

## Changing Futures Monthly Newsletter

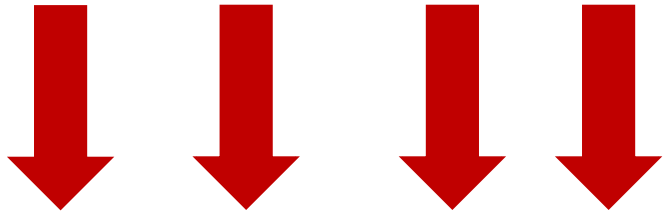
Hello and welcome to our newsletter! We will be sharing this monthly with associates and any relevant services/organisations to share the work we are doing plus our upcoming opportunities.

### What happened in October?

We hosted our monthly volunteer group. In which, we launched our **Skills Accelerator Fund!** It's an exciting opportunity to gain money to support progression and development.



### What is the Skills Accelerator Fund???



The Skills Accelerator Fund (**SAF**) is a pot of money available to our Coproduction & Peer Support Service Volunteers and Associates for financial support with progressing their skills for education or work, for either a qualification or training or support to access either of these.

For example - if you really want to be a chef and need to complete a paid course for this, we can fund you some or all the money.

The application is open to **all** the Volunteers & Associates that are engaging and showing a consistent commitment/involvement to the Peer Support & Co-Production service/wider programme and their own development.

If you would like more details on how to apply for one of these pots please let Lewis, Lowri or Kate know.

# Time to Think...

Our team and associates enjoyed a 'Time to Think' training session run by SYHA colleague Jennie Shrewsbury.

The training focused on techniques and coaching to help build the best 'thinking' environments for people and groups. It's designed to get people's best thinking out.

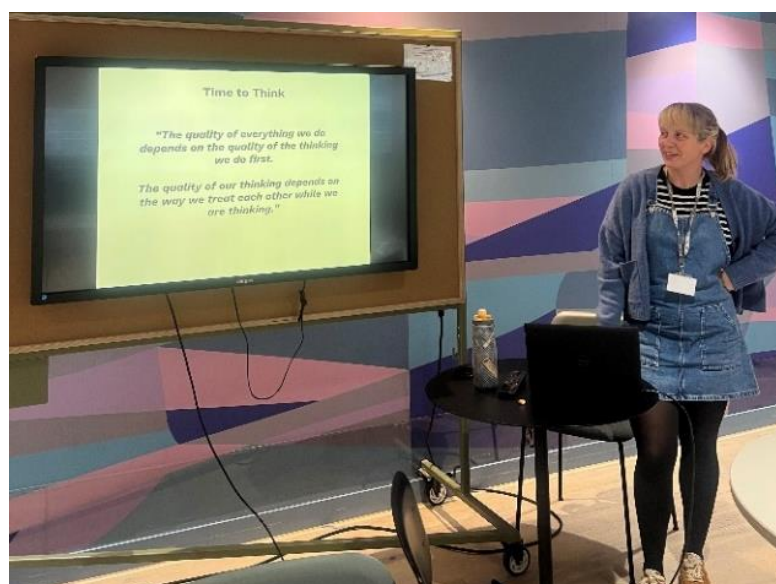
We focused on 4 key principles – **Attention** – When people are truly listened to, they unlock their deepest thinking.

**Equality** – Everyone is equal and everyone's thinking is valid.

**Ease** – Being rushed stops people from thinking clearly.

**Place** – Thinking environments show people their thoughts and effort matter to us.

***"The quality of everything we do depends on the quality of the thinking we do first. The quality of our thinking depends on the way we treat each other while we are thinking."***



# Peer Audit Work – what is it?

A few months ago, some associates were trained by Sheffield Hallam University to become Peer Auditors and take part in a pilot to Peer Audit services in Sheffield; which means people with Lived Experience are doing the auditing.

So far we have completed phase 1 of this work. This focused on the online presence of the service and its accessibility and how easy it was to contact the service over the phone and how helpful they were. We're soon to be starting further work on how easy it is to access the service in person and get a referral.

## Why Is this work so important?

- To enable services to get external feedback from those that have lived experience of using services that support those with multiple disadvantage.
- The feedback is real and 'raw' as the services are unaware that they're being audited at the time of the phone call and the time where auditors are researching the website.
- Being peer audited brings a different perspective rather than an official review.



# AndersonGreen...

As lots of you will know, we have been responsible for awarding the Positive Activities Fund, with the aim of supporting the development of 'positive activities' aimed at people experiencing disadvantage. Our hope is that by developing a user friendly/easily accessible application process we will attract interest from smaller organisations that, for a variety of reasons, miss out on funding opportunities!

Below is an extract from Scott & Teds experience of being involved in the process from start to finish! Today we had a chat with two associates (see below) from the changing futures programme who have been involved in applying for funding with the support of the Art House, an organisation that focuses on providing therapeutic art-based activities for people experiencing disadvantage.

'We have been actively and meaningfully involved in the AndersonGreen project from the start, the aim of the project is to support the recovery, wellbeing and personal development of adults in Sheffield experiencing disadvantage. Initially the services on offer will be a wellbeing café, creating a safe space for like-minded people to relax and have a warm meal, the project will also work closely with the 'parish nurse outreach' work, a function that supports the street homeless, and finally it will work as a space for those people engaging in the art/pottery activities that are already established at Art House'

They go on to say 'Involvement for us has meant a lot, it has given us a sense of purpose, supported our progression and development, improved our outlooks on life and given us hope and direction!'

And finally, 'we want to thank a few people who have supported us during our involvement, these are Michaela, Father Naylor and Ben Clowes, we realise this list is not exhaustive and many more people



## **Our November Opportunities!**

### **Coproduction Service Review Workshop**

#### **What is it?**

We are holding a 'Winter Warmer' celebration and review event. This is an opportunity for us to recognise and thank you for your continued involvement and hard work.

We will be reflecting on progress so far and listening to your individual and collective experiences of involvement. As well as our feedback and perspective.

#### **Where is it?**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1:30-4:30pm at SYHA offices. With a curry lunch provided. Alternatives available to this!

#### **How do I sign up?**

Please contact Lowri

([l.anderson@syha.co.uk](mailto:l.anderson@syha.co.uk)/07570 297590) or Lewis

([l.goodyear@syha.co.uk](mailto:l.goodyear@syha.co.uk)/07970399427)



### **Peer Mentor Volunteer Group**

Our next Peer Mentor volunteer group will be held week commencing the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Light refreshments provided! Date/Time to be confirmed soon!