

CIC Annual Report 2010

Going For Independence CIC

Company Registration No. 6729549

20th October 2010

PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a fair and accurate description of how they have benefited the community, or section of the community, which the company is intended to serve.

About Going For Independence CIC and the work that we do

Most people will be affected by disability at some time in their lives, either directly through accident, illness or injury, or because of a close relative. Information about equipment that can help people to live independently is therefore not a minority interest but one that concerns and is vital to the population as a whole.

The Going For Independence vision, underpinning all that we do, is for people to be empowered to live independently with choice and control over their lives.

During 2010 and with input from our Advisory Board we agreed that we would adopt a mission statement - to help people to recognise the value of occupation and meaningful activity in life, and to better understand Occupational Therapy.

Our core business

The key aim of GFI is to enable individuals to be able to purchase Occupational Therapy home or workplace Consultations and Assessments and to access the right advice and information about equipment, gadgets and adaptations to help them to live independently with the best possible quality of life.

GFI can provide services for people who need to re-learn and practice their skills at home following a stroke or illness, or learn new independent living skills, including improving their psychological and emotional wellbeing.

Services with and for specialist charities

Going For Independence is well placed as a not for profit organisation to offer bespoke Occupational Therapy services to specialist charities who want to support their members.

GFI is working with national charities the Royal British Legion - we are now on their website directory – and with the Parkinson’s Society and the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF).

The MD also works with Ricability, an independent consumer research charity providing free, practical and unbiased reports for older and disabled people, FAST, the Foundation for Assistive Technology, and Assist UK, the national umbrella body for Independent Living Centres.

GFI is featured on the [allaboutequipment](http://www.allaboutequipment.org.uk/screens/screen2/index.php) website (link: <http://www.allaboutequipment.org.uk/screens/screen2/index.php>) via What equipment is right for me?/Assessments/ Private, providing an ethical alternative to the private sector.

GFI signs up with a Centre of Excellence for Sensory Impairment Consortium

GFI is a founder member of the COESI Consortium of 5 organisations supporting people with sensory impairment and disabilities:

**Going For Independence, Croydon Hearing Resource Centre,
Croydon Deaf Children’s Society, Croydon Voluntary Association
for the Blind and Croydon Disability Forum**

The Consortium aim is to improve customer pathways to the range of services available for people with sensory loss and disabilities, in Croydon and across South London, signposting to services locally and nationally.

The Consortium has adopted a Charter ,
(see www.goingforindependence.org/CCOESI+Charter)
setting an example of good practice for customer services. Members will work together to support each other on the development of sustainable services.

GFI is leading on the development of a website for the Centre of Excellence and successfully applied for a small amount of funding from the Governments' Grassroots Grant funding programme. The website will be launched in January 2011.

The company has benefited the community in the following ways:-

We set up a free Helpline in August 2010 and receive calls from people all over the country.

Our services and the work we do with local and national charities are helping people to live independently with increased choice and control over their lives.

Customers have also saved money by not purchasing inappropriate equipment.

We champion equality and accessibility for all.

GFI offers new ways of working in a challenging environment, and we are developing a national network of self-employed people to work with us.

The GFI model for employment is a different way of working for Occupational Therapists and other health professionals. Associates are self-employed but benefit from being supported by GFI as an umbrella body setting quality standards and giving training.

GFI is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all communities, older people and people with disabilities.

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS – Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no

consultation, this should be made clear.

The company's stakeholders include older and disabled people and children with disabilities, their families and friends, and our services cover the London area and nationally.

GFI is a member of the Croydon Voluntary Sector Service Providers for Older People group (VoSSPOP).

In August 2010 GFI set up an Advisory Board which meets quarterly, made up of customers, Associates, Committee members, and representatives from the local authority and charitable sectors.

The role of the GFI Advisory Board is to:-

- Contribute to the development of services provided by the Going For Independence Community Interest Company
- Support the aims of Government Policy, making links with other strategic development initiatives.
- Ensure that the GFI Community Interest Company is providing benefit to the community and approve the statement on activity for the Annual Report required by the CIC Regulator at Companies House
- Provide feedback on the services provided by GFI
- Advise on content development for the Website and test new accessibility features
- Help to promote GFI

Actions taken following the first meeting include signposting members to information on wheelchair loan and service development ideas informing work done with other local and national charities.

Pam Bennett

MD Going For Independence CIC

November 2010