



# Action on **pain!** Annual Report 2010

Charity No 1088789

2010 saw our best year ever in every area that we operate. Calls to "PainLine" continued to increase with an interesting rise in calls from outside the U.K. Equally interesting has been the growth in e-mails requesting information and advice. What this does show is that Action on Pain continues to provide an effective service for the benefit of the public which is increasing year on year. We have also forged links with other pain related organisations across the world with particular emphasis on Europe which has seen several key initiatives being generated within the European Community. We shall be building on these during 2011 which we trust will bring benefits to people affected by pain.

Demand for our booklets also increased bolstered by the launch of our new title aimed at the carers, relatives and friend of people affected by chronic pain. We are also undertaking a "rolling programme" of updates on all of our existing titles. Our Mobile Information Unit has been busy again this year venturing into new areas where it has been well received. During the year we added extra resources to the unit which gives added value to our ability to help people.

2010 has been a very busy year in respect of lobbying both in the U.K. and across the rest of Europe. The change of government has brought new challenges which Action on Pain is facing "head on". We have serious concerns about the ability of the proposed GP consortia to deliver an effective and consistent pain management service across the NHS. Early indications are that the Coalition has no real understanding of the needs of people with pain. With others we are working hard to change this-it will not be easy!

The Pain Roadshows were once again a great success enabling Action on Pain to contribute to helping people affected by pain as well as giving us useful information in respect of variations in pain services across the NHS. To be able to work in partnership with healthcare professionals was very rewarding for all concerned as we were able to combine our resources to benefit the public.

Despite the worldwide financial situation Action on Pain has managed to maintain and even expand the range of services it provides without compromising our own financial position. Our policy of careful financial and risk management has proved to be a very wise course to follow ensuring that in 2011 we can continue to achieve the same high levels of service and support to the benefit of the public.

We still operate as a "volunteer" run organisation with no immediate plans to change in the near future. We like to plough all our resources back into helping people affected by pain rather than generate large overheads- a policy that has served us well for the past twelve years. In conclusion I am able to report that Action on Pain remains in good shape being totally committed to helping people affected by chronic pain.

Ian Semmons

Chairman