



# INDEPENDENT LIVING ALTERNATIVES 2019-2020

Promoting independence since 1989

## THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is 31 years since Dave Morris created Independent Living Alternatives and ILA is now firmly established as a user controlled personal assistance service within London. This year ILA has continued to:

- provide personal assistants directly to 35 individuals
- support 28 individuals who manage their own personal assistance with 263 registered to use support
- work with 119 PAs who provided in excess of 118,500 hours of personal assistance
- place 4 volunteer workers through the Independent Living Scheme

The pressures to provide services with ever reducing budgets, the continued concerns over the social care workforce following Brexit, the indecision over the Social Care Compliance Scheme regarding sleep-ins and live-in support and towards the end of the year the unprecedented situation of a pandemic: a situation that was never anticipated and pushed everyone to the extremes of endurance. Through sheer determination, good will and good luck Covid19 was managed both effectively and successfully.



**MICHELLE DALEY: A Personal View on the  
Importance of User Control and Freedom for  
Personal Assistant Users**

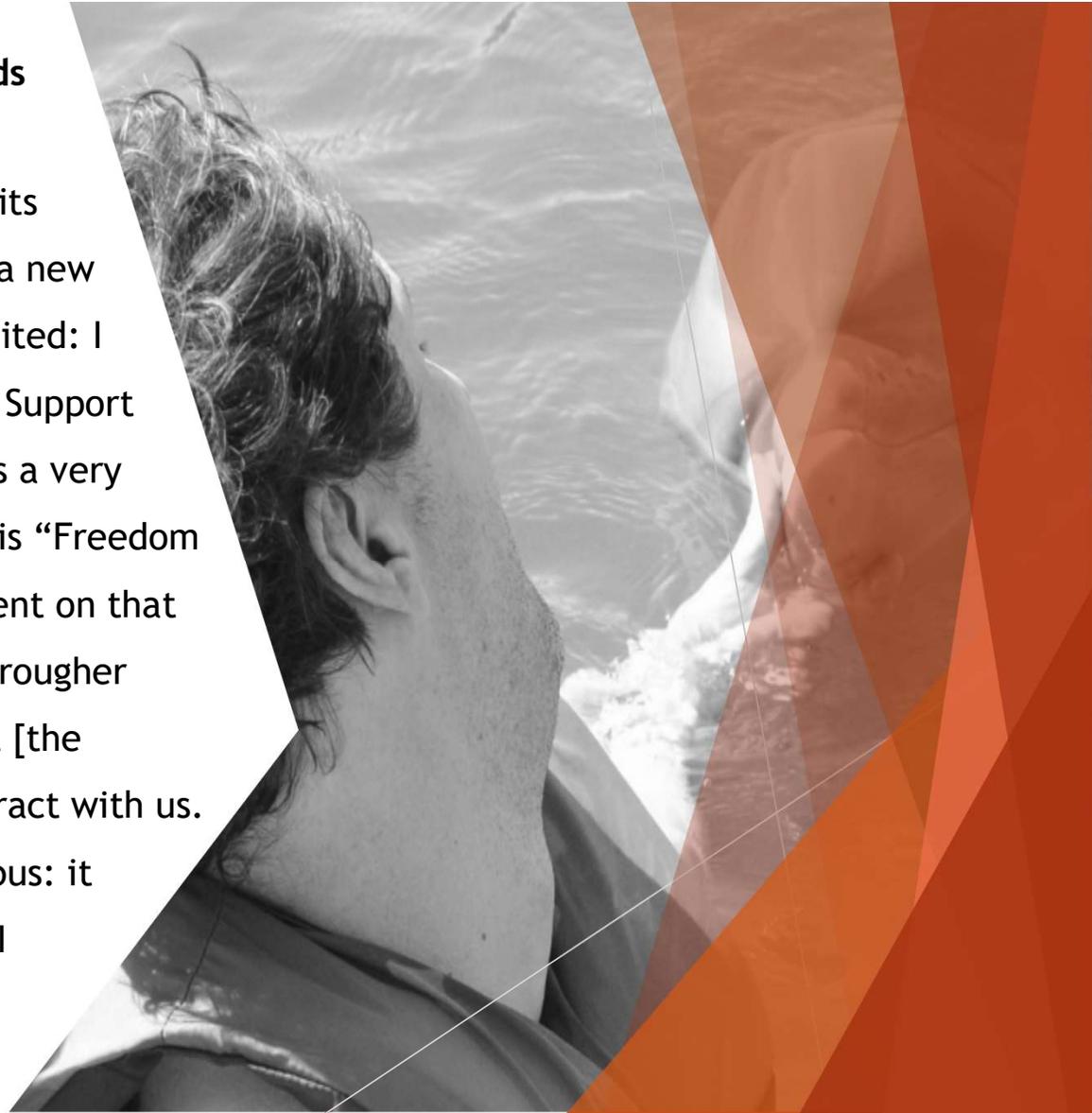
User control gives freedom to the PA User without deleting our intersectional identities, rendering us as sub human by weakening our Human Rights. The very essence of user control is to give us equality, freedom and liberty through the use of a PA, where there is mutual interest and a clear understanding of expectations, with support tailored to our needs so that we as PA users can enjoy and live a life like others.

**Our fight continues!**



**SIMON FORD: How to manipulate the words independent living**

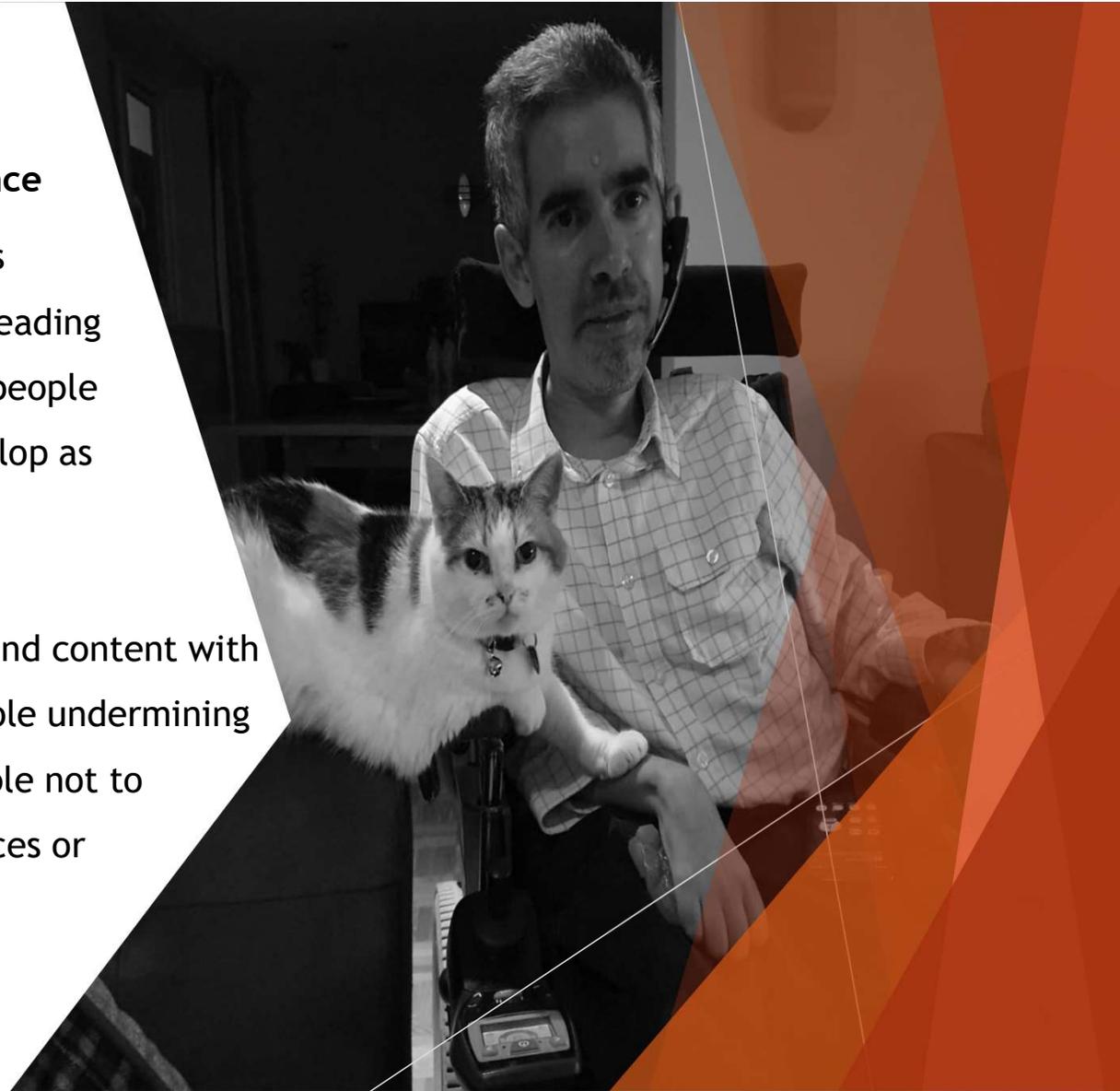
Welcome to a trip on the Manipulation Bus: its the mid-90s and a friendly OT told me about a new flat - ticket please. I was 23 years old and excited: I had missed some stops like the “Self-directed Support Lane” and “Getting Up When I Want Road.” It is a very long road the driver said. I was thinking where is “Freedom Road” and “Going Out Avenue”, but the bus went on that route for 13 years. The surface of the road got rougher because of my complaining and frustration, but [the borough] just said Manipulation Bus has a contract with us. However, there was a Freedom Bus called ILA bus: it was scary but I got the bus back in control and I gained more confidence in telling the PAs what I want and how I want it.



## **ALI KASHMIRI: Defining Personal Assistance**

There is no model, or blueprint, and that's because Personal Assistance is about one leading a self-defined life, so it is as individual as people are. It evolves with us as we grow and develop as people.

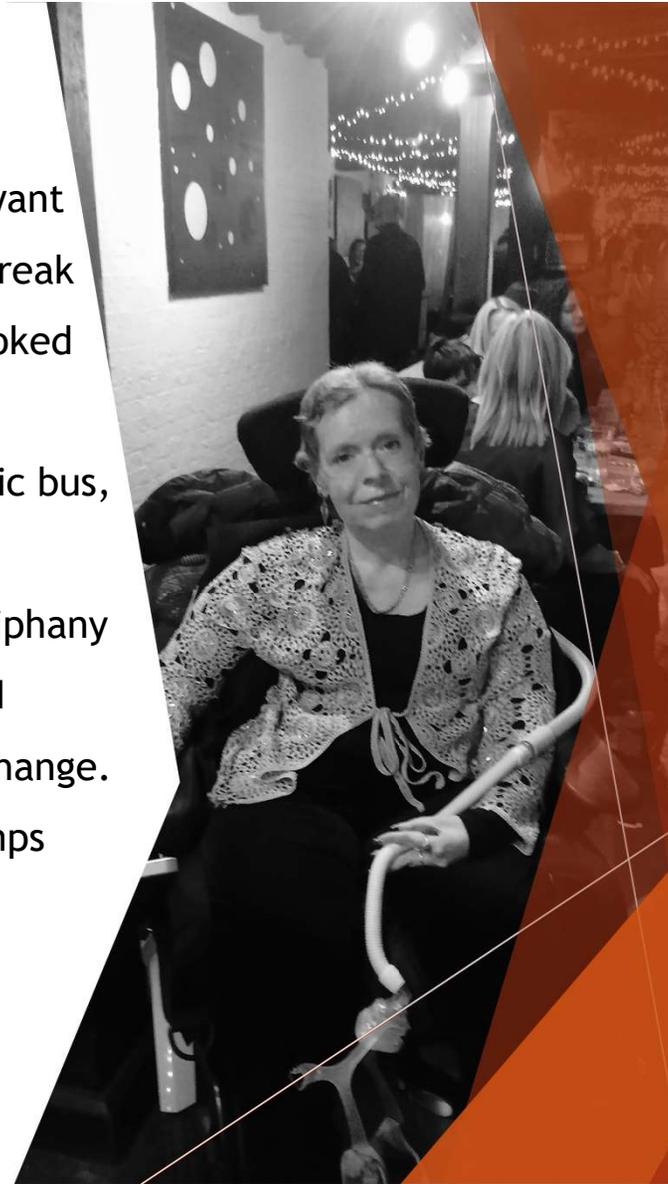
“A perfect PA is someone who is comfortable and content with following directions, who doesn't find their role undermining or intimidating, and will do everything possible not to intentionally or inadvertently alter the choices or individuality of the PA User.”



## **SUE ELSEGOOD: a life of campaigning**

“We’re going to hijack a bus on Oxford Street - do you want to join us?” A little confused, with a bit of a rebellious streak and more than a little curious I said yes! Well, I never looked back...

Stopping the traffic, it all clicked in place: This was a public bus, we were part of the public, and we had a right to ride like everyone else! This was a moment of empowerment, an epiphany that I could feel emotionally, intellectually and spiritually: I realised that an individual could make a significant social change. Getting a cure for my condition was ‘pie in the sky’ but ramps and lifts on buses was well within the reach of possibility. I left proudly, one of the Oxford Street 8 - arrested and charged that day for obstructing the highway.



**THE ACCOUNTS:**

<b>2019 - 2020</b>	
Income	£1,204,488
Expenditure	£1,170,823
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 33,665</b>

Tracey Jannaway: **DIRECTOR** manages the day-to-day running of the organisation

Stepanka Bulirova: **PA SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR** manages placements and payroll

Eli Vanezis: **ADMINISTRATOR** deals with enquiries, timesheets and the emergency phone

Melissa Turner: **ADVOCATE** provides PA User support and the emergency phone

The **Management Committee** manages the organisation:

Michelle and Sue - **Co-Chairs** Tony - **Secretary** Simon W - **Treasurer**

Simon F Ali Gabriel Penny

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