

The Good Ideas Project – Sindy Chana's further thoughts

We just wanted people suffering from any disabilities and mental health to come and do something. How can we get these people active and motivated!! Do bear in mind that they will be on benefits and not have extra money to spend on a hobby that they want to develop. Well, first of all to carry out any work one needs money so where can these people excess a small pot of money if need be without making things complicated, e.g. completing complicated forms or hundreds of questions being asked, followed by making numerous phone and nowadays any phone call that you make you will have to listen to endless music. Putting up with all this, as a Service Users ones patience runs out ! So make things easier and simpler how can we do this!

The Good Ideas Project plan was put forward to Inclusion North, and a bid put into YHIP whereby the funding for the Grant Monies was agreed. The big milestone covered and then the panel was formed...a small panel of 6 people likeminded people who had a good understanding of Cultural and Traditional values of Communities. Within days of receiving the confirmation of the Grant funding, word was sent across the Communities about the Good Ideas project, talk about feeling the ripples going through the sea, the word spread around so quickly. When you talk about connections, Touchstone just shows things can be done by the help of the communities, it's all about building good healthy relationships.

Touchstone working in Partnership with Inclusion North set out to open the doors for the people with disabilities and mental health, the silent suffers but shall we say 'The Survivors' of ill health.

A small form was drafted whereby one just needed to put a small description of one's' idea and contact details and submit it online or via the post.

Within days applications started pouring in!!! Our Praveen Ayub , she was the first port of call, with her deep understanding of Cultural and Traditional values she spoke to people on one to one basis. With her expertise and patience she drew out from each individual all the relevant information as required by the panel. Each applicant was told the whys, how, and what will be required of them once when their project has taken off the ground. What did you feel, achieved will be captured on film.

The Panel went through the applications (I was one of the Panellist) and go ahead was given for the grant to be released to the relevant applicant

Support was given by Touchstone to each individual until their project got its way. The look on the faces of all the people who accessed the grant said it all. Well, what can say when I met some of them even I was reduced to tears just to see the joy on their faces. This was like a vitamin pill that they must have been taking.

This just proves that a little motivation given can turn someone's life around.

Sindy Chana

Equalities Ambassador Lead for Yorkshire and Humber