

ICOD *LinkAbility*

Inverclyde Council On Disability

"Connected, Confident and Included"

Issue Number: 29

Summer 2013

ICOD Secures Major funding for next 3 years

ICOD has been working hard over the last year to secure future funding for our much needed services for disabled people in Inverclyde.

We are delighted to announce that our hard work has paid off, and the value and need for our services has been recognised by both the **Big Lottery Fund** and **The Robertson Trust**. We have secured **£452,962** over 3 years from the **Big Lottery Fund** for our "**Confident, Connected and Included**" project to help us develop our services to older disabled people in Inverclyde, assisting them to maintain their independence at home, maintain and develop their social and digital inclusion and manage their financial wellbeing.

Big Lottery Fund Scotland Chair, Maureen McGinn, said:

"Inverclyde Council on Disability will be able to continue supporting older people with disabilities to help them retain their independence, while remaining part of the

We would like to thank all our funders for continuing to support ICOD and all our service users...



Inverclyde council



LOTTERY FUNDED

INVERCLYDE
CHCP
Community Health
& Care Partnership

community, making new friends and rekindling old friendships. This project works at the heart of the community helping older people to retain their place in society with something valuable to contribute. This is an excellent example of the type of project we want to fund and it's good to know that this money will enhance and expand the vital services they provide." Part of the development of our services will be the ability to provide outreach services to disabled people, either in their own homes or in a variety of community venues.

The Big Lottery Funding is complemented by **£45,000** over 3 years from the **Robertson Trust**, contributing towards the cost of our ABC digital Inclusion services, allowing us to help ensure that disabled people in

Inverclyde can keep up with new technology and take up the many advantages of computer and internet use.

In addition to this new funding, we are also grateful to **Inverclyde Council** and **Inverclyde Community Health and Care Partnership** for their continued funding for our Shopmobility and Information and Advice Services, totalling **£40,000** this year.

Jim MacLeod, ICOD Chairperson said

"We are really grateful that our work and services that we provide have been recognised by these new and continuing funding awards. I would like to thank our funders for their continuing support, and all our board, staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication."

Community Recognition for ICOD

It has been a busy 18 months for ICOD staff, board of directors and volunteers, and we were honoured and delighted to find out that the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers was acknowledged by those members of the public that nominated and voted for our project for the following award categories: Equalities & Inclusion; Health & Care and Voluntary Organisation of the Year in the 2013. It was an honour to be nominated, but to be then advised that we had been shortlisted as finalists from all the nominations that they have received was a real privilege. ICOD staff and board members were invited to an Awards Ceremony on Thursday 25th April at the Beacon. The event was a wonderful celebration and



ICOD Board Members and Staff at the CVS Inverclyde Community Awards

recognition of the continuous hard work, commitment and dedication of Inverclyde Voluntary Organisations, their staff and volunteers.

Project Manager Carol Kearns said "We were deeply honoured to be named Winner of **Health & Care Award**". There are many worthy voluntary Organisations in Inverclyde that deliver a range of invaluable services to the local community. It is great to see that the work of the

voluntary sector and its volunteers has been recognised in this way."

ICOD would like to thank CVS and the sponsors for organising this event and those who nominated and voted for our project and all those who have supported our project over the past 25 years.

The evening was a great success and a tribute to the voluntary sector in Inverclyde.



Hillbillies Renfrewshire



ICOD are delighted that the **Renfrewshire Hillbillies Motor Cycle Club** have dedicated their **Family Fun Day** to raise money for **MacMillan Cancer Support** and **ICOD**. There will be a range of fun

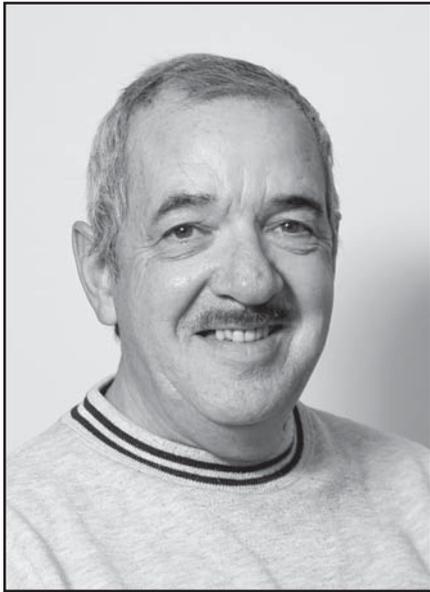
activities for all ages including facepainting, bouncy castle, a tombola, competitions and exhibition of motorcycles, with bands on at Argyll and Sutherland Pub in the evening

Come along and Join ICOD and Renfrewshire Hillbillies MCC for a Family Fun Day on Saturday 20th

July 2013

Argyll & Sutherland's Car park, Bruce St, Greenock 12-4pm

Scooting Off!



Hugh McIntyre, our Shopmobility Worker, has announced his decision to retire in August. Hugh has worked with ICOD for over 12 years, firstly helping us with our Empathy not Sympathy Survey in to the needs of Disabled People in Inverclyde, and from 2002 has been one of the friendly faces of our Shopmobility Service. Hugh however is not retiring completely as he will still be

doing some volunteer work helping us with our guiding service for people with visual impairments.

ICOD wish Hugh all the best in his retirement, and would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

We are now recruiting for a new shopmobility worker, please see the back page for further details

Get Involved with ICOD...

ICOD will be holding our AGM shortly, and our board would like to invite our members and residents of Inverclyde to consider joining them on our board.

We are looking for new board members to join our exiting, dynamic and enthusiastic team of dedicated workers. We need people like you to help shape the services of disabled people in Inverclyde. If you are interested in joining, please call into the office for more details.

The majority of our board members are disabled and board members are asked to commit to attending our monthly board meetings (2hrs each month) and also take part in events and consultations of interest to them.

This year, our 3 office

bearer positions are also up for renewal, these posts require some experience, and usually a bit extra commitment in attending other meetings each month...

Chairperson

Are you a **confident person**? Could you lead the organisation to its full potential?

The chairperson should be able to:

- guide our board meetings, making sure the agenda is covered and meetings run on time.
- make sure tasks are allocated and appropriate decisions are made
- keep the meeting in order - stop interruptions and don't allow discussion to go off on a tangent.
- Make sure everyone is heard, sometimes needing to be firm but tactful

Company Secretary

The company secretary role will vary from time to time however some of the tasks that would be involved would be:

- Taking notes and creating minutes of meetings.
- Help to prepare agenda for meetings in conjunction with the chairperson and the line manager.
- Writing and receiving letters on behalf of the group and dealing with Companies House

Treasurer

Our Treasurer works with our accounts assistant to make sure:

- Company accounts are kept up to date and reported at monthly board meetings
- Report to the board at each meeting, taking direction from the board on how the funds are spent

Information & Advice

Our Information & Advice supports and assists individuals applying for a range of benefits such as PIP (Personal Independence Payment), Attendance Allowance, Housing and Council tax benefit, Pension Credit and other passported benefits such as concessionary travel cards, blue badges and Mybus.

Personal Independence Payments

As of 10th June 2013 Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is being replaced with PIP (Personal Independence Allowance). This means that for all **NEW** claimants, is what they will apply for instead of DLA.

More Information can be found online at:

www.gov.uk/pip/ or contact the ICOD offices for more information

Help from



Inverclyde Council On Disability

"Connected, Confident and Included"



ICOD can help you see how the benefit changes will affect you, and help you access any other benefits or help available.

You can make an appointment **at our offices or for a home visit** by contacting us: tel: **01475 732700**, (textphone/minicom users can contact us using **Typetalk, dialling 18001** before the number).

email: enquiries@icod.org.uk or you can also visit our offices at: **10 Clyde Square, Greenock, PA15 1NB**

Housing Issues

Many Disabled people are now affected by the size criteria for housing benefit (or **Bedroom Tax** as it is commonly known). This means people are in a position where they need to pay some of their own money towards their rent, or try and move to a smaller house. ICOD can help people who are in hardship due to the Bedroom Tax by helping them apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment, which can contribute to some of the shortfall in their rent. We can also help people complete applications for new housing, and also bid in for properties on the **Inverclyde Common Housing Register (ICHR)**

We have an up to date list of available housing on the ICHR available at our offices.

How we have helped people...

"ICOD helped us with our bedroom tax. We are a couple in our 50s with disabilities living on our own since our children left home. We were hit with the Bedroom Tax as we have extra bedrooms. ICOD helped us fill in applications for smaller housing and showed us how to use the Choice-Based lettings system. They also helped us get Discretionary Housing Payment which was a relief as we were really struggling financially."

"I am a 61 year old woman and have recently been diagnosed with arthritis and am finding that I am not able to walk as far as I used to. I visited the ICOD office and spoke to staff there who helped identify all the different things that could help me. They helped me with a claim for Disability Living Allowance, and helped me apply for practical things such as a Blue Badge, Travel card and adaptations for my home, which have made a big difference to me. I am so glad that I visited ICOD as I am now able to keep up my independence I'm thinking about doing a computing course with their ABC Project, as many of my family are now on Facebook."

Learning

@ccess for Beginners to Computing

The **ABC Project** is designed for people with additional support needs and has a range of computer software and equipment which can be used to help those who have never used a computer before and would love the opportunity to try it out.

ABC offers a range of tailor made courses in many of Inverclyde Libraries and community centres. Courses are taught on a 1-1 basis or in small groups.

Accessible Equipment Loan

The project has a range of adaptable equipment and software such as big keyboards and trackball mice making learning more accessible.

This is available not only to attend our own courses, but can be loaned out to help with learning with other learning providers also.

The ABC tutors can discuss your needs and offer IT solutions with a variety of equipment which we will show you how to use.



Courses Available Include:

Digital Photography
Internet Safety
ECDL (With Libraries)
SQA
Basic Computing
iPad Basics
MovieMaker
Publisher

To find out when the next course starts, contact us on telephone **01475 732700** (minicom users please dial 18001 01475 732700 or visit our offices at **10 Clyde Square, Greenock**

Home Learning Service

We are about to launch our new home learning service which will enable disabled people to learn in their own homes.

With the home learning service we can help you access the Internet, send emails, keep in touch with family and even help you with choosing a laptop or stand alone computer.

Courses are free and open to disabled people in Inverclyde who are eligible.

"I liked the idea of learning at my own pace as I found it really difficult to concentrate in a larger group."

British Sign Language Courses and Practice Group

Beginners Level 1 & 2 courses are run periodically throughout the year and are well attended by many

people who are wishing to learn a new skill. Courses are usually taught in a community learning setting on an evening. Classes are free

BSL practice sessions are

currently held in Craigend Resource Centre, MacLeod St, Greenock every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6.30pm. Check with ICOD to confirm dates.

Social Group

Our **Social Group** aim to provide opportunities for disabled people and their carers/families to plan and take part in a wide range of accessible leisure and cultural activities. With this ethos in mind the social group have been really busy this year with organising many day trips and events to various places all of which have been thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part. The group welcome everyone from Inverclyde to take part and suggest new places to visit. We also host regular information/coffee mornings with guest speakers on a variety of topics.

Where have we been so far?

We have enjoyed trips to many different places, we have an annual visit to Rothesay which is very popular, and have visited many other tourist attractions in the west of Scotland, including the new Riverside Museum, the Falkirk Wheel, had a day out on a barge with the Seagull Trust, visited the



Rothesay Visit



People's Palace



Transport Museum

Peoples Palace and we also have an annual Panto outing too!

Locally in Inverclyde we organise regular scooter rambles along the waterfront and esplanade, at the Greenock Cut and also along the cycle paths to Kilmacolm and Bridge of Weir.

Our social group activities are supported by our trained staff and volunteers, and accessible transport and

mobility equipment is also provided.

If you would like more information contact us on **01475 732700** or visit the **ICOD office at 10 Clyde Square.**

"I enjoy learning about new things and going to places I haven't been to before....I have now made many new friends"

Future Events...

The social group have the following events planned, please contact us if you are interested in taking part...

Scooter Ramble at Greenock Cut -
Wednesday 14th August

Largs Viking Festival Opening - Saturday 31st August

Burrell Collection Visit-
Wednesday 18th September

SECC Craft Fayre -
Tuesday 22nd October

Shopmobility Update



Scooters at the Greenock Cut

ICOD are continuing to work in partnership with **Clyde Muirsheil Country Park** to provide 2 scooters at the **Greenock Cut**. Scooters are available between **10.30 and 2pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday**.

To book a scooter you can call the **Greenock Cut Visitor Centre on 01475 521458**

Going on Holiday or a day out?

Our long term equipment hire can help!

In addition to providing mobility equipment for daily use, we also have a range of manual and powered wheelchairs and portable scooters available to take away on holiday or for a day out further afield.

VIP Service

In addition to offering mobility equipment to help our members get around, we are also able to offer our **Visually Impaired Persons** service. This service offers a trained member of staff or volunteer to help guide people with visual impairments to help them carry out day to day activities such as shopping, visiting the bank... The service is available in 2 hour slots, either 10am-12pm or 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday and is Free of charge. For further information contact the office on **01475 732600**



Our Portable Scooters are lightweight and separate into parts and can be easily transported in a car boot.

These are ideal for holidays or days out where there isn't a shopmobility service.

Recently our equipment has been hired for holidays and visits to Paris, Lourdes and Stirling Safari Park!



"I am able to go places I would not have been able to before because of Shopmobility."

Membership Fees 2013-14

Our board have reviewed our membership and hire fees for the coming year, our annual fee is increasing to **£35** a year from £33, but still equates to less than 70p a week! Our visitor fee is now £7. Our other fees are:

Long Term Hires

Walkers: £2 per night or £10 per week

Manual Wheelchairs: £3 per night or £15 per week

Portable Scooter/ Powerchair: £7 per night or £35 per week

Our membership fees help us to maintain and insure our mobility equipment.

Events Listings

ICOD Events

Renfrewshire Hillbillies MCCFamily Fun Day

In aid of ICOD & McMillan
Cancer Care

Saturday 20th July 2013

Argyll & Sutherland's Car
park, Bruce St, Greenock
12-4pm

Pink Parade

ICOD members will be
taking part in the Pink
Parade to raise money for
Breast Cancer Care. Why
not come along and join us
(leaving ICOD office at
6.30pm on **Thursday 25th
July**, entry fee **£3**
(contact the office on **01475
732600** if you need a
scooter to take part).

Scooter Ramble at the Greenock Cut

Our Social Group are
planning a Scooter Ramble
at the Greenock Cut on
Wednesday 14th Aug,
contact the office on
01475 732700 for further
info

Jobs with ICOD

Shopmobility Project Worker

20 Hours per week, £9,547 per annum
(£9.18 per hour)

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic and outgoing person to provide a Shopmobility service to local disabled people their families and carers enabling individuals to maintain and increase their independence through provision of mobility equipment ensuring individuals are able to access community services and activities independently.

The main purpose of the job is to provide a friendly and responsive Shopmobility and information and advice service to disabled people, their families and carers and partner organisations. Duties will include promoting and marketing ICOD services, maintain and regularly update client records, dealing with booking enquiries maintain information systems and equipment.

The successful applicant will be required to join the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme.

The closing date is Friday 19th July 2013

Applications are available from the **ICOD Offices**, and also on our website at www.icod.org.uk/jobs.htm

Contact us on **01475 732700** (minicom 18001 01475 732700) or email: recruitment@icod.org.uk

This post is funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund, and also by Inverclyde Council CHCP

Articles for Sale?

Do you have any disability-related articles for sale (e.g. scooters, wheelchairs etc).

We can advertise these in Linkability, on our website and at our offices, contact us with your details!

LinkAbility is Published by Inverclyde Council on Disability, 10 Clyde Square, Greenock

Tel: 01475 732700 Fax: 01475 730210

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We also supply Linkability in other formats such as audio tape and large print. If you would prefer a copy in a different format or language please contact us.

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