

# **SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living**



**Supporting the development  
of new Disabled People's  
Organisations**

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Think you know Disabled People ... Think Again

# What makes DPO's Unique?

- **Peer Based:** Run and Controlled by and for Disabled People and/or Carers. **Personalisation in practice**
- **Uniquely Qualified:** to understand the needs of their users and develop cost effective service models that focus on what people want
- **Philosophy:** Independent Living & Social Model of Disability. Rights based organisations with strong ethics, values and principles
- **Peer Support:** Enabling Disabled People to live independently – supporting from a peer learning process

# DPO's have an important role in:

- **Changing** perceptions and discrimination
- **Giving** Disabled People a stronger voice in the local community
- **Providing** peer support in areas such as social care, financial services, employment and volunteering
- **Developing** innovative services based on practical solutions to the barriers faced by Disabled People

*Source: UK Office for Disability Issues and Department for Work & Pensions*

# Challenges in Developing DPO's

- **Difficult** to find Disabled People willing / able to help develop
- **Lack of support** and encouragement or 'tricks of the trade' from more established DPO's who have solved many of the problems new DPO's experience
- **Government accepts** the value of DPO's but do provide any duty on central or local Government to support or fund DPO's
- **Standard tendering processes favour larger organisations.** Small locally based, evolving DPO's often unable or ineligible to compete
- **Yet every innovative social policy development of the last 30 years had DPO's at the forefront**
- If we want innovation in the future...
- **SPECTRUM CIL and Hampshire Local Authority have developed new approaches to these problems**

# Providing Solutions to new DPO's

- Established DPO's are well placed to support the development of new, fledgling DPO's
- **Peer Based Development:** Learning from the experience of an established DPO – SPECTRUM has over 30 years of experience – what works and what doesn't work!
- Benefits of this approach to capacity-building and market development
- **SPECTRUM has developed a leadership role in doing this:** Empowering users to become involved in setting up new DPO's and Co-Production.
- Helps **develop the market** and increase local choice

# DPO's and Co-Production

- **Working together** to provide user-led services that users want and value
- **DPO's support service user involvement** in local authority planning, policy and service remodelling
- We do this by **supporting and training users** to work with local authorities. This presents better outcomes than 'picking-people-off-the-street' – enables representative and inclusive views to emerge
- **Improving decision making** and promoting citizenship
- **SPECTRUM has two Co-Production panels:** in Hampshire & Southampton

# Further Information



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