

Welcome to Compaid



Supporting disabled people in Kent

Our mission

Compaid provides a range of practical services, using information technology and other resources, to enable disabled adults in Kent to maximise the social, creative and learning opportunities within their lives.

Our vision

We aim to ensure that every disabled person in Kent can play an equal part in society and achieve his or her aspirations.

Our objectives

- To ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our current and future disabled clients
- To improve public awareness of our work and engagement from key stakeholders
- To ensure that our staff and volunteers are appropriately supported and developed
- To strengthen our finances and diversify our income streams
- To become a key player in the voluntary sector within Kent

Chief Executive's welcome



“Compaid has become a highlight of my life”. This is a recurring comment I have heard from disabled clients, volunteers and staff since I joined the charity earlier this year.

That we have made such an impact on so many is testament to the relevance of our work to disabled people. And it is to ensure this continuing relevance that we are now embarked on an ambitious three-year strategy.

The needs of disabled people to be equal players in society, maximising their social, economic and creative potential, has never been greater. In Kent alone, there are an estimated 40,000 adults unemployed due to their disability. We must greatly extend and develop our core services if we are to meet this need, and we cannot do it alone. Partnerships with local government, voluntary groups, companies and individuals will be central to our success.

You can read more about our work and future plans in the pages that follow, and whether you are new to Compaid or an existing supporter, I hope you will want to join us in our journey to support the potential of disabled people throughout the county. Thank you.

Stephen Elsdon



Clients Julia and Sean at work in our Activities Centre

Activities Centre

It is easy to take computer technology for granted, such is its impact on our daily lives. Yet for many disabled people, computer skills have been hard to come by, or have been lost due to accident or illness.

The people who attend our Activities Centre have a chance to learn or regain these valuable

skills and put them to practical use. Some of our clients have memory problems, and producing an electronic diary with digital photos is a way of capturing their experiences forever. For other individuals, computer skills have helped with their creative expression, both in writing and in producing original works of art.

Personal story - Jeanette Kent

Jeanette Kent has been coming to our Activities Centre for four years, since she had a stroke. Initially reluctant to develop new skills, Jeanette has now learnt how to paint digitally, and produces greetings cards for her family and friends.

“The skills I have learned have given me a renewed sense of purpose and I feel valued



here,” says Jeanette. “I’ve found new friends and coming to the Centre really is a highlight of my week.”



Jean produces a new painting using a trackball and Corel Draw software

A regular programme of assessments ensures that clients needs and aspirations are continually being met. Many clients go on to take up full or part time employment with local companies, charities and other organisations. Others have gained public recognition through publishing books and contributing to local art shows.

Looking ahead

We aim to develop three new day activities each year, between 2010 and 2012, to meet the needs expressed to us by existing clients, and to attract other disabled people to the Centre.

Outreach services

While a large number of clients enjoy coming to our Activities Centre for the mentoring, encouragement and social interaction they receive there, many more benefit from our support in their own homes or in other locations, such as day centres and care homes.

The therapies we offer through computer software, specially adapted computers and

hardware, and musical tools do much to improve the confidence of individuals and enable them to access other services within their local community.

One aspect of our outreach support offers therapy utilising Soundbeam technology. This enables people with very little physical control to create original music through the smallest of movements.

Personal story - Sue Hill



Following a stroke in 2005, Sue Hill receives weekly outreach support. Creative computer and music sessions have helped her regain vital communication skills and encouraged her mobility..

Sue says: “The activities offered by Compaid have stimulated my recovery and confidence, and I can now cope independently for periods during the day.”



Dennis at work on a new painting using a graphics tablet

We are now working with some clients to record this music digitally so that other people can enjoy it.

Very often, the disabled people we support have no idea of the wealth of opportunities that technology can offer, but once they learn, there is simply no stopping their ambition. We have seen increased demand from many other organisations, including Leonard Cheshire Disability and AARRC, and we are currently planning ways to

provide support to even more people throughout Kent.

Looking ahead

We hope to establish a high street outlet in Tunbridge Wells or the surrounding area, where disabled people will be able to drop in to receive computer support and assistance, and provide design and print services to the public.



Steffon tries out Soundbeam with help from assessment manager Val



Driver Stuart brings Liz in for a day at our Activities Centre

Accessible Transport service

Our Transport Service provides a vital lifeline to many of the clients who attend our Activities Centre, and to thousands more disabled people within Kent each year.

Journeys vary from hospital and clinic visits, to shopping expeditions and larger outings to the coast, local attractions and theatre trips.

Much of our work in this area

supports other local charities, such as Headway, for whom we manage an accessible vehicle and take clients on weekly outings, and Age Concern, who have recently added an extra day to our contract.

With a fleet comprising both accessible minibuses and smaller adapted vehicles, we

Personal story - John Hazelwood

John Hazelwood has been a Compaid client for many years, and is currently taken twice a week from his home in Wateringbury to a nearby day centre where he is a member of a camera club.

“We go to our activities assured of a safe journey, good conversation and a chance to see our



surroundings as we travel,” comments John. “I trust that we’ll have many more years together.”



Our accessible minibuses are in heavy demand every day of the week

can provide for any transport need, and our vehicles cover over 140,000 miles each year on journeys that clients cannot make by public transport.

We also run the popular Kent Karrier service within Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling on behalf of Kent County Council. In the last year, this provided almost 3,000 shopping trips for clients who would be otherwise unable to obtain groceries and other essential goods . Our

contract for this service has recently been renewed for another five years until 2014.

Looking ahead

We want to offer accessible transport to disabled people at evenings and weekends, which will require further funding and staff hours to provide a regular dependable service.

Support services

Enjoying an independent life is the aspiration of most disabled people. Many are now directly employing their own care and support staff, using funds made available to them by Kent County Council.

However, managing the payroll

of staff and the payment of taxes and other benefits can be difficult, and this is where our own Payroll Serprovides vital assistance.

As well as calculating salaries and tax deductions, we process and submit annual Tax and

Personal story - Simon Wilson



Simon Wilson has used various Compaid services over

the years, and now runs a successful disability awareness training company in Tunbridge Wells. We currently support Simon in the payroll management for his two personal assistants.

“I have been using the Payroll Services at Compaid for six years,” says Simon. “I am impressed how promptly I get the completed payroll back. At the end of each financial year they do my books. All of this at a great price. I would recommend it to anyone.”

National Insurance returns. This payroll support is made available to over 80 individuals, and a growing number of organisations, such as Tunbridge Wells Citizens Advice Bureau and Voluntary Action Maidstone.



A recent extension of our payroll service has been an arrangement with Kent County Council to enable our clients to pay with a Kent Card. This debit card allows individuals to pay for goods and services related to their care out of a dedicated personal account, which is funded and overseen by the Council. We were one of the first organisations in the county to offer this service.

Independence for our clients is also supported through our design and print service, where a number of people who attend our Activities Centre work on projects for companies and other organisations. These range from designing stationery

One of our clients' original designs and business cards, to printing newsletters and posters. Clients are involved at each stage of a job, from design to proof-reading, printing and despatch, and gain valuable vocational skills at the same time.

Looking ahead

As more disabled people in Kent are given direct control over their personal support, we plan to provide a brokerage service to advise current and future clients on the range of support options available in the local area.



Meryl produces a new greetings card

Volunteering

Our services are delivered by a hardworking and dedicated team of staff, and supporting them is an ever growing network of Compaid volunteers.

These volunteers give up their own precious time to assist at our Activities Centre, accompany clients on outings and other journeys, and help to raise funds locally to continue our work.

In the last year we have recruited a Volunteering Manager to co-ordinate this vital area and recruit more people from the surrounding community and, as a result, we currently have support from almost 40 volunteers. These individuals volunteer for a total of 200 hours a week, or the equivalent of five full time paid staff over the course of our last financial year.

Personal story - Peter Simmons



Peter has been volunteering at our Activities Centre for the last year. He says: “My mum was disabled for many years, and working with the disabled clients here has given me a chance to appreciate her more.

“Being a volunteer is the best way you can give back what you need to, within the disabled community.”



Volunteer Mark assists Allison with her computer skills development

Volunteers come from all walks of life, and one successful partnership we enjoy is with Blantyre House, a local prison. A number of prisoners have helped out at our Activities Centre, and through this experience have gained valuable social and vocational skills to help with their release and reintegration into society.

In June, during Volunteers Week, we took part in a public exhibition on volunteering at Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells, and held a volunteer

thank you party at our Activities Centre. We are now providing more support for our volunteers through a dedicated handbook, and a regular briefing note which is also sent to our staff.

Looking ahead

We aim to increase the contribution of volunteers even further, recruiting more people to assist with our Transport Service and to form local fundraising groups.



Jean, Ruth and Rita display their wares on our stall at Pembury Market

Fundraising

Voluntary donations provide essential funding for many of our services, from outreach support to developments within our Activities Centre. We need around £100,000 in fundraising income each year to maintain our current support to disabled people in Kent, and must raise even more than this to fund our

planned future developments. Along with support from very many charitable trusts and foundations, we have continued to receive funding from companies such as the Pearl Group, Waitrose, N M Rothschild & Sons, Badenoch & Clark and Aegis Group to name just a few.

Personal story - Friends of Compaid

Ruth Gee, Rita Brown,
Maureen Stevens and Jean



Sargeant all help to run the Compaid stall at Pembury Village Market on Tuesday morning each week, where they raise funds through the sale of donated items and greetings cards designed by Compaid clients.

“It’s a great way to help out,” says Rita. “There’s a lovely social atmosphere at the market and it’s good to see regular customers who always buy cards from us. For other people in the village, there’s tea and a chance to chat.”



MP Greg Clark (left) with Compaid staff, clients and trustees at the Heart of the Community Awards

In the coming year, we hope to forge deeper relationships with these and other companies, to both increase voluntary income and provide disability training for their staff.

Fundraising volunteers within our Friends of Compaid group continue to make a significant contribution, holding regular events and sales to raise funds and local awareness. This helps us to achieve fundraising success in schemes such as Waitrose Community Matters

scheme and the Courier newspaper's Heart of the Community Awards, which call on customers and readers to vote for their chosen charity.

Looking ahead

We need to increase our voluntary income by at least £25,000 each year to fund new services for disabled people, and will be organising local events to attract more donors.

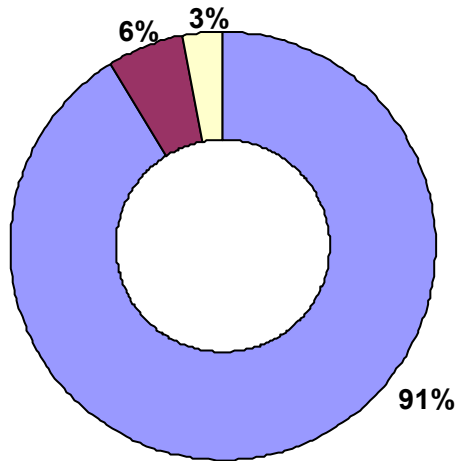
Our finances

Our support from volunteers and low overheads ensures that the vast majority of our income is spent directly supporting

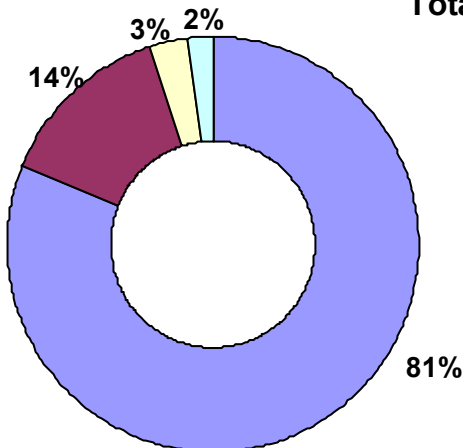
disabled people, while our cash reserves equate to just three months average running costs for our services.

Total expenditure 2008/09: £465k

- Direct Charitable Expenditure
- Fundraising Costs
- Governance Costs



Total income 2008/09: £424k



- Fees for Services Delivered
- Voluntary Income
- Grants
- Investment Income

Get involved

We rely on people like you to keep delivering all of our essential services for disabled people throughout Kent. Whether volunteering at our Activities Centre, making a regular donation or maybe even joining our committed team of staff and volunteers, there are many ways in which you can

get involved with our work.

If you are interested in any of the areas covered in this publication, or would like to know more about how you can help, please complete the form opposite and return it to us. Alternatively, you can contact us using the details on the back.

Personal story - Emma Woolley



Emma Woolley has worked as a computer assistant at our Activities Centre for nearly six years, supporting disabled people in using software programmes and developing their creative skills.

Emma says: “It is a pleasure to come to work. Everyone is really caring and supportive. It’s so rewarding to see satisfaction on a client’s face when they have achieved something they previously felt was unachievable.”



Compaid

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