

National
INSIGHT
Awards



Expert Citizens CIC



www.expertcitizens.org.uk

Expert Citizens are a community interest company built by and for people with lived experience. We exist because we care about people and the world we live in. Our belief is that we can make a difference and that everyone has potential. We understand that everyone has an individual experience and treat each other with respect and dignity. Everyone is welcomed with kindness, humility, and love.

We challenge perceptions through honesty with ourselves and each other. Our belief is that fun is a key part of relationships and helps to build trust, creativity, and openness.

Our goal is that systems are led by the people they are designed to serve for the collective interest of society.



National *INSIGHT* Awards 2024

The National INSIGHT awards is a unique event that celebrates positive and outstanding practice aimed at tackling social disadvantages.

What sets this event apart is that it is judged and delivered by people with lived experiences of the systems and services that we believe need to change.

Nominations for the awards are open to both individuals and organizations who are making significant contributions to their communities.

www.expertcitizens.org.uk/insight-awards-2024/

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Market Place

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Visit our marketplace where a range of organisations will be promoting their services.

INSIGHT Awards Categories

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Volunteering award	19
Welcoming people award	20
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Leading others award	23

Free Wi-Fi: Click on the 'Guest Wi-Fi' network and follow the instructions.

Please note: Photographic and Video images will be recorded by Inspired Film and Video throughout the event. If you do not wish to be included in images, please let a member of the Expert Citizens know.

Agenda

09:25

Arrival and Registration

On arrival to the event and also during break and lunch, there will be a marketplace where organisations will be promoting their services.

10:00

Welcome and Introduction

Darren Murinas - *Chief Executive, Expert Citizens CIC*

Charlotte Bates - *Lived experience advocate & Mentor Coordinator for Pure Insight*

Speakers

10:15

Kheron K Gilpin - *Education Consultant, Engagement Specialist, Public Speaker, School Governor (Former Athlete)*

10:35

Siobhan Down – *CEO/Founder - Yellow Brick Road Projects*

10:55

Maurice Thaw - *Collab Training Academy CIC*

11:15

Comfort Break

Speakers

11:40

Anna Wardley – *CEO Luna Foundation*

Maike Mullenders - *Lived Experience Network Facilitator, Luna Foundation*

12:00

Craig Jones OBE – *Fighting for Pride*

12:20

Tammy Banks - *Founder and Director of Taye Training*

12:40

Kieron Bryan - *Author, entrepreneur and former prisoner*

13:00

Lunch

13.40

Jason Smith - Poet and Expert Citizen

14.00

Music by Beats Bus

14:10

National INSIGHT Awards 2024

Zakarriyah Khalil - *Founder and Director of X Conversation and host of the sit down prison reform podcast*

Jules Rowan - *Broadcaster at Prison Radio Association | Awarded best new presenter ARIAs 2023, Self-employed Personal Trainer*

15.10

Music by Beats Bus

15:20

Concluding Remarks

Darren Murinas - *Chief Executive, Expert Citizens CIC*

Charlotte Bates - *Lived experience advocate & Mentor Coordinator for Pure Insight*

15:30

Close

Your Hosts Biography

Darren Murinas

Chief Executive, Expert Citizens CIC



Darren is Chief Executive of Expert Citizens CIC, also a trustee of the Lankelly Chase Foundation and Together Active and Chair of the Changing Futures project board Stoke-on-Trent. Darren has been working with local and national media outlets such as BBC Radio Stoke, BBC radio Hereford and Worcester, BBC Radio four listening project, Victoria Derbyshire show, the Guardian and the Huffington. Recently Darren also spoke at a TEDx event hosted by the University of Staffordshire.

Darren is a national facilitator working with organisations like MEAM, Homeless Link, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Virgin Money Foundation, The Centre for knowledge and equity and many more where he is recognised as an expert in Co-production. Darren has worked alongside others over the last 10 years to bring in over £20 million worth of investment for people experiencing severe multiple disadvantage in Stoke-on-Trent. Darren is also a national speaker, using his own experience of severe and multiple disadvantage to challenge stereotypes and the traditional narrative, dispelling the myth that people experiencing some of the toughest social issues of our time are making a 'lifestyle choice'.

X: @darrenmurinas / @ExpertCitizens
Linked in: Darren Murinas
Website: www.expertcitizens.org.uk

Your Hosts Biography

Charlotte Bates

Lived experience advocate & Mentor Coordinator for Pure Insight



Charlotte is a member of expert citizens CIC. She is also a trustee of Crisis. Charlotte has been working with local and national media outlets, including contributing to a piece on exempt accommodation for the BBC's Woman's Hour, which has been shortlisted for the Orwell Award. Charlotte has spoken on various platforms including, Staffordshire University, CHAD, Voices - Fulfilling Lives End of Programme Conference, Inside Housing National Housing Conferences in 2021 and 2022 and the Tenant and Engagement Conference in 2023.

Charlotte has contributed to national advisory boards such as the Kerslake Commission, the DLUHC investigation into exempt accommodation, Expert Link and the Herriot Watt steering group. Charlotte's 'insight to effective communication' tools have been featured in FORBES magazine. Charlotte is a passionate advocate for co-production and although highly qualified believes her most valuable asset lies in her lived experience.

X: @charlotteagain1
Linked in: Charlotte Bates

Your Award Hosts Biography

Zakarriyah Khalil

Founder and Director of X Conversation and host of the sit down prison reform podcast



Zak Addae-Kodua and Jules Rowan are an exciting and dynamic presenting duo at the start of their broadcast careers.

In 2022 they were paired together to front the podcast channel Life After Prison for The Prison Radio Association. The podcast features two shows: The Sit Down, the flagship podcast where Jules & Zak sit down for a detailed conversation with a vast array of incredible guests, many of whom who have been through the prison system; and Getting Out which provides help and support for individuals leaving prison. Both offer advice, information, support and entertainment for people who have an experience of the criminal justice system as well as

Jules Rowan

**Broadcaster at Prison Radio Association
Self-employed Personal Trainer**



offering an insightful and educational look inside what Life After Prison can really be like.

The pair won the Best New Presenter award at the 2023 ARIA's as well as receiving notable nominations at the Third Sector Awards and winning a High Commendation in the Specialist category at the 2023 British Podcast Awards.

Jules is a qualified personal trainer and runs a successful PT business on the side of her presenting career. Zak works extensively in the charity and social enterprise spaces working with under-resourced communities across the country.



X: @xconversation @afterprisonpod
Instagram: @zakarriyahkhalil @xconversationuk
Linkedin: Zakarriyah Khalil

Speaker Biography

Kheron K. Gilpin

Education Consultant | Engagement Specialist | Public Speaker | School Governance



Kheron Gilpin is an engagement specialist with over a decade of experience in community development and educational interventions. His work encompasses motivational speaking, engagement training, and facilitation of events and dialogues. He began his career in community development by eagerly taking, and making, opportunities for himself and others in his home area of South London. As a young community leader, Kheron worked as a peer outreach worker for the Greater London Authority while also founding initiatives, including a youth forum within South London Tenants Associations that provided creative opportunities for young people.

Kheron's skills in public speaking and facilitation have led him to be enlisted by the Tutu Foundation to facilitate difficult dialogues, including between police and young offenders. Kheron had also been commissioned by brands such as Nike, JD and Sports Direct to run community engagement events and deliver youth engagement consultancy. Kheron now specialises in educational engagement and works with schools and colleges around the UK to maximise their student engagement strategies and deliver impactful talks, workshops and assemblies.

Kheron has a strong commitment to making a positive impact, not only by sharing practical tools and strategies but also by embodying the values of unity and action, inspired by Ubuntu, an African philosophy that emphasises our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

Recent Engagements:

Empowered Staff Empower Students (CPD) <https://shorturl.at/iGJR9>

Student Council <https://shorturl.at/gDGKM>

Ubuntu Speech shorturl.at/lnwX9

Speaker Biography

Siobhan Down

CEO / Founder - Yellow Brick Road Projects



Hello, my name is Siobhan Down, I am delighted to be invited to speak at the Insight Awards 2024.

A bit about me.

Having a childhood which left me feeling unimportant, unloved, and scared gave me incredible survival skills. I believe that these lived experiences have got me to where I am now, Founder and CEO of Yellow Brick Road Projects.

I am a proud neuro spicy woman my most important achievements to date are raising two fierce young women. Other achievements include appearing in The Big Issue in the Top 100 Changemakers 2024, winning Pride of Andover 2023 and completing Level 5 Coaching.

I have used my life experiences as the foundation for the charity. Supporting young people who face similar experiences to find their seam of GOLD – one of the ways we do this is through our programme You Matter.



Find us on Facebook
[@yellowbrickroadprojects.com](https://www.facebook.com/yellowbrickroadprojects.com)

Speaker Biography

Maurice Thaw

Collab Training Academy CIC



Maurice Thaw, known as Coach Mo, is a dedicated community leader and social activist based in South-East London and Staffordshire.



Maurice Thaw's journey in community development is a testament to the power of resilience and transformation. From his notorious roots in Stoke-on-Trent to founding Collab Training Academy CIC in London, Maurice has dedicated over 20 years to supporting youth and communities.

His work has been instrumental in empowering over a thousand individuals, many facing complex challenges. Maurice's approach is holistic, addressing immediate needs and long-term aspirations through various means. He provides one-to-one coaching, delivers workshops and training programmes, organises career and job fairs, and offers invaluable support to youth looking to start their own businesses.

The "It Takes a Village" conference exemplifies Maurice's innovative spirit, bringing together 57 organisations to create 31 tailored programs, supporting 300 people. This initiative earned him the Mayor of Lewisham's Award for Voluntary Contribution, recognising his impactful community service.

Maurice's unique background as an ex-offender who overcame dyslexia brings authenticity to his work, allowing him to connect deeply with those he supports. His return to Stoke-on-Trent marks a new chapter, bringing successful London-based programs to his hometown.

Through his multifaceted work, Maurice continues to inspire change, fostering community development and empowering individuals to overcome barriers and achieve their potential.

Speaker Biography

Anna Wardley

CEO Luna Foundation



www.teamluna.org
www.annawardley.com



Anna Wardley is founder and CEO of Luna Foundation, a social enterprise dedicated to transforming the support and outcomes for children and young people after a parent dies by suicide.

Motivated by her own experience of parental suicide during childhood, Anna was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to carry out international research on improving the support for children after a parent dies by suicide. She visited 19 organisations in Australia, USA and Scandinavia over two years and she set up Luna in 2022 to implement key recommendations from her report, entitled Time to Count.

Luna operates on a nationwide basis providing evidence-based suicide bereavement training for people working with children and young people to equip them with the skills and confidence they need to provide support when a parent or primary caregiver dies by suicide.

Shortly after forming Luna, Anna was selected as a Shackleton Leader by the Shackleton Foundation which recognises social entrepreneurs who embody the qualities of Sir Ernest Shackleton, namely resilience and overcoming adversity.

Anna is also a record-setting endurance swimmer and was named Inspirational Woman of the Year after completing a gruelling 103-km swim around the Isle of Wight in 26.5 hours in 2013.

As a speaker, she inspires audiences around the world with her story of how she has used the challenges she's faced in life as a source of strength and motivation to create positive change for others.

Speaker Biography

Maike Mullenders

Lived Experience Network Facilitator | Luna Foundation



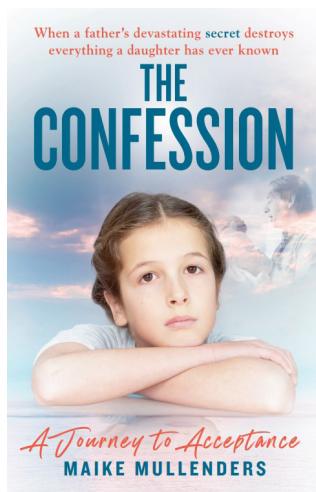
Maike is the Lived Experience Network Facilitator for the Luna Foundation. She also works as a yoga teacher and volunteers for SOBS (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide), heading up their Reigate Support Group.

After working for ten years as an actress she proceeded to train as a Relate counsellor, supporting couples and young people. Going on to work for NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood) and Witness Against Abuse by Health and Social Care Workers.

A personal highlight was finally having the courage to tell her own story; living with a father with undiagnosed mental health issues who went on to take his own life. Leaving behind a confession for the police saying he had abused her, something she had no memory of.

Having spent years trying to find balance in her life after these traumatic events, it was through therapy and yoga that Maike was able to move forward. Her memoir, *The Confession: A Journey to Acceptance* was published by Mirror Books in June 2023.

She works as a Lived Experience speaker, trying to use her own experiences, struggles and healing to support others.



Speaker Biography

Craig Jones OBE

Fighting for Pride



Craig joined the Royal Navy in 1989 and in a busy operational career, deployed to the border counties of Northern Ireland during 'the troubles' and in 1993 led helicopter fast rope teams in the Northern Arabian Gulf, clearing the waterways leading to Baghdad. Craig was deputy navigator of the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible during Operation Bolton and upon his return to the UK completed the Principal Warfare Officer Course, which led to a number of intelligence appointments.

On the day of the lifting of the 'gay ban', Craig 'came out' and led challenging work to restore the Armed Forces Covenant for the serving LGBT+ community, in an organisation ill prepared for its moment of inclusion. Craig was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2005 for services to equality and human rights in the Armed Forces.

After leaving the Royal Navy in 2008, Craig became the Head of Diversity for Barclays Bank before creating multi award winning NHS mental healthcare provider Brighton and Sussex Care in 2010. Craig held a range of board appointments including at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, the national charity Business Disability Forum and with OFCOM's Broadcast Training and Equity Regulator.

In 2000 Craig edited an anthology book about the damage done by the Armed Forces 'gay ban' giving a voice to those affected by the policy of exclusion. As the charities first volunteer Chief Executive he led the authors in a campaign for restorative justice, which culminated in the publishing of Lord Etherton's LGBT Veterans Independent Review in May 2023 and an apology on behalf of the state in Parliament in July 2023. Craig is currently leading the community in its negotiations for a financial settlement with the Government.

Craig lives in Brighton with his husband Adam and their two cats Luke and Leia.

Speaker Biography

Tammy Banks

Founder and Director of Taye Training



Tammy Banks champions effective solutions to prevent abuse and poverty through her personal history, academic achievements, and frontline work experience. As the Founder and Director of Taye Training, she leads a socially focused company delivering essential training to service providers like the Police, charities, and education sectors. She developed the Training 4 Influence methodology, detailed in her Amazon bestseller Transform Your Training, and her flagship Train the Trainer programme won the Princess Royal Training Award in 2023.

Tammy believes training should be expert-led, tailored, engaging, and values-driven. A 2x TEDx speaker and multiple award winner, including Women of Innovation 2023, she is also Chair of Children's Services Sunderland and a Fellow of Westminster Abbey. Previously, she served as a Lay Member on the House of Commons Committee for Standards and has 15 years of frontline service experience. Tammy tirelessly champions change and is on a mission to help people recognise the true power of training.

Tammy Banks will share her personal story of overcoming adversity, highlighting the transformative impact of kindness and the power of being trauma-informed to our self and others.

Connect with Tammy or join her free community here <https://linktr.ee/tayetraining>

www.linkedin.com/in/tayetraining/

Twitter @tammybanksy

For more information visit

[Transformyourtraining.org](https://transformyourtraining.org)

Speaker Biography

Kieron Bryan

Author, entrepreneur and former prisoner



At the start of serving my 25-year sentence I was eager to get out and pick up where I left off, until I heard the joke "if you want to hide something from a black man, put it in a book", which inspired me to start reading, which intern led me to taking the opportunity to use the time I had to further my education.

Utilising the opportunities provided by The Open University. I started my degree. During my first ever assignment I had to write about red grouse, I remember reading everything I could get my hands and thinking whoever reads this is going to believe I raised red grouse throughout my childhood. When I received my feedback, I got 99%, and the tutor asked if I had prior experience with the subject. I was elated and that set me off to a brilliant start.

All of the 250 books I read were non-fiction as I was hungry for relevant and reusable information, the books I most credit for the life changing paradigm shift I experienced has to be; The 7 Habits of Highly Effective people, by Stephen R Covey and Awaken the Giant Within, by Anthony Robbins.

The subject that was most beneficial to my transformation has to be black history pre-slavery (transatlantic slave trade). This is because learning about all of the inspiring cultures, inventions, great kingdoms and empires that existed in Africa, had a profound effect in lifting an inferiority complex I had acquired due to my exposure to a framing of history that omitted this vital information. Therefore, I was able to overcome a lack of confidence and self-imposed barriers.

Speaker Biography

www.beats-bus.co.uk

X: @bus_hull



Beats Bus Records



Steve

Stephen Arnott A.K.A Redeyefeenix is hip-hop emcee from Hull and has played live gigs for 20+ years around the UK. Redeyefeenix was internationally signed in 2014 and made history in his city of Hull he then went on to win an award from the official Zulu nation for his community work and his workshops, Redeyefeenix has recorded 4 albums 3 solo and one with his crew Projekt Feenix who sadly split in 2009.



Nigel (Kobby)

Multi award-winning record producer, composer, and performer of 15 years, six of which have been professionally. As an original member of Beats Bus record label and mobile recording studio, Kobby is committed to giving young people a voice through art and music. He believes personal development and music go hand in hand and is keen to increase people's confidence with every session. Having played on Radio 1xtra, headlined three times at Humber Street Sesh with ENDOFLEVELBDDIE and under the names Prez 96 and Playa One, Kobby has supported chart topping acts like Tinie Tempah, Giggs, The Game and Sugar Hill Gang.



Dave

I have a BA Degree in Documentary and Media Production. I have been Radio presenting on West Hull FM since 2012 the Full Flava Connection Show. Co ran Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance from 2000 -2009 booking international acts and local artists to perform. 2013 I held my own Full Flava Festival celebrating local Urban Music.

I am also a founder member of Beats Bus Records and a tutor in Song Writing, DJing, Music and Video Production workshops. I also provide content and help to run our social media platforms Facebook Instagram Twitter and YouTube.



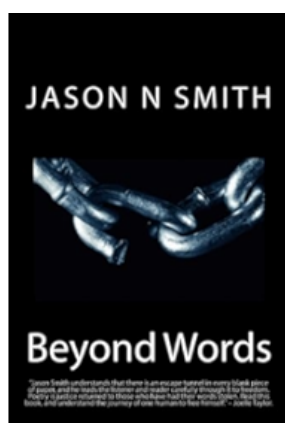
Connor

Connor Phelan received mentorship from the Beats Bus in 2021 when he was suffering with mental health issues and was self-medicating with illegal drugs. Since then He has gone on to become a mentor at Beats Bus, a tutor at the University of Hull, a committed volunteer and preacher at his church, and has released two gospel hip-hop albums.

Speaker Biography

Jason N. Smith

Poet and Expert Citizen



Jason N. Smith is a poet and has read at the National Theatre, Bet365 and the Royal Festival Hall, London's St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, Six Towns One City Carnival and featured in BBC 4 Listener programme and National 'Prison Radion at BBC Broadcasting House.

Jason's work addresses themes of personal and social struggle and he has been involved in various projects and performances highlighting diverse talents.

Jason has created works in response to the demolition of a shopping center in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, and clashes between left-wing groups in England. His poetry frequently aims to heal, teach, and share the joy of life, blended with personal experiences.

His workshops focus on motivational speaking, creative expression, and well-being, providing inspiration and insight drawn from life experiences.

Jason has worked for the Probation Service as a Community Support Worker as a development coach and has published poetry collection Beyond Words released an album titled: The Word, as I Witness (Available on all platforms) and is an Expert Citizens member.

Marketplace

Visit our marketplace where a range of organisations will be promoting their services, including Expert Citizens.



**COMMUNITY
NOODLES**



glow



Award Nominations

Volunteering



Nominations in this category demonstrate positive practice and significant impact based on volunteering activity.

Arfan Mohammed, Sizzlers Takeaway

Arfan Mohammed uses his business to provide support in his community, tirelessly dedicating his time and energy to uplift those in need. Whether aiding the homeless, supporting the elderly with Pensioners Packs, or ensuring children are fed during school holidays, Arfan embodies kindness and unity. Even in challenging weather, he provides comfort and practical help, from delivering hot meals to thanking NHS staff with treats. Arfan's work transcends boundaries, fostering a spirit of togetherness across all ages and backgrounds. His selflessness has reignited community spirit, making him an inspiring figure. Arfan's nomination described his work as a cherished "Beacon of Light" for many.

Hepatitis C Trust, Birmingham

The Hepatitis C Trust's Birmingham team leads with compassion and resilience, saving lives by bridging healthcare gaps for the most vulnerable. Managed by Danny and Paul, this peer-led group — many with lived experiences of addiction, homelessness, or mental health challenges — ensures no one is left behind in the fight against Hepatitis C. Through their "follow me" program, volunteers support patients from diagnosis through treatment, even reaching out to locate those without fixed addresses. This invaluable support not only aids physical health but also empowers individuals to give back, creating a cycle of hope and recovery that transforms lives and strengthens communities.

PEGIS (Parent Engagement Group in Stoke)

PEGIS is a lifeline for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities in Stoke. Operating year-round, PEGIS provides continuous support, from online advice to in-person meetings, connecting families with resources and professionals. Through workshops and advocacy at health and social care meetings, PEGIS ensures that parents' voices shape policies affecting their children. By creating a network of care, PEGIS enables families to navigate educational and emotional challenges with confidence, enhancing the quality of life and opportunities for SEND children and building a community where no one feels alone.

Award Nominations

Welcoming



Nominations in this category demonstrate positive practice and significant impact in welcoming people experiencing social disadvantage with unconditional positive regard.

Underground Lights Community Theatre

Underground Lights is a beacon of creativity and support for adults facing social disadvantage, homelessness, or mental health issues in Coventry and Warwickshire. This small yet impactful charity provides a warm, inclusive environment, running drama workshops that allow members to rediscover themselves, build confidence, and develop new skills. With a trauma-informed approach, Underground Lights celebrates each person's unique strengths and creativity, rejecting labels to build a compassionate community. Their "Lights Up!" project, co-created by members, showcases their ethos, giving participants a platform to perform and grow as artists. Many describe Underground Lights as a lifeline, a place that transforms self-perception and promotes lasting positive change, including paths toward employment and education.

Yellow Brick Road Project

The Yellow Brick Road Project offers young parents and disadvantaged youth a welcoming, home-like environment with comfortable spaces and inviting decor. Their flagship "You Matter" program provides life skills and knowledge in housing, finance, education, and health. Their trauma-informed approach empowers participants, fostering self-trust and encouraging them to envision brighter futures. Through partnerships and community events, the project enhances service accessibility while promoting inclusivity and confidence. Programs like the Legacy and Growing Together initiatives have profound impacts, helping individuals break cycles of disadvantage and build self-worth. Their retention rate of over 78% demonstrates the lasting, positive impact the Yellow Brick Road Project has on young people's lives, providing stability and instilling hope.

Jonathon Hill, VAST (The Dudson Centre)

Jonathon Hill's dedication as caretaker of the Dudson Centre radiates kindness and respect, creating a safe haven for individuals experiencing social disadvantage. Known for his friendly demeanour, Jon is always ready to assist those in need, from helping locate support services to offering shelter from the elements. His warm and steady presence builds trust among the centre's visitors, making them feel valued and seen. Jon's thoughtful actions, like looking after belongings for rough sleepers, reflect his commitment to dignity and compassion. His consistent support transforms the Dudson Centre into more than just a commercial building, but a welcoming community space where everyone feels they can belong.

Award Nominations

Listening



Nominations in this category demonstrate positive practice and significant impact in listening to people experiencing social disadvantage to understand how services could improve to be even more effective.

Reina Edmiston, We Are With You

Using lived experience and expertise to transform recovery services, Reina Edmiston exemplifies the power of listening. Since joining WithYou as a fundraising manager, she has actively engaged clients and delivery teams, understanding diverse recovery needs across England and Scotland. Reina's insights have secured vital funding, enabling tailored recovery options, such as dedicated support for armed forces veterans. By developing safe spaces and sharing her journey, Reina promotes deeper understanding and effective service design. Her approach, blending listening and data analysis, led to flexible wellbeing initiatives and expanded recovery options, embodying WithYou's commitment to client-driven support. Reina's leadership in active listening is reshaping recovery, empowering clients and enhancing service outcomes.

Luna Foundation CIC

Guided by profound lived experiences, Luna Foundation CIC listens to and supports children affected by parental suicide. Established to address the needs of bereaved children, Luna's programs are informed by its Lived Experience Network, which shapes every initiative. Luna's training, led by those with personal experience of suicide bereavement, has equipped over 500 professionals with skills to support young people through loss. The Foundation's programs, from bereavement policy templates for schools to government consultation contributions, aim to improve national support frameworks. Luna encourages an environment of empathy, empowering bereaved individuals to share openly and inspiring a compassionate approach to childhood trauma across sectors.

Unseen Voices, GMCA and Bad Kamra

Unseen Voices unites people with lived experiences of multiple disadvantages to create compelling narratives that demand change. Through a partnership with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Bad Kamra, participants used creative mediums — film, poetry, and spoken word — to share powerful stories of homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges. This project challenged traditional decision-making by offering authentic voices in system change discussions. Unseen Voices' impact extends beyond storytelling, inspiring other organisations to genuinely involve lived experience in decision-making. Participants, empowered by this journey, have pursued new opportunities, demonstrating the lasting influence of listening, creative expression, and the value of every person's story.

Award Nominations

Learning



Nominations in this category demonstrate positive practice and significant impact in learning from people to successfully implement service improvements for even more effectiveness.

Ryan Fox, The University of Staffordshire

Ryan Fox has helped to transform how lived experience enriches university projects at the University of Staffordshire. Over four years, his commitment to co-production and active feedback has delivered genuine collaboration, where each participant feels seen and valued. Ryan's work with the Research, Innovation, and Impact Services team includes developing a participatory action research program that inspires students and shares the voices of people with lived experience across the university and beyond. His inclusive approach bridges gaps, making academic spaces approachable and impactful for all. Ryan's influence has encouraged trust in collaborative work, highlighting the importance of empathy and understanding in academic research and strengthening community ties in an inspiring, human-centred way.

Sam Lawrence

Sam Lawrence at Orchid Women's Service empowers women facing social disadvantages through innovative, supportive programmes. Responding to feedback, Sam partnered with Community Drug and Alcohol Services to provide women-only drug and alcohol support, ensuring a trauma-informed, gender-responsive environment. Through collaborative efforts with people of lived experience, Sam co-developed a Charter for Orchid and implemented a social program based on client feedback, creating safe spaces for women to connect and heal. The addition of on-site services, like housing referrals and health support, demonstrates Sam's commitment to accessible, holistic care. Her compassionate leadership promotes dignity and self-determination, making Orchid a true sanctuary for recovery and personal growth.

Stoke Recovery Service

Stoke Recovery Service exemplifies inclusive recovery support, embracing clients on opiate substitute treatment alongside those who have chosen abstinence. This team's holistic approach underscores a commitment to meet people wherever they are in their recovery journeys, promoting hope and dignity for all. By welcoming clients from varied recovery paths, they are reshaping the recovery landscape to be more inclusive and supportive. This approach reduces stigma, showing that the "revolving door" of addiction is not a trap and that sustainable recovery is possible, step by step. Stoke Recovery Service's inclusive, person-centred philosophy builds a healing community that uplifts and encourages every individual on their journey.

Award Nominations

Leading



Nominations in this category demonstrate positive practice and significant impact in putting people with lived experience in the lead of improving services.

Arts & Homelessness International

Arts & Homelessness International leads with a pioneering commitment to empowering individuals who have experienced homelessness. Through their transformative Associates Leadership Programme, A.H.I. provides paid, professional development for creatives, encouraging confidence and talent in a sector that rarely offers such opportunities. A.H.I.'s leadership extends beyond their own people: they train over 100 organisations in Radical Co-Creation, influencing councils to co-create homelessness strategies directly with those affected. Internally, A.H.I. models inclusive leadership, with 50% of staff and board members having experienced homelessness. Their trailblazing policies and equitable structure enable people to lead at all levels, proving that resilience and creativity emerge most powerfully when rooted in lived experience.

'Understanding the me in dementia' University of Bradford

'Understanding the me in dementia' was developed by the MSc Module Development Group at the University of Bradford's Centre for Applied Dementia Studies, which showcases leadership through collaboration and inclusivity. This pioneering group, led by 22 people with dementia, developed the UK's first MSc module shaped with lived experience at its core. Over two years, they co-created every element of the module, from assignments to assessments, ensuring authenticity and relevance. This groundbreaking module empowers the next generation of dementia care professionals, guided by those who understand the condition best. Their dedication to shaping dementia education is inspiring universities nationwide, cementing the group's role as changemakers in dementia care and transforming perceptions about people living with dementia.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Substance Misuse Public Health Team

Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Substance Misuse Team based in Public Health exemplifies leadership through community collaboration and responsiveness. By incorporating lived experience into drug and alcohol service development, the team has redefined service design and commissioning. Partnering with local people, they invited voices with firsthand experience to shape policies, participate in board meetings, and contribute to continuous service evaluations. Their trust in lived-experience-led evaluation has paved the way for innovative collaboration, such as Communities of Practice, that bring professionals and those with lived experience together. This transformative approach encourages trust, mutual respect, and authentic, sustainable improvements in substance misuse support across the community.



Expert Citizens CIC

Thank you to everyone involved for all the hard work that goes into making the National INSIGHT Conference & Awards so special.



#insightawards2024

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Special thanks to:

The National Lottery Community Fund

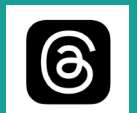
Lankelly Chase

University of Staffordshire

Inspired Film & Video

Everyone that took time to make a nomination

Everyone Attending the event



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