

**IMPROVING  
LIVES NOTTS**

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**CORPORATE  
FUNDRAISING  
PACK**



**Improving Lives**

*Supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage*

Charity Number: 1146094  
Company Number: 5986266

# ABOUT US

## Our mission

We are a Nottingham charity supporting adults experiencing multiple disadvantage.

We offer an individualised service to enable people to manage the challenges they face more effectively.

## Our vision

People experiencing multiple disadvantage are empowered to make positive changes in their lives and participate in their communities

## Our core support areas

### Practical support

We help people sort out practical problems and access the services they need.

This can range from supporting attendance at health appointments, help with completing benefits forms and maximising income by reducing debt and bills, so that they can live more fulfilling lives.

### Social Activities

Social activities help people feel less isolated.

This gives people a purpose and motivation for getting out of the house. It also enables the people we support to meet others facing similar challenges in a safe and productive environment. Our groups are free to attend and open to anyone who has benefited from our service

# OUR SUPPORT

We provide a range of essential services and practical support including:

**Emotional support**



**Benefit and debt issues**



**Promoting engagement  
in statutory services**



**Cost of living issues**



**Advocacy support**



**Meeting basic living  
needs**



**Promoting  
independence**



**Accessing community  
services and activities**



**Housing and home  
safety issues**



**Accessing specialist  
advice and support**



**Having a voice/  
accessing basic rights**



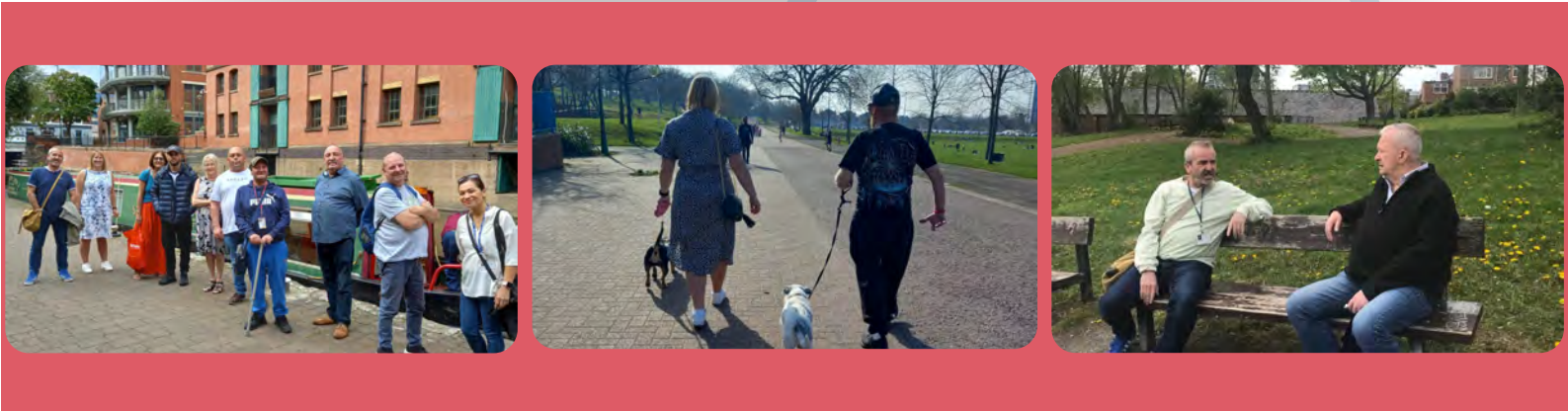
*I have always felt like I have been listened to. My worker has always gone out of their way to find things out for me. I have always felt safe in their company.*



# WHO WE SUPPORT

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We work with people who face multiple issues including: **mental illness**, **domestic abuse**, **offending**, **housing issues**, **substance misuse** and **debts and benefits**



## **Our commitment to the people we support:**

We treat people as people, no matter where they find themselves.

Everyone has the potential to lead a fulfilling life - we want to help people achieve this.

# LAST YEAR IN NUMBERS

We have worked  
with

411

people on a one-to-one basis

104

different people  
have attended our  
groups

488

hours of support was  
provided by our  
volunteer befrienders



“

*[They] have been absolutely fantastic. [My worker has] gone above and beyond for me, all the time. When I've been very unwell, he just stepped up. During a psychotic phase I can get quite confused and afraid, very high or very low. [ They] have always been there for me.*

”

## Charity of the year

Choosing us as your company's Charity of the Year shows a longer-term commitment that brings with it more tangible benefits to us and your organisation too.

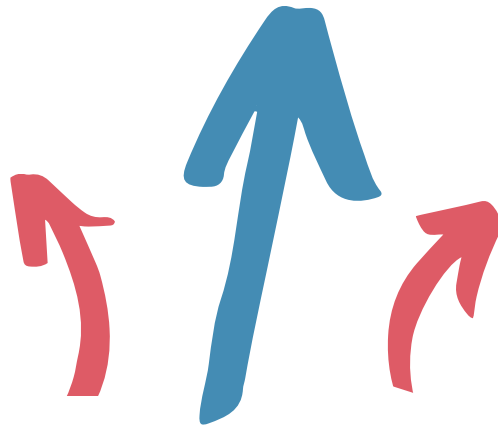
### Donations

There are different ways you can donate.

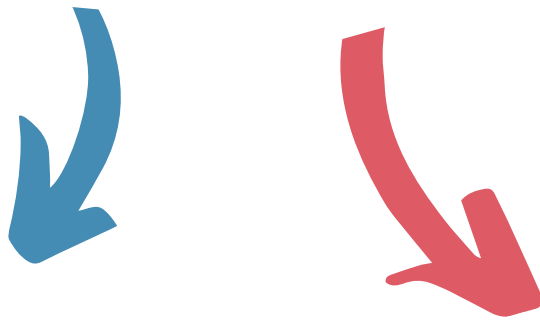
Through Total Giving, we can set up a personalised page for your fundraising events. Individuals can also set up monthly giving so that they can make a regular donation to offer a long-term commitment to the work that we do.

### Matched funding

Companies can support their employees' fundraising by matching the money they raise. This can motivate staff by showing support for their efforts, while raising your organisation's profile.



# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



### Volunteering

Do you allow volunteer days for your staff? We have corporate volunteers who attend events and socialise, prepare food, donate art equipment and teach people IT skills. Offering the expertise of your business can drastically improve outcomes for the people we work with - providing them with lifelong, vital skills. Volunteering can also improve staff retention and wellbeing.

### Fundraising

A fundraising event can be a great team building exercise. You can let your imaginations and competitive drive lead the way - whether that's selling breakfast baps, sky dives or running marathons.

# OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU



We believe that a corporate partnership should be mutually beneficial. A partnership with us can:

- Raise your corporate social responsibility profile. You are able to use our approved logo and, with your permission, we would use your branding to promote our partnership.
- Provide you with authentic content showcasing how your support is making a difference - including what your donations have funded, and feedback from our service users on their experience of your time. We will also share photos of any events you've supported us with which you are welcome to share on your platforms.
- Improve your organisation's awareness of mental health in the workplace
- You will be provided with a key contact within our small, tight knit team and we look forward to welcoming you to the Improving Lives family!

*It's a fantastic organisation. It's flexible, adaptable, kind, caring and compassionate*



# PROMOTING OUR PARTNERSHIP

## One-off support

- Support publicised on social media
- Use of approved IL logo
- Use of fundraising materials for one off events



## Charity of the year or longer term support

- Use of approved IL logo
- Logo on IL website
- Photo opportunity with big cheque
- Social post & press release announcing partnership
- Promotion of collaboration on all social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn)
- Feature in our quarterly newsletter with ongoing coverage of news and events.
- Stats & photo/video content for partner channels which provide updates on impact of their collaboration with IL
- Fundraising materials
- Letter from management team or trustee
- Opportunities to volunteer at events and meet our team and service users
- Feature in 'Our supporters' section of our website.
- Invitations to represent your organisation at our events



# WORKING WITH CORPORATE PARTNERS

SH<sup>∞</sup>SMITHS

We are delighted to have partnered with the law firm Shoosmiths for the past four years. It has been a collaborative, enjoyable and mutually beneficial partnership that we're proud to have been a part of.

Shoosmiths have provided a range of support:



Funded one off social trips for groups, and funded project packs



Shared expertise with our team and the people we support eg a digital skills workshop



Fundraising events

Shoosmiths' staff have had the opportunity to:



Meet our service users and see the impact of their support



Volunteer for Improving Lives on a one-off and regular basis



Build new connections with people



*"The difference in people from when they first arrived [on the social trip] to when they left was tangible (and contagious)."*

- Shoosmiths employee

# LOUISE'S STORY

Improving Lives began supporting Louise following her recent discharge from Highbury Hospital. Louise had initially been detained due to an attempt to end her own life by jumping from her third-floor flat. Thankfully, Louise's foot got stuck on a balcony which prevented her from hitting the floor.

Initially, the main areas of support were based around emotional support and motivation to maintain self-care and gain a sense of self compassion. Louise lives with depression and anxiety alongside physical health issues which impacts on her day to day living. Her low moods can result in struggling to leave her flat and subsequently leads to social isolation.

Louise said:

"Working with Improving Lives and getting support has helped me find my positivity again"

At the time of meeting Louise she was on police bail for assault. While Louise took full responsibility for her actions, the remorse and guilt were crippling for her and the fear of losing her positive future as a Youth Peer Worker were very difficult for her to come to terms with. Louise has many positive qualities: honesty, empathy, kindness and is intelligent with a wonderful sense of humour, so a lot of the work was around non-judgmental listening, to increase Louise's sense of self-worth and self-esteem and to not lose hope of a bright future.

Louise broke her bail conditions and was unfortunately remanded in custody and although this was hard for her it has allowed her to become 'unstuck' from the fear of what may happen and has resulted in her having a renewed level of strength and determination.

Currently, Louise is doing very well in attending all her appointments with Probation, women's centre and alcohol support. She is managing to continue taking care of her health by starting physiotherapy, eating well, reducing her alcohol intake, and involving herself in activities such, tai-chi and mindfulness yoga. Louise also was nominated for an Inspire Award for her learning excellence.

## How we helped

While in custody Louise's support worker provided written supporting evidence for the court and on release, 1-2-1 support moved to maintaining Louise's motivation and to increase her level of social inclusion. We were able to refer her to Nature in Mind where she has enjoyed taking part in outdoor activities and attending the allotments, it has also spurred her on to attend our social groups, including mindfulness and the pool group.



# GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to find out more about Improving Lives, or discuss opportunities to support and collaborate, please do not hesitate to get in touch for an informal chat about how you could make a difference.



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