



inclusion
north

Community VCSE Membership



WHY JOIN INCLUSION NORTH?

*Building Inclusive Systems
through Partnership*

www.inclusionnorth.org

A Note from Our Chief Executive

Thank you for taking the time to explore what it means to be part of Inclusion North and our Community VCSE membership.

Community organisations, advocacy groups and charities play a vital role in making inclusion a reality in people's everyday lives. They are often closest to the experiences of people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers, and their insight is essential in shaping change.

At Inclusion North, membership has always been about connection. It is about bringing organisations together to share learning, strengthen voices and ensure that the experiences of people and communities are heard in regional conversations.

Over the past 20 years, our members have helped influence policy, challenge inequality and build stronger networks across the North East and Yorkshire & Humber.

As we look ahead, we want to continue creating spaces where organisations can connect, collaborate and contribute to change together.

I'm proud to lead an organisation that listens deeply, values lived experience and works alongside communities to make inclusion real.

Thank you for being part of that.

Hannah Tough, Chief Executive, Inclusion North



Why community and VCSE organisations matter to Inclusion North



Community and voluntary organisations play a vital role in making inclusion real. They often work closest to people's everyday experiences and bring insight that larger systems do not always see.

Across the North East and Yorkshire and Humber, community groups, advocacy organisations and charities are supporting people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers in practical and meaningful ways. Their knowledge, relationships and lived experience perspectives help shape better services and stronger communities.

Inclusion North believes that meaningful change happens when these voices are connected to regional conversations and decision making.

Our Community VCSE membership exists to help make that possible. It provides a space for organisations to:

- Connect with others across the region
- Share learning and challenges
- Stay informed about policy and system developments
- Bring community insight into wider conversations about inclusion

Community organisations have always been part of Inclusion North's work.

This membership offer is designed to strengthen those connections and ensure that community voices remain central to the future of inclusion across our region.

What VCSE members receive



Community and VCSE membership with Inclusion North focuses on connection, shared learning and staying informed about developments affecting people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers.

Members benefit from opportunities to connect with others across the region, share insight and contribute to conversations that shape policy and practice

As a VCSE member, your organisation will receive:

- **Access to VCSE learning and connection spaces** where organisations can share experiences, challenges and ideas.
- **Policy updates and regional insight** on developments affecting people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers.
- **Opportunities to connect with Inclusion North members across the region**, including providers, local authorities, Integrated Care Boards and community organisations.
- **Discounted access to Inclusion North training and events**, helping organisations build knowledge and confidence around learning disability, autism, co-production and inclusive practice. Full details of our training offer are available in our training brochure and on our website.
- **Opportunities to collaborate on projects and regional work**, where relevant.
- **Opportunities to share your work** through Inclusion North communications, including member spotlights.

Community and VCSE members are part of a wider regional network working to strengthen inclusion and ensure community voices remain central to shaping change.

Impact of Membership

Inclusion North membership brings organisations together to share learning, strengthen practice and influence change across the region.

By connecting community organisations, people with lived experience and system partners, membership helps ensure that the experiences of people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers shape the decisions that affect their lives.

Through our networks and partnerships, members contribute to work that:

- brings lived experience insight into regional decision-making
- strengthens inclusive and rights-based practice
- connects organisations to share learning and challenges
- influences policy and strategy across the North East and Yorkshire and Humber
- promotes collaboration between community organisations, providers and systems

Community organisations play an essential role in this work, bringing knowledge, relationships and insight that help ensure change reflects real experiences.



Connection



Learning



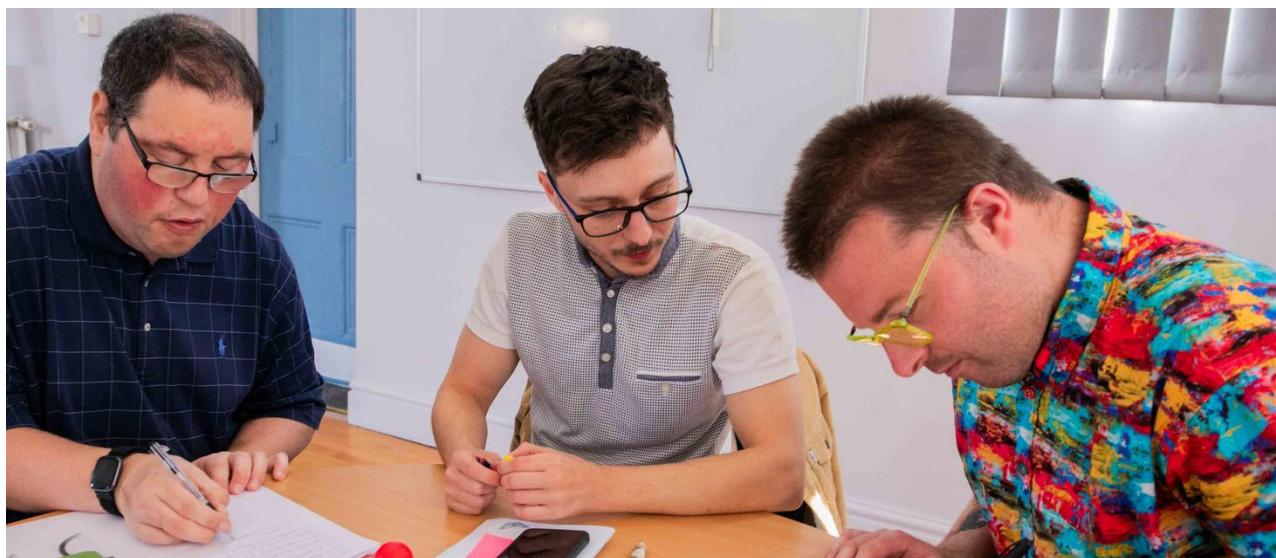
Influence



Collaboration

Member Pricing

All members benefit from connection, shared learning and access to regional insight, opportunities to work with Inclusion North on additional projects or commissioned support at member rates.



We recognise that voluntary and community organisations operate in a challenging funding environment. Our VCSE membership is priced to support connection and shared learning across the region rather than to generate income.

Membership fees are therefore based on organisational income.

Organisation income	Annual membership
Under £250,000	£100
£250,000 – £1 million	£200
Over £1 million	£300

Membership runs annually and provides access to VCSE member spaces, updates, collaboration opportunities and discounted training.

Inclusion North offers different membership pathways depending on the role organisations play in the system.

Community VCSE membership is designed for grassroots organisations, charities and community groups.

Provider and Partner membership is designed for organisations delivering services at scale or seeking strategic partnership with Inclusion North.

Membership Add-Ons

Cost of Additional Support

Our typical add-on rate is £850 per day, which includes:

Additional support can include:

- Facilitating partnership boards or advisory groups
- Developing accessible information and resources
- Supporting co-production and engagement work
- Delivering bespoke training or learning sessions
- Running consultations, research or regional reviews
- Supporting strategic planning or innovation projects

We'll always agree the brief and scope first and help you make the most of your membership in the process.

Examples of Add-On Work:

- Facilitating extra partnership boards or advisory groups
- Creating custom accessible materials (beyond standard resources)
- Running large-scale consultations or research
- Supporting strategic regional planning
- Delivering bespoke or advanced training sessions
- Project managing innovation or pilots



"We value the opportunities to learn from wider regional work and apply those lessons locally."

Members Survey 2025

Meaningful Co-Production

Meaningful Involvement Needs More Than a Seat at the Table



At Inclusion North we believe in valuing people's time and expertise, including through appropriate payment and recognition.

When done well, this approach leads to better decisions, more inclusive services, and outcomes that reflect what really matters to people.

Cost of Meaningful Involvement

Best practice at Inclusion North is to pay involvement fees at a minimum of **£15ph** for a person with lived experience and for their travel and the support needed to ensure full and meaningful participation. This often requires time before and after a meeting.

This means creating the right conditions:

- Providing clear information in accessible formats
- Offering support before, during, and after meetings
- Being flexible around people's needs, including communication, travel, and caring responsibilities

We encourage members to have a separate pot of money aside for involvement fees. We can coordinate the payments for you.

"Co-production and engagement with people with a learning disability, autistic people, and family carers has been invaluable in shaping our strategies."

Members Survey 2025

Final Note

Membership with Inclusion North is about working together to build a more inclusive, rights-based future locally, regionally, and nationally.

We **listen**.

We **respond**.

We **drive change** alongside people with a learning disability, autistic people, and family carers.

Your membership supports both local priorities and collective action across the region, strengthening everyone's voice.

Together, we create communities where everyone can live a good life.



To discuss membership

We would **love** to work with you.

If you would like to discuss membership options, get more information, or arrange an introductory conversation, please contact us:

 Email: info@inclusionnorth.org

 Phone: 0113 244 4792

 Website:
www.inclusionnorth.org

If you are outside of the North East, Yorkshire or Humber and are interested in membership, please get in touch to discuss.