



## Strategic Planning and funding Inspired Task Force



Inspired Taskforce CIO is an ambitious older-person led charity. It aims to improve physical and mental well-being, as well as increase friendships and networks in the community. It does this through a range of activities and services that tackle the root causes of social isolation.

Inspired Taskforce grew out of and operates from Levenshulme Inspire. Taskforce was established as an independent organisation in May 2021 with the aim of reducing social exclusion for older people in Levenshulme and surrounding areas through social, educational, physical and mental well-being activities and volunteering opportunities. It also aims to engage with service providers so that they are able to adapt services to better meet the needs of older people, and to campaign for positive change on a range of issues to make the world a better place for older people.

The group were initially referred to Macc by The National Lottery Fund following a grant application to Reaching Communities. The group had reached the full proposal stage of a continuation application and needed some help on sustainability planning and future-proofing the organisation. This needed to be worked into the group's approach and be a key part of their full proposal document. They also needed support sourcing alternative funding to cover core costs in case they were unsuccessful in their Lottery bid.

Macc supported the group by delivering a strategy session with all of the trustees and reviewed their business plan. Support was provided to assist the group to outline its achievements to date, identify and highlight its Unique Selling Proposition and form a development plan of ambitions for the next two years to strengthen their request for funding to finance the



development. Macc also provided information on training opportunities focussed on income diversification and encouraged the group to register as a Macc member. Membership includes access to Macc's funding portal to source further potential grant funds which would strengthen their funding plan.

The result of the session held with the trustees was a clear focus on USP and ambitions for the future and the confidence to submit a strong bid to the lottery having addressed the points in their application that needed clarity. A report was drafted outlining the key items discussed and the agreed actions to take forward; a supplement was produced which the group were able to add to their current business plan.

A recent update from the group was to share their exciting news that they had been successful in securing funding for the next 3 years from the National Lottery which would cover their staff wages and allow them to focus on service delivery and means they can keep any other generated income for other projects during this time.

Quotes from Kate Williams – Inspired Task Force:

*"We had a very useful and informative session with Rick that helped us sort out and agree on a USP and also agree on 5 main points to add to our strategic business plan. This will enhance our application to the Lottery that we are preparing now. The feedback from our Trustees was also very positive and although their heads were spinning at the end of 2.5 hours - they felt the time was spent usefully and the session had gone at an appropriate pace for them all to contribute to."*

*"Rick was helpful to me as the staff member as he was an external person that read our Business Plan and understood our financial situation and confirmed that we were doing everything we possibly could in the right direction for a small community organisation that's only 2.5 years old and has had to survive through the covid times. Thank you for the support."*

*"The Inspired Taskforce CIO has been awarded a 3 year Lottery grant today!!! Thank you for all your help, Cheers, Kate"*

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