

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Paint a picture of an equal society

New trustees at ENABLE Scotland will aim to improve the lives of those who have learning disabilities. By **Ken Mann**



SEND THE MESSAGE: The recent #bethechange campaign from ENABLE Scotland confronts the use of abusive language directed at people with learning disabilities.

CHALLENGING times certainly persist for those in the charity and not-for-profit sector, yet there remain clear examples of resolve – and sustained impact – in the face of adversity.

ENABLE Scotland, currently conducting a search for new trustees, provides a convenient case in point. The learning disabilities campaigner and services provider relies on funding from a range of sources, including local authority social care contracts, statutory grants, trust funding and, of course, fundraised income.

Theresa Shearer is its CEO. “Whilst the level of income differs between these sources, all of them are essential to our work,” she underlines.

“The social care sector in Scotland as a whole is facing challenging times as local and national funding is affected by the difficult economic situation. We remain committed to working with our funders, and other social care providers, to ensure the impact of this on people who have a learning disability in Scotland is minimised.”

Legislative change such as self directed support where people have more control over how their budget supports them to live the life they

choose and with what organisation, has had its own affect.

Shearer adds: “Increasingly, people who have a learning disability are taking control of their services, and the funding that enables them.

“We welcome this change, and recognise that it challenges us to continually evolve and adapt the way we work.

“Only by doing so will we achieve our aim of ensuring people gain the choice and control to live the life they choose.”

ENABLE Scotland, in common with many large third sector entities, has to be run on business principles while balancing that prerequisite with advancing high standards in the care it recommends to clients and informing legislative opinion in considering enhanced future offerings.

Easy it isn’t and that will form part of the reward for those applying to become as trustee, people who will find appeal in a strong sense of community and giving something back to society through professional or personal knowledge.

To that end the charity is seeking four additional trustees with an interest in improving the lives of adults and children in Scotland who have a learning disability.

A proven track record in governance and corporate strategy within a large scale organisation is what might be termed a “pre-qualifying” need.

For this recruitment phase, particular interest will be shown in those demonstrating expertise in finance and audit; fundraising governance; HR and people strategy; and statutory service delivery.

The organisation is certainly one of scale and reach. It employs around 1,700 staff, with more than 90 per cent of them based in local communities supporting the delivery of services. ENABLE Scotland has a presence in 28 of Scotland’s 32 local authority areas.

Consequently its views and depth of knowledge make it an obvious choice for legislators when comment is sought on Scottish Government intentions or to keep MSPs abreast of new developments.

“ENABLE Scotland wants to see an equal society for every person who has a learning disability,” Shearer says. “Influencing local and national decisions, and decision makers, is a fundamental part of making that a reality.

“We actively participate in a range of Scottish Government groups, including

the ministerial advisory groups on disabled children and young people and on Additional Support for Learning (ASL). (We are) also the secretariat for the Scottish Parliament’s Cross Party Group on Learning Disability.

“We see our role equally as being to encourage people who have a learning disability themselves to directly influence government.

“As an example, during the Scottish Parliamentary elections, ENABLE Scotland’s #ENABLEtheVote campaign successfully empowered people to participate in the democratic process and influence the debate. We delivered eight accessible regional hustings, which helped ensure that 80% of those who have a learning disability and who attended, exercised their vote in the election.”

Shearer assures that newly appointed trustees will be part of a progressive organisation, actively seeking new opportunities and partnerships.

She remarks, with obvious clarity of purpose: “We’re also determined to ensure our already well-received services are seen by both our customers and regulators to be continually improving.”

EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGNING WORK

ENABLE Scotland’s award-winning campaigning and influencing work are set, and guided, by its Scottish Council.

The 30 members, each elected to their position, represent its community stakeholders, including adults who have a learning disability, young people who have a learning disability, the parents and carers of people who have a learning disability and representatives of ENABLE branches.

On a quarterly basis, the charity asks the Scottish Council members how satisfied they are with its campaigning.

The organisation’s most recent results show:

- 100 per cent of members were either ‘very happy’ or ‘happy’ with the issues on which ENABLE Scotland is currently campaigning.
- 95 per cent of members were either

‘very happy’ or ‘happy’ with the way in which it is currently campaigning.

The campaigns team also measures campaign performance against what is seen as the three key indicators of a successful, member-led, campaign:



- Membership engagement with the campaign issue,
- Evidence of participation in campaign activities, and
- Impact through campaign outcomes.

Its current campaigns have exceeded the in-house target for participation in campaign activities.

By example, ENABLE Scotland’s national conversation on education for young people who have a learning disability – Included in the Main?! – has had more than 500 responses from young people, parents, and educators.

Employment - General

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For further information please contact
Aubrey Fawcett 01475 712762
or email
aubrey.fawcett@inverclyde.gov.uk

Closing date for applications
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This is an excellent opportunity to improve health outcomes, and as such NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde would welcome applications from interested parties that will deliver high quality primary medical services responsive to the needs of the 4550 patients. As well as delivering essential services, the successful provider will be expected to offer a range of additional and enhanced services.

It is a requirement that all applicants meet the criteria of section 17L of The National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, as amended.

Closing dates for submission of business cases is 7th October 2016.

Further details and submission documentation may be obtained from Patricia Morrison, Primary Care Support Manager, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Modular Building, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Rd, Glasgow, G12 0XH, tel 0141 211 0676.

E-mail: patricia.morrison3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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To receive an application pack, please send CV and covering letter marked Private and Confidential to:

Lisa Diver, Admin Supervisor
Inclusion, 813 South Street, Glasgow, G14 0BX
email: ldiver@inclusion-glasgow.org.uk
Closing date for applications is Monday 12th September 2016
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