

Being a Member of Inclusion North



INTRODUCTION



Inclusion North exists to make inclusion a reality for all people with a learning disability, autistic people 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, autistic people and their families, and work to remove them.

One part of our work is our membership programme for Local Authorities and/or Clinical Commissioning Groups. This booklet explains Inclusion North membership and how to make the most of membership benefits. Membership is open to local authorities in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber.

If local authorities outside this area are interested in becoming members of Inclusion North they should contact us for more information.

WHAT IS MEMBERSHIP?



Local authority areas in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber join Inclusion North as members through a yearly subscription.

Membership is a relationship. It is not about what we can do for our members, but what we can do together. The bigger the membership, the more influence and impact we have together. Members are part of a collective of organisations empowering us to understand what the important work is and to get on and do it.

Every year we work with each member area on local projects to increase inclusion for people with a learning disability, autistic people and their families.

Through our membership scheme we are able to support regional work around bigger issues that affect everyone and to speak up for the region on a national stage.



Members are part of a regional collective that

- Can join together in shared challenges
- Has a louder, more forceful voice to tackle big issues and challenge inequalities together
- Is supported to work with rights-based approaches, with people and families at the heart of everything you do
- Enables Inclusion North to have a greater impact locally, regionally and nationally
- Supports us to reach more people and grow greater awareness amongst people and families about their rights
- Supports Inclusion North to be a strong, regional organisation that is heard on a national stage
- Creates sustainability for Inclusion North to enable us to plan longer term work with greater impact



Benefits of membership also include

- Connecting you to people and families in your area
- Support to build local capacity amongst people and families
- Free places on Inclusion North events and training courses for people with a learning disability, autistic people, family members and professionals in your area
- An exclusive monthly policy update summary to keep you connected to changing law, policy and practice in a time saving format

HOW WE SET PRIORITIES FOR OUR WORK



50% of the membership is used by our project team to work with each member area to design bespoke work based on local priorities.

The other 50% is dedicated to a regional response to the challenges that people with a learning disability, autistic people and families face. We can respond and mobilise quickly to design and get on with the work that needs to be done.

Our priorities come from our work with people with a learning disability, autistic people, families, carers, the organisations that support them and communities.

We listen to what people say are the most important issues facing them today. We then design a series of projects that aim to address some of these issues.

This work is organised under 4 themes, which are kept under review

1. Creating inclusive communities
2. Supporting people and families to stay strong and speak up
3. Connecting people together
4. Keeping people informed

Some examples of the work we do around these themes is

- Facilitating a family peer support network
- Supporting our Tomorrow's Leaders graduates to continue on their leadership journey
- Being a partner of Citizen Network to learn from best practice in inclusion from around the world
- Providing accessible information
- Human Rights training for people with a learning disability, autistic people and families

WORKING WITH MEMBER AREAS ON LOCAL PRIORITIES



Each year every member area gets some of our dedicated time to work on projects that meet local priorities. These are some examples of the work members have asked us to do for them in the past

Planning for the future

We have worked with Family Carers to help them in 'planning for the future' – for what their son or daughter's life will be like when they are no longer around. For many this is one of the most difficult things to think about. We have worked with families as a group to develop their strength and resilience.

We have used resources such as the Together Matters 'Thinking Ahead' guides, we have invited in key professionals, offered ideas and information and supported the development of emergency plans.

Partnership working

We often get asked to facilitate partnership meetings to support colleagues from diverse organisations to work together effectively on a shared goal. We develop team work, overcome any barriers that exist, unpick some of the language that not everyone understands, and help to find solutions if things get stuck.

Consultation and engagement

We are frequently asked to use our knowledge, expertise, networks and relationships to carry out consultation and engagement exercises with children, young people, adults and family carers on behalf of members. This has included consultation with children and young people about future services, gathering feedback on a vision and mission statement from a user group and running engagement sessions on future service strategies with people with a learning disability and autistic people.

Testing ideas

We have supported members to test out a range of new ideas or pilot projects.

We can run engagement sessions to capture local people's views and ideas, run co production sessions to build solutions and then develop project plans to help to implement new ways of working. We support people with a learning disability, autistic people, families and organisations to work together to make new projects a success.

We support partnership working across different organisations.

Developing leadership skills

We have used our knowledge of supporting people with a learning disability and autistic people to become leaders, to run leadership courses for member areas. This can be used to support the development of leaders locally, focusing on the needs of the local area. We explore the history of the disability rights movements, considering what it takes to be a leader, hearing from those in leadership positions locally, exploring policy and politics and using this to enable each learner to develop a project for change.



Supporting Partnership Boards

Learning Disability and/or Autism Partnership Boards offer people and families the opportunity to influence decisions, question actions and get involved in developing solutions for the future. We have worked with a number of Partnership Boards to help them in a range of ways including to review their practice, to evaluate how effective they are being, to develop their annual work plans, to train self advocates to contribute effectively to the Board or to take on the role of Co Chair.

Research and mapping

We undertake research and mapping for our members to provide them with the information they need to shape their thinking and make decisions. This could be for example mapping what support and services exist in a particular area, or researching what type of accommodation people live in. We usually start at a very local level, but then have the advantage of being able to draw on our regional and national connections to give some context or comparison to what we find out.

Helping get more people into employment

We can support members to identify and overcome the barriers that people with a learning disability and autistic people face when trying to find a job. Through running the Expert Hub, we have a wealth of experience of employing people with a learning disability and autistic people and the challenges they face in making this work for them. We use our knowledge around accessible recruitment, reasonable adjustments, permitted earnings and other workplace issues to make it easier for people to get and keep a job.



Facilitating co production

We have worked with many members to facilitate co production sessions. Co production recognises everyone's skills and assets and brings everyone together on an equal basis to find solutions to problems or new ways of working. Everyone is valued equally whether they bring lived experience or professional experience to the group. There are lots of tools that can be used to make co production really creative and effective. We have brought people together to think about what a new service should be like, to plan a tender process and to develop a safeguarding guide.

THE TEAM



Inclusion North has an experienced team who bring a range of skills and experiences. You can find out more by visiting the website www.inclusionnorth.org

In a recent exercise, this is how the team were described - see 'wordle' image above.

Inclusion North

Suite 12A, Unity Business Centre,
26 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS7 1AB.

Email: info@inclusionnorth.org

Main Line: 0113 2444792

Expert Hub Line 0113 8980025

Inclusion North Website:
www.inclusionnorth.org



#InclusionNorth



/InclusionNorth