



centre for  
**independent**  
living in kent

# Annual Report 2008 - 2009





centre for  
**independent**  
living in kent

**Registered Office**  
**c/o Red Cross, Kent Area Office**  
**25 College Road**  
**Maidstone**  
**Kent ME15 6SX**

**E-mail: [enquiry@cilk.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@cilk.org.uk)**  
**Website: [www.cilk.org.uk](http://www.cilk.org.uk)**

**CiLK Directors & Committee 2008 - 2009**

<b>Director &amp; Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Francoise Montford</b> (resigned July 2008)
<b>Director &amp; Co-Chair - Treasurer:</b>	<b>Karen Edmunds</b> (resigned June 2008)
<b>Director &amp; Company Secretary:</b>	<b>Margaret Roberts</b> (resigned July 2008)
<b>Director</b>	<b>Allen Jones</b> (Acting Chairman July 2008)
<b>Director</b>	<b>Vicci Chittenden</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>James Tatton</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Steven De-Cicco</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Sylvia Hook</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Maggie Lee</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Tony Wright</b> (Co-opted August 2008)
<b>Associate Member, Minutes Secretary &amp; Volunteer Fundraiser</b>	<b>Wendy Sage (July 2008)</b>

**CiLK Office Staff**

<b>CILK Mobile Manager:</b>	<b>Marian Khamo</b>
<b>Clerical Support Officer:</b>	<b>Donna Francis</b>
<b>Book Keeper:</b>	<b>Madeline Brinton</b>
<b>Web Design:</b>	<b>Richard Iddenden</b>

**A Company Limited by Guarantee with no shareholders  
& Registered as a Charity**

Registered with Companies House and The Charity Commission

# Centre for Independent Living KENT Ltd

CiLK is a social model based, pan-disability organisation of disabled people, established in 2002 to provide enabling independent living services for disabled people in the county of Kent. CiLK target audience is primarily those who have expressed an interest in living independently and want to manage, monitor and pay directly for their own support and assistance requirements using Direct Payments, Individual/Personal Budgets, Independent Living Fund monies or other resources.

**Our guiding ethos is:** The Social Model of Disability, The Twelve Basic Requirements for Independent Living and Equalities and Diversity.

What makes us unique is that we are an independent organisation, run and controlled by disabled people, working towards full and equal citizenship for all disabled people. All our trustees have impairments, so CiLK is in the control of people who know about segregation and exclusion from first hand experience.

CiLK exists to help its members, and others who share its philosophy, to be self-advocates, to take control over their own lives, to have real choice, freed from the prescriptive services of government agencies. We believe that by drawing on our own experiences, disabled people are best placed to advise and support each other to independent living.

We also offer the following support and assistance services (both in-house and outreach): Advocacy / Self-advocacy / Independent Living Advocacy, Information and support on independent living, Access issues, Direct Payments advice and support, Disability Equality Training, Peer support, Personal development courses and volunteering opportunities.

## **Contact Details**

### **Address:**

c/o Red Cross Headquarters, 25 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SX

**Telephone:** 01622 355777

**Fax:** 01622 690012

**Email:** [enquiry@cilk.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@cilk.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.cilk.org.uk](http://www.cilk.org.uk)

**Telephone Enquiries:** Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm  
(24 Hour Answerphone during other times)

## Chairman's Report

When I write this report, I look back over our activities for the previous twelve months to review our progress. This year, of course has been one of change and challenge for us, culminating with the resignation of three trustees.

When I decided not to stand for re-election in March 2008, little did I realise that I would back as your acting chairman 5 months later. I had hoped that the appointment of two new co-chairs, treasurer and company secretary would lead our 'user led' organisation into the future. Alas, it was not to be, due to illness and personal reasons we lost the services of three key trustees.

The remaining trustees re-grouped, with myself as acting chairman, Jim Tatton as my deputy, with Stephen De-Cicco as company secretary. Maggie Lee, Sylvia Hook and Vicci Chittenden remained as trustees with Tony Wright being co-opted. Wendy Sage became an associate member, continuing her job as minutes secretary and resuming her role as volunteer fundraiser. We were also able to secure the services of a book keeper to deal with the finances. Our members of staff were kept fully informed of the ongoing developments.

There has been a big increase in people visiting our mobile service, office enquires increased and demand for advocacy support is slightly up compared to last year. We introduced our new vibrant logo which was included in our new tri-fold leaflet and website. A new under-floor ramp with handrail was fitted to the vehicle to improve access for wheelchair users and those with mobility difficulties.

Funding of the organisation has become a major concern and this must be addressed for the charity to survive. The Big Lottery funding for the mobile service will cease in January 2010, further funding has not yet been secured despite every effort to source continuation funding. We have also approached KCC elected members to see if they could help, although they see the value of the service, funding has not been forth-coming. Wendy obtained a grant of 5k from KARC for the clerical officers post, but we must find additional funding quickly for our mobile service to continue. All our expenditure has been reduced to a cost effective level. We do not have any creditors and own our office equipment and mobile vehicle.

Being a user led organisation we are always having to "re-invent" what we do, to find new projects and identify new funders. When you do find a trust who may be able to assist, they do not want to fund existing work but something 'new'. Hence, as a small charitable organisation, we often find that we are in a catch twenty-two situation. To be honest there is no easy answer, other than finding a rich benefactor to bankroll us. We will continue submitting as many bids as possible in the time left, in order to try and secure the future of the organisation.

The trustees have decided to revert back to FREE membership in an effort to gain more members so that we are more representative of disabled people across the county. Disabled people who embrace the 'social model' are welcome as full members with non-disabled people who support our 'aims and objectives' also welcome as associate members.

Donna Francis our Clerical Support Officer completed her training with KCC Kent Adult Social Services 'train the Trainer' programme. She has completed her nine month course and is now a co-trainer for KASS.

As a pan-disability organisation promoting independent living via direct payments, ILF or other monies, we must be there! so we can continue providing information, advice and guidance direct to disabled people. As many of you know, Kent Adult Social Services fully implement personal budgets from 1st October 2009, as part of the Self-Directed Support agenda. As experts by experience, we will be needed more than ever, to ensure that disabled people get the right support and assistance they require, in order to lead an independent life.

Although we have had a somewhat difficult time around funding, it's not all doom and gloom. CiLK is still here, despite our difficulties and the challenges that lay ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Big Lottery for allowing us to extend the original three years duration of our project, for a further six months and for their whole hearted support to our requests for additional changes, as we have continued to develop our project. I would also like to thank all the staff, volunteers and trustees for their continuing support and enthusiasm during this difficult time, which is appreciated, I assure you!

Allen Jones

Acting Chairman  
Centre for Independent Living Kent

18th September 2009

# **Treasurer's Report**

## **Report for the year ended 31st March 2009**

As your Acting Chairman I would like to acknowledge Karen Edmunds role as treasurer during her short tenure with us and in incorporating the four CiLK accounts into Excel. Our Book Keeper Madeline Brinton has done a sterling job in keeping the day-to day and monthly accounts in good order and also in preparing the end of year accounts for their independent inspection.

Our Book Keeper and Auditor have both highlighted the urgent need for core funding for the organisation to continue. The funding sub-group are doing all they can to address this crucial issue.

The yearly accounts are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission and Companies House. All Ring-fenced grants are clearly indicated as these are required for specific projects. As you know the grant from the Big Lottery Fund will cease in January but on a brighter note, our volunteer fund-raiser Wendy Sage has secured 5k from KARC towards the Clerical Support Officers salary.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Kendall for undertaking the independent inspection of our accounts, ensuring that everything is in order. His Examiners Report is included with the accounts.

Allen Jones

Acting Chairman  
Centre for Independent Living Kent

**Mobile Managers Report  
for  
Annual General Meeting  
at  
Lenham Community Centre  
Wednesday – 30th September 2009**



Firstly, please accept my apologies for not attending the AGM, as I am attending a conference today at the Ashford International Hotel which was arranged prior to the AGM.

It seems hard to believe that my initial Contract with CiLK expired earlier this Month; I cannot believe that over three years have passed since I first ‘clapped eyes’ on the vehicle and nearly decided I didn’t have what it takes to become the Mobile Manager. I am so glad that I did not react to my first impression, when the vehicle seemed to double in size. I must, however, admit to a real love/hate relation with the Mobile, but I notice more and more that I am referring to it as “my mobile”.

Taking information to the people has proved an invaluable way to reach those who would not otherwise have been able to access the information which, in many cases, they desperately needed to improve their lives. This past year has seen people returning to say thank you for the information they had previously been given; information which has often meant a big increase in their monthly income after they successfully applied for benefits such as Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance. People are also returning for further information on independent living and advocacy.

Earlier this year a under floor ramp was fitted to the vehicle which means that all wheelchair users, irrespective of the size, can now safely access the vehicle. A hand rail and two further steps have also been fitted to enable ambulant people with mobility problems to safely get on and off. I also have the volunteer driver to assist with the all day events that allows me to concentrate solely on our clients.

I hope that this valuable Scheme will not only continue, but will grow and provide this much needed service to disabled people.

Marian Khamo, Mobile Manager  
CiLK (Centre for Independent Living Kent)

**ENQUIRY CATEGORIES 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 MARCH 2009 - CiLK MOBILE SERVICE**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>APR.</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEPT</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>a. Direct Payments</b>	61	81	42	94	39	24	35	62	23	56	25	32	574
<b>b. Access to the Environment</b>	2	1	12	18	5	1	7	11	3	25	7	8	100
<b>c. Accessible Transport</b>	2	2	0	5	2	1	2	1	2	4	1	0	22
<b>d. Aids &amp; Equipment</b>	11	11	4	8	10	8	18	32	6	12	17	10	147
<b>e. Accessible/Adapted Housing</b>	12	10	10	15	20	6	22	28	9	18	9	2	161
<b>f. Employing Personal Assistants (P.A.'s)</b>	1	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
<b>g. Disability Equality Training</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>h. Benefits</b>	25	26	24	21	26	26	35	23	19	70	73	41	409
<b>j. Education</b>	2	0	2	2	0	0	4	23	0	0	0	1	34
<b>k. Advocacy</b>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	5
<b>m. Peer Support</b>	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	2	2	14
<b>n. Counselling</b>	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
<b>p. Healthcare Provision</b>	5	2	5	12	8	6	12	5	4	18	10	11	98
<b>q. Employment</b>	2	3	6	9	2	0	3	17	2	5	0	1	50
<b>r. CiLK Information</b>	73	88	67	129	53	51	67	105	35	95	78	76	917
<b>s. Misc. Enquiry</b>	24	31	33	76	24	23	40	35	12	33	42	40	413
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>2960</b>

**Categories of people seen from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 - CiLK MOBILE SERVICE**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>APR.</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEPT</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Disabled People &amp; Carers/ Enablers</b>	30	44	40	86	15	14	37	29	17	21	11	18	362
<b>Older People &amp; Carers/ Enablers</b>	31	32	30	62	39	43	47	42	23	76	52	51	528
<b>Black &amp; Ethnic Minorities</b>	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7
<b>Professional Statutory</b>	12	14	12	18	7	5	1	40	4	13	7	9	142
<b>Professional Voluntary</b>	19	8	7	26	7	3	5	4	5	5	5	10	104
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1143</b>

## **CiLK ACTIVITY**

**April 1st 2008 to 31st March 2009**

I am pleased to report a substantial increase in our enquiries and a modest increase in activity from last year

<b>Enquiries</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>CiLK Mobile</b>	<b>2,960</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Direct Payments Support</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Self Advocacy</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Access Audits</b> (April – July)	<b>41</b> <b>5</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,236</b>

The Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd would like to thank the following organisations for all their help and support during the year.

**Ashford Gateway**

**Big Lottery Fund**

**Disability Information Services Kent (DISK)**

**Independence and Access Matters (*iam*) 31st Dec 06**

**Julie Rose Stadium**

**Kent Highway Services**

**Lloyds TSB Foundations**

**National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL)**

**Paladin Press**

**British Red Cross Headquarters Maidstone**

**Smiths Charity**

**Southampton Centre for Independent Living**

**Wheelchair Users Group**

We would also like to thank all our members and all those other individuals who have supported us with their valuable time.



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**and**  
**Registered as a Charity 1107079**



**Full Member of The National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL)**