Good Life Collaborative

Working together to improve the lives of people with a learning disability and autistic people across the North East and Cumbria.

Who are we?

‘Good Life’ is a collaboration of local independent organisations with strong connections with local people and communities across the North East and Cumbria.

Between us, our organisations support 125,000 people with a learning disability, autistic people, and their families to stay healthy, connected, and safe.

Our organisations are led by the people we serve. They contribute as employees, volunteers, and leaders.

We seek to enable and develop good practice in health and social care through working with people who have lived experience, sharing their views and co-producing creative solutions to improve health and wellbeing.

Good Life Collaborative partners have worked together over many years. We have now joined forces to enable us to better progress our vision across the region.

Our vision

We are working towards

- An inclusive society where everyone has equal access to the things that support a good life: health and wellbeing, real relationships, a place to call home, brilliant support, education and employment opportunities and community belonging.
- An equitable health and social care system, accessible and inclusive for all.
- Services that are shaped by the people who use them and centred around their needs.

Our offer: how can we help?

People with a learning disability and autistic people face huge health inequities. The NHS Long Term Plan and our local plans seek to address the challenges.

Good Life Collaborative can help the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) to engage with people with a learning disability, autistic people, and their families, to co-design and co-deliver solutions that really tackle these inequities.

Our collaborative offers an opportunity for regional partnership working, informed, and grounded in our community roots.

Working together with local people

Our asset-based approach means we build trusted relationships with local people, through listening, understanding, and working together to design models of support which are efficient, responsive to the local context, and which create better outcomes for individuals.

Local intelligence

Good Life Collaborative is able to gather and share intelligence from local areas across the whole Integrated Care System. This intelligence, and our significant experience of delivering services in local communities, can help ensure plans and priorities at place Integrated Care System are meaningfully informed by the experiences of people and families who use services.

A rapid response

Our long-standing links to people in our local communities mean we are well placed to develop and mobilise a rapid community response to address issues as they arise. Within days of the Covid lockdown, 'Keeping People Connected' was created. 4700 people with a learning disability and autistic people across the North East and North Cumbria were supported according to their need.

Working in partnership

Independent community organisations like ours have a vital role to play in the delivery of good health and wellbeing across the region. By coming together in a collaborative, we have made it easy for Integrated Care System partners to work with us to inform regional developments, drawing on local knowledge and connections.

As partners, we can offer insight and experience, a flexibility and speed of response. We are keen to share our learning, build on good practice to create quality services together.

Our track record

- We provide a huge range of services to keep people well in their neighbourhoods, working in partnership with local health and social services.

Link workers work with GPs to make sure people with a learning disability get good Annual Health Checks and attend vital appointments and screening. Our activity sessions provide a lifeline getting people out, meeting people and moving.

- We engage people and help their views to be heard it's in our mission.

We supported the creation of We are Human Too! Following the abuse at Whorlton Hall, enabling people with lived experience to support services to improve.

- We support people to co-produce solutions that really work.

Quality Checkers is a national phenomenon, adopted by the NHS, created by local people with a learning disability working with our organisations.

- We employ Shaun to work as a Commissioning Officer as part of South Tyneside's Joint Commissioning Unit.

Shaun has a learning disability and uses his lived experience of services to ensure local health and social care providers meet the needs of the people they are there to support.

Our ask: partnership in action

We believe we have much to offer.
To fulfil this potential we seek

- Recognition as a key partner of the Integrated Care System at both system and place level, in shaping the wider health and social care agenda.
- The opportunity to share intelligence and our experience in order to inform priorities and commissioning.
- Opportunities to work with statutory partners and local people to co-design innovative service delivery models unlocking the huge potential that exists in our communities.
- Support for the role that community-based organisations like ours play in maintaining and health and wellbeing.

Our members

Adapt North East

Bridge Creative

Darlington Association on Disability

Inclusion North

People First Independent Advocacy

Skills for People

Sunderland People First

Your Voice Counts

2020/2021

In 2020/2021 we supported over 125,000 individuals to:

- Maintain and improve their health and wellbeing
- Access information, advice, and guidance
- Manage crisis situations
- Stay safe
- Speak up, using advocacy and other methods
- Make and maintain friendships and other networks of support
- Move towards employment
- Be connected to their local communities
- Access and take part in social media
- Overcome digital exclusion

WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS

An inclusive society where everyone has equal access to the things that support a good life: health and wellbeing, real relationships, a place to call home, brilliant support, education and employment opportunities and community belonging.

Get in touch

If you would like to learn more about our work, explore ways of working together or commission us to provide expert engagement with people with a learning disability, autistic people, and their families, then contact our co-ordinator:

Inclusion North

Melissa Peacock: 0113 2444792 or
Kellie Woodley: 07876 145390

Adapt north east
Promoting an Inclusive Society

BRIDGE CREATIVE

D.A.D
Breaking Through Barriers

inclusion north

pf People First
Listen | Engage | Empower

Skills for people

Sunderland People First
A Voice For Change

Your voice counts