

## ategi Ltd is 25 years old



In 1994 the BBC showed the first National Lottery draw, The Channel Tunnel officially opened, shops were allowed to trade on Sundays and the first women were ordained as Priests by the Church of England.

In Wales the All Wales Strategy of the mid '80's eventually led to positive changes in how support was delivered to people then labelled as 'mentally handicapped'. Self-advocacy groups began to emerge and a clear plan for the closure of long stay hospitals, where many people with learning disabilities still lived, began...

...and in 1994 a group of staff working with adults who lived at Ely Hospital in Cardiff started the organisation that became ategi.

The Cardiff Independent Living Company (CILC), as it was first known, initially set up as a Cooperative, began to provide domiciliary care and support to people who were beginning to experience a better quality of life outside the confines of the hospital. Working closely with Cardiff Council CILC quickly developed a positive reputation for helping people to live positive lives in ordinary houses within their community in and around Cardiff.

In 1999 the organisation registered with the Charities Commission and changed the name to ategi. The organisation started providing services in Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan and offered services to anyone who needed support to live their lives.

In 2001 ategi started the Shared Lives Scheme which enabled approved Shared Lives Carers to offer people the chance to live or stay with them within their family home. The ategi Shared Lives Service began to operate across South Wales and England and ategi is now very much a UK wide provider.

It is with great satisfaction and pride that we modestly mark this 25 year mile-stone in the knowledge that hundreds of people in Wales and England have enjoyed fulfilled, happy lives with support from our Staff and our Shared Lives Carers.

The values that ategi was built on remain strong and clear today ensuring that anyone who makes use of our services has full control over their lives and the support they have, are respected as equal partners in the planning of their support and are enabled to live the life that they want to live.

It is only possible for an organisation to continue positively through the ever changing landscape of social care if its people share the same values and approach. In ategi we have been able to achieve this throughout the 25 years by recognising the unique skills and abilities of our Staff and Carers, supporting and

guiding people through their time with us and addressing difficulties that arise no matter how challenging they are.

There are far too many people to list here who have contributed to the continued success of ategi, some sadly no longer with us, others who have taken different paths. I would like to thank them all for the positive part they each played in sustaining an organisation that people respect, like and value.

The quality of the support we provide throughout the organisation is our highest priority. But loyalty and commitment to our values and to the continued strengthening of ategi is what makes it really work for the people who are supported by our Care Staff in our Supported Living Team, our Visiting Support Team, our Shared Lives Teams and Carers and our small central team, all of whom remain the key ingredients to making ategi a great organisation to be part of.

Our time as an organisation, like many others, has been peppered with great achievements but also many challenges. We approach everything with professionalism and sincerity which has been instrumental in us getting to this significant point.

We are celebrating our 25 year anniversary with modest coffee mornings and get-togethers across the areas in which we work in England and Wales, with our Staff, Shared Lives Carers and the people who currently enjoy being supported within ategi. We take our responsibilities as a service provider very seriously and in thanking everyone who has been part of ategi over the 25 years I would also like to thank all of the agencies who have worked with us and the many Trustees who have helped to steer the organisation.

Of course everything we have done as a provider of care and support is measured by the quality of the lives of the people we support. My sincere thanks goes to the people who have made use of our services and their families and friends, for their contribution and support.

I hope that everyone who has played a part with ategi throughout the past 25 years shares my pride in our collective achievements.

Tim Southern – ategi CEO

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