

WSSSEN

Social Enterprise of the Month

Independent Living Association (ILA)

The Independent Living Association (ILA) supports people with disabilities and long-term conditions across West Sussex to manage their own care needs. The charity, first established in 2001, now provides a range of support services for those who are receiving personal budgets or who may be interested in self-directed support. The aim is to support people to gain and maintain their independence.

Services in partnership with WSCC: There are two support services funded by the County Council to provide Direct Payments and independent living supports. The Information and advice service is freely available to any enquirers seeking information on eligibility for receiving a personal budget and the options for self-directed support and greater control when choosing Direct Payments. The ILA also provide signposting to other services and supports and routes for independent living at home. As some people who opt for Direct Payments wish to engage their own personal assistants in order to provide their own care, ILA also provide a Personal Assistants engagement support service to give one to one guidance on employing staff or engaging volunteers and self-employed carers. This service is available by referral from statutory services when people choose Direct Payments and need to learn more about the responsibilities and legal obligations with recruitment and management of staff.

Customer focus: The ILA is led by its members – people with health and social care needs and their carers. The organisation aims to involve and seek the views of its customers in developing and improving services and they offer a range of ways for passing on valuable feedback, views and comments. They also issue a quarterly newsletter and highlight topical issues on their website.

Other ILA services: The ILA has developed additional support services to assist those who are in receipt of Direct Payments or who need help with managing their own care provision. Profits from these services are re-invested into improving and widening the ILA's charitable services. They include: Payroll services and banking administration; CRB checks for employers; recruitment advertising; Lend a hand domestic and care services agency for provision of staff.

Trained advisers are available at the ILA between 8 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday. For more information about the work of the ILA, please contact them at:

Tel: 08456 0123 99 Calls to 0845 numbers from BT landlines are charged at local rates. Calls from other landline and mobile operators may vary. If your service provider will charge you more than the local rate, call on 01903 219482

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Independent
LIVING ASSOCIATION