

SID -Social Information on Disability

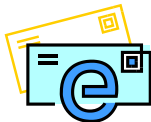
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Information Service is open
each weekday morning
from 9.30am to 12.30pm



info@asksid.org.uk



www.asksid.org.uk

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

With thanks to Surrey County Council,
the Big Lottery Fund and Surrey Aiming High
for their support



**Annual Review
June 2011**

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: 'In the last year SID's area of work has expanded considerably as we have worked with Surrey County Council to set up a new public information website and the Big Lottery Funded INDI South East has become established.

The Surrey Information Point website is giving people in Surrey greater access to information on independent living options. In 2011 we are looking forward to developing the next four topic areas.

Meanwhile, working with a network of 530 organisations across the South East is helping us identify other new services resources needed to make choice and equality a reality'.



Infrastructure: Resources

SID has produced a wide range of disability-related information resources over the past six years.

This includes a database of over 3,000 Surrey based organisations forming the **AskSID database**. This unique local resource is key for our own information service, and is now also exported into a number of websites run both by SID and other services, making more of the information available to via the web.

As part of this development, SID is providing information for **Surrey Information Point**. This is a joint initiative with Surrey County Council; in 2011-12 new sections on Housing, Getting Around, Leisure, Work and Volunteering, will be added to this website.

At the beginning of 2011 SID received a grant from Aiming High to produce a website for Surrey parents of disabled children **FAB: Family Activities & Breaks**. A survey of parents' information needs guided us in its development.

SID produces a range of printed resources for both children and adults.

The 'Information for You...' leaflet, listing 30 key disability organisations in Surrey, remains particularly popular, with over 85,000 copies distributed to date.



Infrastructure: Networking

SID works with a wide range of information and specialist disability services across Surrey and the South East region. 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.

Surrey

In Surrey, the Information Exchange Network brings over 30 groups working in the disability field together, with quarterly themed meetings and guest speakers, hosted by SID.

Last year SID was involved in ten countywide consultations ranging from the impact of traffic calming measures to library restructuring. We aim to use our frontline experience of people's enquiries and concerns to inform the decisions at county level.

South East England

At a regional level, INDI South East shares disability related information, skills, resources and knowledge amongst organisations to help improve the services and opportunities they provide to disabled people.

The network now has 530 members receiving regular e-bulletins, with monthly networking meetings.

In March 2011 we launched a training directory to support disability organisations in developing new skills.

The Organisation

A Registered Charity

SID is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, which became a registered charity in 2005. The work of SID is directed by a committed Board of Trustees.

User Involvement & Leadership

SID has a high proportion of disabled people amongst its employees and is pleased to hold the two tick disability symbol awarded by Jobcentre Plus. We have involvement of users at trustee level and the organisation is working to develop the involvement of users in all aspects of its work.



Funding & Financial Sustainability

SID has a core contract with Surrey's Adult Social Care Team, to provide a free information service and support the development of disability networks in Surrey. SID is also working with Surrey County Council to develop and maintain Surrey Information Point, a public information website to support individuals to live independently,

In 2009, SID secured funding for a three year regional initiative - INDI South East, to provide a networking and information service for voluntary and community sector organisations involved in the disability field.

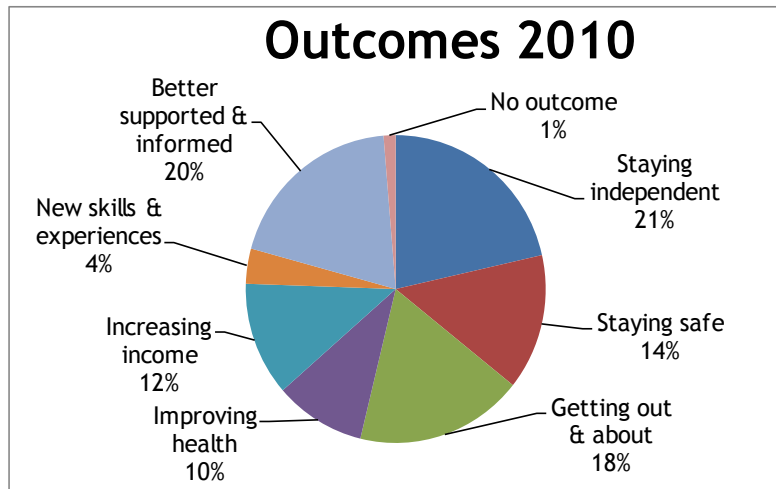
SID seeks funding for specific pieces of work when an information need becomes evident and generates income as a Social Enterprise, with commissions to design accessible websites for other disability organisations.

Frontline: 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.

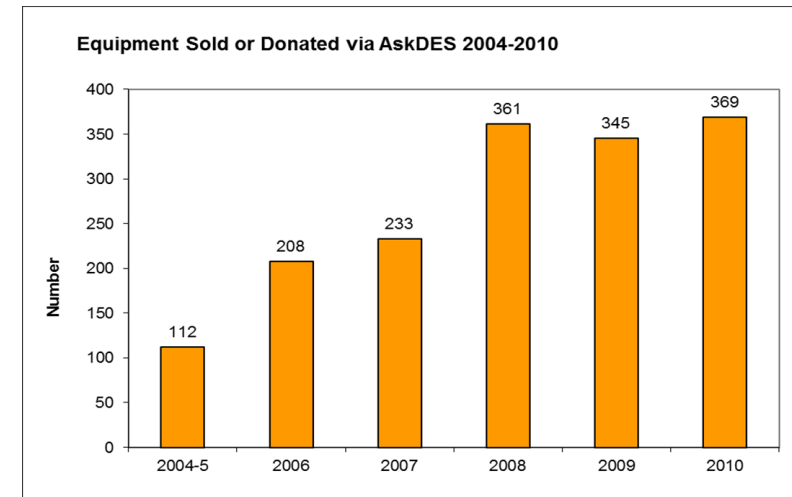
We work at a countywide level, alongside the borough and district services across Surrey, providing an easy way to access specialist local information, with friendly and experienced advisers to explain how people can get the services they need.

The service is free, independent and confidential, providing a comprehensive response, to enable enquirers to choose the best option for themselves. Open each weekday morning, SID answered over 1200 enquiries last year with 'staying independent' and 'getting out and about' the key issues for individuals.



Frontline: 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. In 2010, a record 369 items were sold or given away via the website, including 68 scooters, 58 wheelchairs and 28 stairlifts. The service has prevented nearly 80 metric tonnes potentially going into landfill in Surrey over the past 6 years.



A bi-monthly newsletter listing over a hundred items, and our freephone helpline supplements the website.

Our local approach has proved very popular, and is now franchised to disability organisations in East Sussex, West Sussex, Sutton and Herefordshire, enabling them to run similar services in their parts of the UK.