



Partnerships... unlocking potential



Partnerships... giving people a voice

Partnerships... as musicians.

PIP worked alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to create an original music project.

PIP W9 Coordinator Adam Pearson says:

“In my music class I can count seven people for whom English is a second language, someone whose selective mutism prevents her from communicating verbally, another person whose autism makes it incredibly hard for him to initiate a verbal interaction, three people who require hearing aids and two whose lack of confidence meant it was weeks before they spoke to me for the first time.

And yet when we start to play, these barriers to communication disappear. They play their instruments in tandem, rhythmically and melodically in sync with one another, feeding off each other's energy and the feeling within the room. They become a single unit working together towards a common goal – all without speaking a word. This is the unifying and enabling power of music.”

2015 was a year of development, change and progression for PIP. We finalised our three-year **strategic plan**, mapping out clear objectives to inform our work and to navigate an uncertain and challenging environment.

For the third year in a row, we have increased the number of people we support. Personalised and innovative activities – tailored to individual goals and skills – allow us to deliver our day-to-day timetable and core services to **support people with learning disabilities** in unique ways. We also invested even more in volunteers, who engage meaningfully at PIP and enable us to raise awareness of our work in the community.

We also delivered outstanding projects with quality partners – including an original drama show, music project and art exhibition – which created **imaginative and innovative opportunities**. Creativity is a natural and meaningful way to engage with the people we support, and we've channelled much of our work through this lens. Creativity allows people to find their voices and express themselves and, as a result, the past year has enabled many learning disabled adults to articulate their needs and wishes, hopes and dreams in new ways.

The impact of this work is clear. It's helped the people we serve to **find a true voice** to speak for themselves, and enabled the community around them to better understand our cause. We've reached a wider audience, and integrated people with learning disabilities into the community.

Bill Feeney, Director

Partnerships... as artists. PIP was proud to present *Daring to Defy Barriers*, a thought-provoking and inspiring collection of artworks by people with learning disabilities curated in partnership with The Guardian Gallery and showcased in its wonderful exhibition space. The exhibition was a great opportunity for the people we support to demonstrate how creative and imaginative they are. PIP Director Bill Feeney is pictured with Lauren.





Partnerships... for empowerment

Emma-Louise didn't need a Michelin star to prepare the best meal in the world.

No drizzled jus. No elaborate presentation. Just pasta.

Prepared in a microwave by Emma-Louise, who despite her learning disabilities and the use of only one hand, cooked her very first meal.

And how did it taste?

Fantastic.

Because it was the taste of independence.

Tom goes to PIP three and a half days a week:
"I like art because I find it relaxing. I also like music and football. My favourite session at PIP is cooking because we get to make food and eat what we make."



Who we are

PIP – Pursuing Independent Paths – encourages and empowers adults with learning disabilities to reach their full potential. We are a small local provider in London, with big ideas. All our activities focus on promoting choice, participation and independence.

Partnerships... as actors.

You could have heard a pin drop at the Victoria & Albert Museum theatre, where our actors gave a fantastic performance of their play *Lionheart*.



What we do

PIP offers flexible and dynamic services, and accredited training and education such as literacy and numeracy; travel training; creative arts and drama; independent living skills; nutrition, cooking and healthy eating; exercise and lifestyle choices; leisure activities; social and emotional development; employment skills and work placements; and support into mainstream education. These core services offer independence, skills, self-expression and value in the community.

Kelly uses her art skills to create a mural commissioned by two PIP sponsors – Wates and British Land – to be displayed at their local construction site. It is just one example of how core work, such as art, has equal benefit for our people and our partners.



Partnerships... for independence

Lauren wants to go travelling.

On the Northern Line. Or the Central Line. Or even the Circle Line, for that matter.

Having mastered the bus, she can travel from home to college now and is keen to see a bit more of the world.

Like Oxford Circus.

This may not seem very intrepid to everyone but if you've never taken the tube on your own, it's every bit as exciting as a trip to Thailand.



Narjis hails a bus. We provide people with personalised training on how to travel independently on specific routes to college, work or social activities. We offer intensive support, so they can progress from being accompanied on their journey to being shadowed by staff from a distance. Eventually, they progress to undertaking the entire journey independently.





Partnerships... to overcome barriers

At the office, Narjis is the work experience girl.
Not the learning disability girl.

Narjis has been on placement at a large engineering company in London for the last two years.

She has her own desk where she performs administrative tasks like printing, photocopying, stamping and filing.

In between, she reads emails and loves chatting to the other employees. If this doesn't sound like anything special, that's because it isn't.

Please help us to give other people like Narjis the opportunity to be ordinary.

Maz at work. PIP equips and supports people with valuable vocational and employment skills, and work placements.



How we work

All our services work to the following outcomes:

- increasing life skills
- building social skills
- leading a more independent life
- improving health, well-being and self-esteem
- increasing social interactions within the community
- happiness, comfort and improved quality of life for families and carers

Partnerships... to expand horizons. Increased practical and creative skills give people with learning disabilities like Lauren opportunities to develop and progress. These, in turn, lead to greater support in the community and more work placements, fulfilling one of PIP's main remits which is community integration.



Partnerships... for fundraising

Thank you for supporting us.

We are proud to have been supported by many organisations and individuals this year. They all committed to helping PIP make a positive impact on the lives of people with learning disabilities. There are several charitable trusts and foundations that deserve special thanks for their multi-year grants, as does John Lewis Oxford Street for its £15,000 donation and the 88 riders in the PIP Mountain Bike Challenge who raised a record £35,000 this year.

We look forward to welcoming you to the PIP family in 2016.



PIP Mountain Bike Challenge participant Dave Arnott says: "For anybody considering taking part in the Mountain Bike Challenge, I've only got one tip – don't put off doing it."

Where we work

At our W9 service, PIP equips people with valuable skills, developing opportunities for independent living skills, community integration, creative self-expression, leisure activities and fun.

At our SW1 service, we enable people – many of whom are older, isolated and living alone – to access their local community.

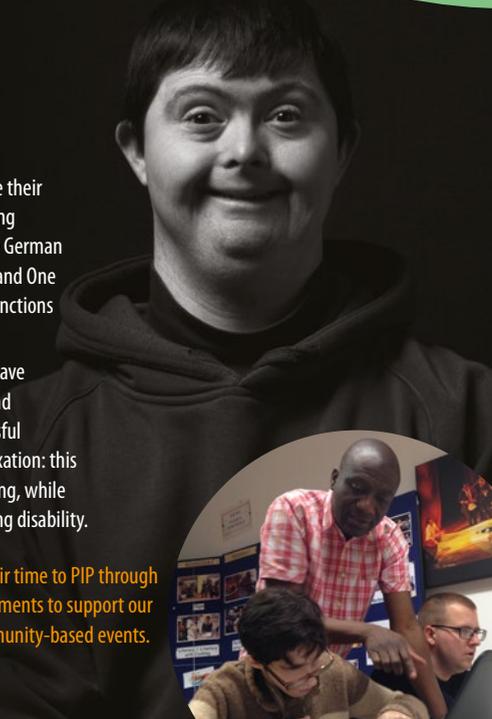
Our Community Development Project works intensively one-to-one with those who have high support needs and access the outside community on a very limited basis. Our innovative Travel Training service provides intensive one-to-one training on using public transport for independent, individual journeys.

Partnerships... for transformation

We are very fortunate to have a wide network of volunteers who donate their time to supporting PIP and transforming the lives of people with learning disabilities. Recruited via corporate partners such as John Lewis and the German YMCA, through charity partnership organisations like Time and Talents and One Westminster, or simply by word of mouth, volunteers fulfil a range of functions such as administrative support and session assistance.

The experience is mutually beneficial – volunteers often say that they have developed new skills, and understand more about learning disability and the impact a small charity like PIP has on people's lives. A recent successful engagement saw us host a team from HMRC who led a workshop on taxation: this supported our delivery of numeracy and independent living skills training, while helping the volunteers to understand the needs of people with a learning disability.

Our fantastic volunteers donate their time to PIP through regular volunteering and secondments to support our frontline work and through community-based events.



The financial picture

Summarised balance sheet at 31 March 2015

	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets		17,546
Current assets		
Debtors	53,308	
Cash at bank and in hand	208,912	
	262,220	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	70,773	
Net current assets		191,447
Total assets less current liabilities		208,993
Income funds		
Restricted funds		–
Unrestricted funds		208,993
		208,993

Our thanks to the following partners for their generous support in 2014–15:

- Allergan Foundation
- Beatrice Laing Trust
- Big Lottery Fund
- British Land
- John Lyon's Charity
- Miller Philanthropy
- St James's Place Foundation
- John Lewis Oxford Street
- The 29th May 1961 Charity

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS to the Trustees of PIP – Pursuing Independent Paths Limited

We have examined the summarised accounts set out on this page.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditors

You are responsible as Trustees for the preparation of the summarised accounts. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised accounts' consistency with the full accounts, on which we reported to you on 31 March 2015. We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts from which they have been prepared.

In our opinion, the summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015.

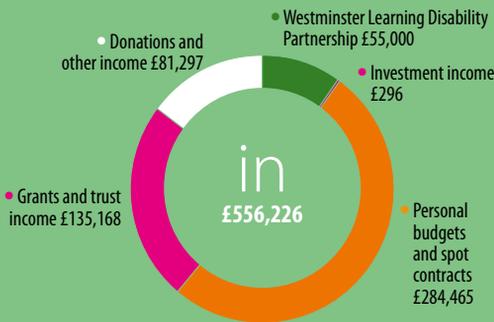
HW Fisher & Company, Registered Auditor
Acre House, 11–15 William Road, London NW1 3ER

The summarised accounts on this page have been extracted from the audited accounts of the charity which were approved by Trustees on 10 September 2015. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. A copy of the full Annual Report and Accounts will be submitted to the Charity Commission. For further information, the full Annual Report and Accounts, including the unqualified report of the Auditors, should be consulted.

A copy can be obtained from the charity's offices at 4E Warwick Court, Shirland Mews, London W9 3DY.

Board of Trustees

Tim Matthews, Chair
Chris Allchin, Vice Chair
David Fletcher, Treasurer
Francesca Carbonaro
John Leach
Mike Locke





All the students threw themselves into the annual PIP holiday with energy and excitement. They worked together on team building exercises, and enjoyed go karting, motor boating, archery, a monster of an obstacle course and zip wire, and also contributed to the cooking and cleaning. On the last day, the students were celebrated for their hard work, enthusiasm and support for each other.



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Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Just Giving.

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