



Monday 1 July, 2019

Inclusive Governance to support leaders with lived experience thanks to National Lottery funding

Inclusion North based in Yorkshire, Humber and the North East is celebrating today after being awarded £49,091 in National Lottery funding to support more people with lived experience of learning disability or autism to get involved in the governance of the organisations that work with them.

The new grant from the UK's biggest funder of community activity will see the employment of two people with lived experience as Leadership Coaches and one as a Project Support Officer. The team of three will run a leadership course for 12 people with a learning disability or autism – designed to equip them to take on the role of Director or Trustee of voluntary sector organisations. The team will also work with 6 organisations to support them to make their governance more inclusive. By the end of the project the twelve people will have become Directors or Trustees within one of the six organisations.

Karen Parry, CEO of Inclusion North said: "It is really important that organisations set up to support people with a learning disability or autism have people with lived experience on their Board of Directors or Trustees. People have a lot to offer and bringing lived experience into governance is one of the best ways of making sure that organisations are doing the right thing to support people. We will give people the knowledge, skills and confidence to make great Board members. We will also support organisations to make sure that their governance is accessible and inclusive, so the twelve new Directors or Trustees can slot right in and start making a difference."

The grant is part of The National Lottery Community Fund's £800,000 Lived Experience Leaders Pilot Programme, an initiative which aims to better embed 'experts by experience' in all aspects of an organisation's operations – and enable the Fund and the wider sector to continue testing and learning about how people with first-hand experience can become leaders and how funders can support them.

Joe Ferns, UK Knowledge and Portfolio Director at The National Lottery Community Fund said:

“Thanks to National Lottery players, people with lived experience will use their unique expertise to lead social change and help their communities to thrive. We know that supporting those with first-hand experience to become leaders is a key enabler for civil society to do more, help more people and for our sector to have a greater impact.”

This pilot programme, which was developed through workshops across the UK involving more than 70 lived experience leaders, is a core part of The National Lottery Community Fund’s ‘people in the lead’ strategy.

Today’s announcement is also a key part of The National Lottery Community Fund’s commitment to enabling civil society to be fit for the future – helping organisations and the social sector create opportunities for people with first-hand experience to be at the forefront of decision making.

To find out more visit www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk

Contact:

Karen Parry Email: karen@inclusionnorth.org or Telephone 07375034291

Notes to Editors:

About The National Lottery Community Fund

We are the largest funder of community activity in the UK – we’re proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people.

We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people’s lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We’re privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

Inclusion North exists to make inclusion a reality for all people with a learning disability or autism and their families.

Inclusion means everyone living good lives as valued members of society. We work to change society so that everybody can have a good life.

We raise awareness of the barriers to inclusion for people with a learning disability or autism and their families, and work to remove them.

We work with local areas in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber.

Local areas join Inclusion North as members. We work with them on local projects to increase inclusion for people with a learning disability or autism and their families. We support regional work around bigger issues that affect everyone.

We are part of bigger pieces of work that affect the whole country.

We employ people with a learning disability or autism and family carers as Experts with lived experience in our Expert Hub.

It is written into our company rules that 50% of Directors and Advisory Council members will be people with lived experience.