



**Autonomie**  
Independence through  
education and support



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/16

## OUR MISSION

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY AND ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In my role as Chair, I'm often asked what Autonomie stands for. And that's simple. We stand for the empowerment of children and young people with additional needs. But instead of telling people what we stand for, it's so much more powerful to show them - as I hope you'll agree by the end of this report.

## A year of transition

We made a decision back in March 2015 to give the renamed LILAC Service a year to assess if we could establish need, financial stability and an organisational structure that only depends on volunteers and sessional workers.

## Thank you to all our Trustees for their support in 2015/16

Ms Lynn Morrison  
Mrs Mary Bell  
Mr Paul Jeffers  
Mrs Joan Tittmar  
Mr Michael Reilly  
Mr Douglas Bartlett  
Mr Chris Meneilly  
Ms Cathy Brannigan  
Mr Vincent Bradley



## Commitment to the future

Do we agree to give it another year and review it in March 2017?

## Thank you

As you reflect on the following pages, please do bear in mind that none of it would have been possible without our supporters. If you're one of them, thank you.

Paul Jeffers  
Chair of Autonomie



# HIGHLIGHTS

Relaunch and rebrand Oliver Jeffers as patron Superhero character  
 Raised profile  
 Freedom2Choose programme  
 LILAC House project  
 Santander Foundation Award  
 People's Projects Award  
 Improved website

## IN NUMBERS

**198** people viewed Freedom2choose photo galleries on Facebook in May 2016

**2,048** times people clicked links to read news published on our social media (Feb 16 - May)

**£14,100** secured in funding

**1** new Autonomie Newsletter

**931** people read Chris Meneilly's inspirational story in Daily Mirror NI on our Facebook page

**634** people visited our new improved website in March

**1** new information leaflet produced in print and digital for download

Our new centre LILAC House (Linked Independent Living and Advice Centre) will open in September 2016, located at 4 Sandhurst Rd, South Belfast. LILAC House will allow us to progress and extend our work with children, young people, their families and schools. There will even be a chance for young people to try independent living at purpose-designed units.

# TARGETS

Establish Autonomie with the Charity Commission NI (Mar - Apr)

Design of support brochure to schools (Apr - Jun)

Fundraising campaign (Sept - ongoing)

Delivery of advice service to families with children with disabilities (Feb -ongoing)



Involvement in the People's Projects - Submitted application (Nov)  
 Design and progress the campaign for LILAC House People's Projects (Jan -Mar) Including (with support of Kirsty) - leaflets, business cards, Twitter and Facebook campaign including support from Oliver and Rory Jeffers and Joe Lindsey



Development of identity and promotional materials (Apr - Sept)

Planning and delivery of Freedom2 Choose (Nov - ongoing)

Support to schools (Sept - ongoing)

Mailshot to schools (Sept)

Strategy planning (Oct - Dec)



## FREEDOM2CHOOSE PROGRAMME

This project was a programme of skills training, social activities and peer mentoring. The training programme and mentoring focused on practical life skills and building emotional resilience with social activities held in a mainstream youth club. The project was supportive but beneficiaries directed their own progress. The project beneficiaries were young people aged 13-24 who have physical disabilities and additional needs.

The group was a combination of those who have left education in the past 5 years and those who are due to leave within the next 3 years. Autonomie's management committee plans to continue this work and expand it beyond Greater Belfast area to reach the other potential beneficiaries that we have clearly identified. We intend to achieve this through our own fundraising activities and by raising dedicated funds from other funders. The programme ends in June 2016, and we received great feedback from the participants and their families, a further programme is starting in early September 2016.

## NEXT STEPS

Wider community awareness and PR campaign

LILAC House -  
(4 Sandhurst Rd)  
Opening Sept 16

Future funding applications based on using 4 Sandhurst Road

Big Lottery "People and Communities" 50k -400k over 1-4 years

Continuation to seek further funding for specific projects

## FURTHER DISCUSSION

More young people have better relationships with their support networks and communities

More young people are ready for education, work and training





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