

**Annual Review  
April 2009**

## Aims & Objectives

**Aims:** To promote choice and equality of opportunity for disabled people

**Activities:** Supporting and developing information networks, resources and services. SID has a particular focus on Surrey and the South East region.

**SID's approach** is based on the social model of disability. This views disability in terms of the physical or social barriers which remove or limit an individual's opportunity to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others.

**From Hazel Plastow, Chief Executive:** 'This year has been both productive and exciting for SID. We completed a project addressing barriers to information for disabled people from Black & Minority Ethnic backgrounds, launched a new benefits campaign poster and a Good Practice guide. An award from the Big Lottery means we will be launching a new regional network later in 2009.

We also made our first film - for YouTube - to reach a wider audience".

Take a look - [www.asksid.org.uk/info.html](http://www.asksid.org.uk/info.html)



# The Organisation

## **A Registered Charity**

SID is an independent not-for-profit organisation, which became a registered charity in 2005. The work is directed by a management committee of trustees, and undertaken by a team of paid staff & volunteers.

## **Opportunities for Disabled Employees**

SID provides paid and voluntary employment opportunities for disabled individuals seeking work. We are pleased to have been awarded the two tick disability symbol by the Employment Service, and see one of our volunteers move into paid employment.



## **Funding & Financial Sustainability**

SID's main contract is with Surrey's Adult Social Care to develop their Information & Communication Strategy. We also received a one year grant from Equality & Human Rights Commission in 2008, and sponsorship for our newsletter from Ford Dagenham.

SID aims to develop as a Social Enterprise, with funding coming from a range of sources, including grants, donations, sponsorship and earned income.

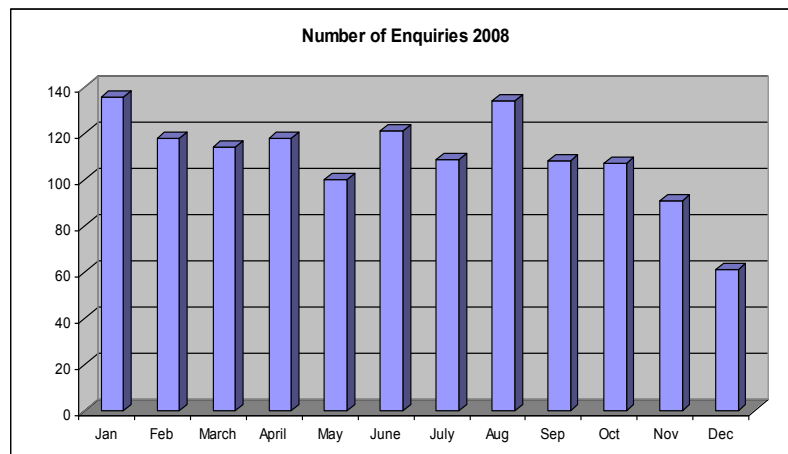
In the last year SID has been approached by a number of other disability organisations to develop websites on their behalf. These commissions help us to follow our key aim of making information more accessible, while also generating new income.

## Information Service

The SID Information Service is for all disabled people, carers, friends, relatives and professionals, living or working in Surrey and who need information on living with a disability.

We work at a countywide level, alongside more local services in boroughs across Surrey, providing an easy way to access specialist local information, with friendly and experienced advisers to explain how people can get the services they need.

The service is free, independent and confidential, and aims to provide a comprehensive response, so that the enquirer themselves can choose the best option for them. Open each weekday from 9.30am - 12.30pm, SID is now answering over 1300 enquiries a year on benefits, transport, equipment & more.



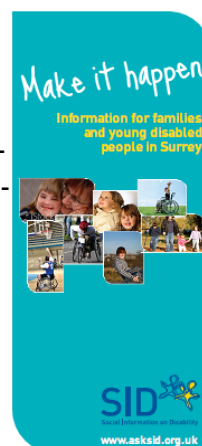
## Networking

SID works with a full range of local information and specialist disability services across Surrey. We provide resources, networking opportunities and lead on collaborative ventures to ensure that the varied information needs of disabled people are met in the most effective and relevant ways.

Quarterly **Information Exchange Workshops** bring groups together, with separate 'task & finish' groups taking up the action points raised.

This joint working resulted in the very successful '**Information for You...**' leaflet, listing 30 key disability organisations in Surrey, with over 70,000 copies of the leaflet distributed to date.

Building on this success we have also developed a similar leaflet called '**Make It Happen**', but for parents and young people. It has been welcomed by schools and children's organisations.



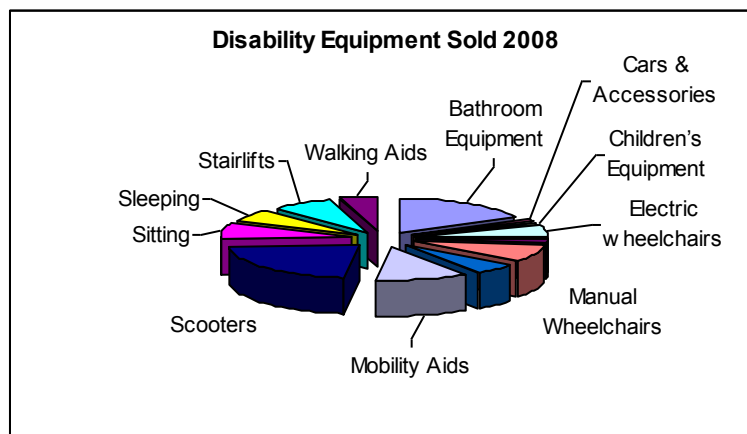
SID works with the **Delivering Empowerment Partnership Boards** and has helped in launching the new **Surrey Access Forum** [www.surreyaccessforum.org.uk](http://www.surreyaccessforum.org.uk)

The '**What's On**' calendar on SID's website has links to disability related events, newsletters & training days across Surrey.

## Disability Equipment

The recycling and re-use of disability equipment project seeks to bring together disabled people with others living in Surrey, who want to buy or sell second-hand equipment. The project has been supported by the Sobell Foundation for the last 3 years, and in 2008, 346 items were sold, including four cars, generating £140,000 for people selling equipment.

A bi-monthly newsletter listing to 300 Surrey groups and our freephone helpline supplement the website.

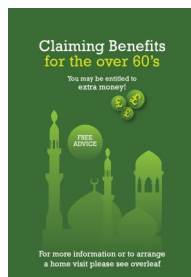


SID's work in this area was highly commended in a national award in 2008. Our local approach, to removing the frustrations associated with long waiting times and expensive items, has proved very popular, and has been adopted by East Sussex & West Sussex, with inroads into London, with the borough of Sutton.

## Information Resources

SID continues to develop disability related information resources as one of its key areas of work. In the last year we have collected information on over 3,000 Surrey based organisations for the new **AskSID database**. This unique local resource is key for our own information service, and are looking at ways of making this more widely available.

## Project Work



Funding from the **Equalities and Human Rights Commission** enabled us to look at barriers to information experienced by disabled people from Black & Ethnic Minority (BME) groups in Surrey. Working with the Pensions Service and BME groups in Woking, we designed and launched a poster on claiming benefits.

SID accepts commissions for research work, and the production and maintenance of databases and websites, for organisations working in the disability field.

This year we have produced new websites for:

- > Surrey Coalition of Disabled People
- > PA Finder for Surrey Independent Living Council
- > Surrey Access Forum

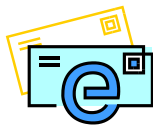
and conducted an Equipment Advice Centre survey of 43 disability groups in Surrey for the County Council.

## SID -Social Information on Disability

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[info@asksid.org.uk](mailto:info@asksid.org.uk)



[www.asksid.org.uk](http://www.asksid.org.uk)



9.30am to 12.30pm

*Please do contact us if you have any questions  
about SID or disability information.*

With thanks to The Sobell Foundation, Ford  
Dagenham & the Equality & Human Rights  
Commission for their support