



Funding bid review and feedback

The Proud Trust



The Proud Trust is a charity supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans young people (and those with related identities). They want LGBT+ young people to be proud of their identity and connected to their community. Through quality youth work, collaborative working and harnessing the voices of LGBT+ young people, they empower young people aged 13-21 (and up to 25 with additional needs) to help themselves and have meaningful influence on their community. They do this through the various services they offer, which include youth groups, mentorship programmes, and online support. They are also the custodians of Manchester's LGBT+ community centre which hosts events and training, providing opportunities to meet like-minded people and build networks.

The Proud Trust trace back 40 years, and through the decades the organisation has grown and adapted to the needs of LGBT+ young people. Today they continue to evolve, with young people's voices at the heart of their work.

The Proud Trust sought support from Macc when applying for funding from The National Lottery's Reaching Communities programme to support their Proud Mentors project and live chat service. They had already satisfied Lottery requirements at stage 1 of the process that these were projects that aligned with the funder's priorities however, further detail and rationale needed to be articulated to increase the chances of success at Stage 2 and hope to secure National Lottery funding for the next 5 years. This was something The Proud Trust felt Macc could offer support with.



Macc worked with a trusted consultant to meet with Rachael and Lucie from the Proud Trust to review the draft bid and to see what support they needed in writing the funding application.

After reviewing the application, a number of areas were identified for strengthening in the next draft and clear guidance and feedback was provided on how the group could articulate its work and plans into the bid.

The group went away with the feedback and used this to strengthen their draft bid. Support continued over further meetings and email feedback and further tweaks were made to the bid. The Proud Trust submitted its final draft of the application to the National Lottery. Feedback from the group about the support:

'Sue's guidance with our National Lottery bid was incredibly helpful and it felt like she really made time for us to come back with revisions and edits as the process went along. The suggestions she made led us to rethink our approach to other applications and how we clearly communicate our work to potential funders. We now know to think about how our budgets are produced and how we can plan projects into the future in a consistent way. We're yet to hear back from the lottery but the lessons learnt are valuable regardless'

Macc contacted the group again recently to follow up on the support and funding decision from the Lottery; the group was excited to share the successful outcome of their full stage proposal:

"We're absolutely delighted to let you know that our proposal has been accepted to be fully funded! Thank you so much for all your help on this - we were very proud of the work we submitted and we really couldn't have done it without your help. Your feedback and guidance has carried forward into our other applications, thank you. We're very happy to be able to give you good news :)"

Quote from Lucie Vovk – Fundraising Officer at The Proud Trust

Date: September 2024