



Changing times, changing lives

Annual review 2012

PIP – Pursuing Independent Paths – continues to deliver outstanding services in the face of myriad changes and challenges.



The roll-out of personal budgets has offered service users more choice in their support. Personalisation has provided excellent

opportunities for PIP to increase the quality of personal, flexible and bespoke packages of support that are our strength.

Crucial to our success this year and in the future is our fundraising strategy and business planning. In 2012, we completed a business planning partnership project with PilotLight, a process that supported us to adopt a clearer mission and become more focused about who we are and what we do. Although PIP's short-term financial position is secure, diversifying our income will give us the flexibility to provide more

unique opportunities for our service users. During these times of change, it's worth noting what has not changed – our service users still have complex and vulnerable lives. Supporting them well demands creative solutions to keep them safe and on the road to progression.

As a small community charity, we strive to provide exciting opportunities through innovative engagement. PIP's talented staff team, dedicated volunteers and active board members enable us to do this.

We are confident that we can – and will – continue to offer our service users fantastic opportunities to achieve their potential and contribute to the local community.

Bill Feeney, Director

innovating

A PIP student demonstrates culinary skills by creating a healthy snack.





As an adult living with a learning disability, Rosie faces many challenges. As well as considerations such as independent living, seeking employment and forming relationships, some day-to-day activities can prove extremely challenging. For example, travelling on public transport can feel tremendously daunting and overwhelming, leading to isolation and lack of independence. As one of the many services offered at PIP, Rosie began travel training with her development worker to provide her with the skills needed to use the city's transport system unaided. Today, Rosie is able to travel to meet friends for shopping trips, access education at a local college and take advantage of work opportunities with local businesses. Her confidence has increased, allowing her more independence and opportunity, which she may not otherwise have experienced.

Rosie's mother says, "I think she's benefited enormously. What really impressed me is that she hasn't just learned the journeys that PIP has taught her, she's learned to apply the approach generally."

overcoming



Making friends and socialising can often be extremely difficult for someone living with a learning disability, leading to increased feelings of isolation and separation from society. When Duaa joined PIP she was initially very shy, quiet and reluctant to mix with the other students, as is often the case for an adult with a learning disability. After Duaa's assessment, we set up a bespoke programme of support classes for three days a week: these ranged from learning how to manage her own money to expressing her personality through art and drama. Slowly, over time, Duaa has started to come out of her shell and mix more with the other students, making friends and building social networks. Today she now regards the most valuable part of coming to PIP as seeing her friends, interacting and socialising with the other students, and laughing and having a good time. PIP reinforces the importance of social elements for students through all our classes, excursions and holidays. We create opportunities for our students to develop socially and to make friends. These opportunities lead to the positive benefits that Duaa is now enjoying.



rewarding

PIP is a friendly and accessible local provider of quality social care in London, with a mission to support adults with learning disabilities to achieve their potential. Our service users have a wide spectrum of support needs, from mild to critical.

Choice

We offer a safe environment where students can choose their own personalised packages of support. We focus on accredited educational training that fosters independent living skills, social and emotional development, and integration into the community.

Our activities focus on promoting choice, participation and independence – students have the opportunity to build on existing skills, develop confidence, make new friends and try new activities.

Skills

We engage and motivate our students, leading to increased confidence, personal development, mental and physical health, and self-expression through drama, and

arts and crafts. Our students develop skills and knowledge in literacy and numeracy, travel training, healthy eating, and personal and group relationships. We also support students on their way into mainstream education, vocational and employment skills, and work placements.

Goals


Person-centred planning is fundamental. All PIP services are personalised, focusing on each student's strengths and skills. We work closely with our students and their circles of support to develop individual programmes that help them meet their goals.

Our students play a central role in developing PIP's direction. We also work in partnership with health and social services, the local community and local employers.

providing

Independent living skills – such as managing money, literacy and healthy living – enable PIP students to integrate with their communities.






Health and well-being are at the heart of all PIP activities: making healthy choices is central to a healthy life for adults with learning disabilities.



impact




PIP provides innovative and valuable skills for students to develop self-confidence.

support us


The move to personal budgets enables PIP's students to choose how to meet their individual needs; however, changes in eligibility criteria mean that many of our students have lost some or all of their funding.

At the heart of everything PIP does are the disabled adults we exist to serve and we are constantly aware of the impact our work has on vulnerable people.


To make a donation, or for information about partnership opportunities, contact us at info@piponline.org.uk or www.justgiving.com/pip




Healthy eating includes planning a meal and budgeting a menu.



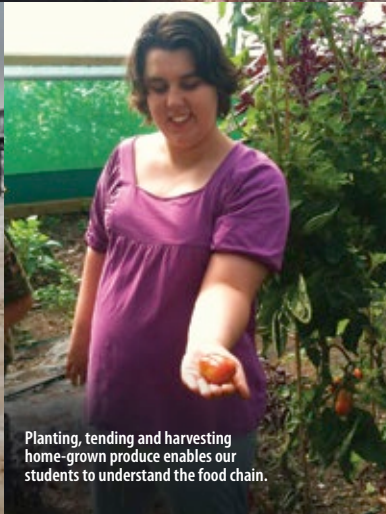
In March, PIP's theatre company performed *Time of my Life*, a story about disabled people's journey into adulthood, raising over £2,700 and integrating disabled and non-disabled audiences.



PIP's mountain bike challenge in October raised an amazing £8,200, with 25 riders tackling 18 tough and muddy miles through the Chilterns countryside.



Residential working holidays create valuable opportunities for disabled adults to experience new environments.



Planting, tending and harvesting home-grown produce enables our students to understand the food chain.

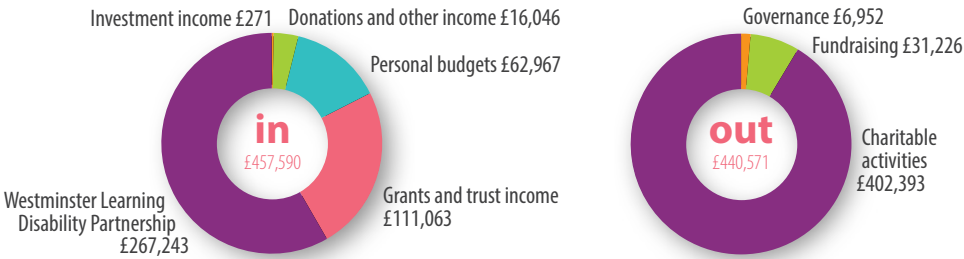
Summarised balance sheet at 31 March 2012

	£	£	
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		11,994	
Current assets			
Debtors	26,843		
Cash at bank and in hand	155,954		
	182,797		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(13,644)		
Net current assets		169,153	
Total assets less current liabilities		181,147	
Income funds			
Restricted funds		11,250	
Unrestricted funds		169,897	
		181,147	

We thank the following partners for their support in 2011–12:

- Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities
- The Hedley Foundation
- John Lyon's Charity
- Lloyds TSB Foundation
- London Catalyst
- Mercers' Charitable Foundation
- NHS Westminster
- The Paddington Charities
- Voluntary Action Westminster
- Westminster Amalgamated
- Westminster Learning Disability Partnership

stewardship



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 28 August 2012. 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 2012.
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 28 August 2012. 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**
- Matthew Lagden, Chair
 - Steve Kelly, Treasurer
 - Sudeep Bhuller
 - Craig Hardaker
 - Elizabeth Jackson
 - John Macey
 - Pascal Mattermaier
 - Dennis McCann
 - Catrina Paterson
 - Nigel Reading
 - Sue Rice

Our four core services

At our **W9 service**, PIP provides

students with valuable skills for the future, creating opportunities for independent living skills and community integration. Training focuses on:

- literacy and numeracy
- managing money
- preparing for employment
- independent living skills
- nutrition, cooking and healthy eating
- exercise and lifestyle choices
- arts and crafts
- theatre and drama

 At our **SW1 service**, we focus on enabling our service users – many of whom are older, isolated and living alone – to access their local community. Activities offered include:

- social networks, participation and a sense of belonging
- creative self-expression
- developing confidence
- health and well-being
- drop-in support focusing on advice about education, council support, volunteering and work placements

 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. Activities focus on:

- establishing goals
- access to health, leisure and other community resources
- developing a support network
- increased confidence and self-esteem
- increased social interaction
- decreased social isolation
- respite for families and carers

 Our innovative **Travel Training** service provides one-to-one intensive training on using public transport for individual journeys. Service users achieve:

- awareness and understanding of road safety
- learning and practising individual steps in a journey
- recognising signage
- increased confidence
- greater access to community resources, including higher education, volunteering and work placements
- greater participation and visibility in the community

opportunities

Our key objectives are to:

integrate our service users into the wider community

offer our service users a voice within the community

extend choice and opportunities to all adults with learning disabilities

provide our service users with a legitimate voice in developing and managing our services and direction

enable our service users to contribute to the local community through work and volunteering

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from our services – or for more information about us – please do get in touch.

Pursuing Independent Paths (PIP)
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