National Context:

**2010:** The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) was amalgamated into the Equality Act 2010.

**2011:** Access To Work scheme. Disabled People report tighter eligibility criteria, excessive scrutiny and questioning.

**2011:** South East Network of Disabled People’s Organisations (SENDPO) established.

**2011:** Think Local Act Personal. Making it Real sets out the markers for progress for personalisation and community-based support.

**2011:** Office for Disability Issues (ODI) launched the Strengthening Disabled People’s User-Led Organisations (DPULOs) Programme.

**2012:** Paralympics, Disabled Sports People got world-wide coverage.

**2012:** Welfare Reform Act. ‘Reform’ to Disability Living Allowance, through the Personal Independence Payment.
SCIL Rebrands

24 November 2012: Extraordinary General Meeting, SCIL's Full Members vote unanimously for the new name, SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living because:

- It uses an ‘S’, so we could still keep SCIL which will help retain SCIL’s identity.
- We will retain the ‘Centre for Independent Living’ identity which many of us value.
- Taking away the geographic association gives opportunities to grow and develop.
- The spectrum of colours in the logo represents positivity, diversity and enlightenment.
- The logo could visually represent the different 12 basic rights of Independent Living through the use of colours.
- The logo uses colour in a bright, but elegant design which is easily recognised and will become quickly associated with SCIL.

Social, political & economic need for change:

Social Geography: SCIL had been aware for some time that Southampton in its name was misleading to the wider community it served. SCIL actually worked City and County wide, regionally and at times even nationally in its field of Disability Issues and politics. So, SCIL wanted to break the link with the geographical association with the City of Southampton in its work, to appeal to a wider audience of Disabled People and by association, its funders.

Political Motivation: The organisation had reviewed its name many times over the last decade with the final impetus for change being its Hampshire funded User-Led Organisation contract, where its association with Southampton could be seen as a barrier to taking this work forward into the wider County of Hampshire.

Economic Motivation: This came in the form of a successful bid to the Facilitation Fund with funding for a rebranding/relaunch event and the development of an organisational Business Plan.
What will the future hold for SCIL? Of course, it is impossible to predict with any certainty. The current buzz word is sustainability, which is normally associated with financial sustainability but SCIL has always been about the people, and sustainability for the organisation is about remaining relevant to Disabled People.

SCIL also has to offer locally what Local Authorities need to fulfil their policy agendas and meet their targets if it wants to secure contracts; the trick is to achieve this whilst maintaining the organisation’s independence and core values. But the flip side is also to help to set those policy agendas through co-production and collaborative working with Local Authorities and further afield, regionally and nationally.

SCIL will celebrate its 30th birthday in 2014, a time to celebrate and also to reflect on what has gone before and to take stock and review its strategy for the future. SCIL also has 2 subsidiary organisations, Unity 12 (our building and offices) and SCIL Continuing Care (Continuing Health Care Budgets), who need to maintain their relevance to Disabled People as well, and need to pay their way.

Tracking through the social policies and legislation since 1984 has highlighted the importance of legislation that can make or break the Independent Living concept in its provisions and impact. There is a desire in the Disability Movement to get Independent Living as a right enshrined in Civil Rights Legislation; until this time, Disabled People will be in the hands of the legislators and the policy makers which is not a good place to be with finite resources and the rationing of services.

SCIL is very aware that Independent Living is far more than health and social care; it is about the rights laid out in the 12 basic rights (see page 15) and the removal of barriers to achieving them. The Social Model of Disability philosophy underpins all of SCIL’s work as an organisation.

SCIL believes that Centres for Independent Living should be based on the principle of peer-led and peer-run and controlled by Disabled People, but with our non-disabled allies as an important part of supporting the organisation in our work. Diversity is about difference and uniqueness, but we should not forget that there are many things that unite people, both Disabled and non-disabled people, and these need to be celebrated as well.

SCIL has not achieved this history without support and commitment from its members, Management Committee, service users, volunteers, staff and key stakeholders in statutory services. **SCIL thanks them for their continued support.**
The 12 Basic Rights:

- Full ACCESS to our environment
- A fully accessible TRANSPORT system
- Appropriate EQUIPMENT
- Accessible / adapted HOUSING
- PERSONAL ASSISTANCE to enable an independent lifestyle
- Inclusive EDUCATION and TRAINING
- An adequate INCOME
- Equal opportunities for EMPLOYMENT
- Appropriate and accessible INFORMATION
- ADVOCACY (towards self advocacy)
- Empowering COUNSELLING services
- Appropriate and accessible HEALTH CARE provision
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