



PRESS RELEASE

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Wirral Mencap announces huge funding boost from National Lottery

Following a successful bid for National Lottery funding, local charity Wirral Mencap has secured a sum of £397,709. Payable over four years, the money will enable the organisation to develop its services much further, reaching many more people in the communities it serves than ever before.

As well as massively increasing Wirral Mencap's capacity for service delivery, the money from National Lottery will also fund two full-time posts at the charity; the current Information and Advice Manager Tina Phelan and a new case worker, both of whom will work alongside volunteers, who will reach out into the community to help make services more accessible for people with a learning disability.

Commenting on the National Lottery funding, Sharon Nicholson, Chief Executive at Wirral Mencap, said,

“In common with many other smaller charities, the pandemic has presented us with many challenges, not least calling a halt to our usual fundraising activities. This National Lottery funding will now let us make a real gear change, boosting the number of people we can help and transforming the way we can help them.

“The money will enable us to engage in longer term collaborative work with service providers across Wirral, from council and employment services to housing and care providers, making a whole range of services more accessible and inclusive for people with a learning disability and their families.”

Tina Phelan from Wirral Mencap said,

“As Information and Advice Manager I am thrilled that we now have increased opportunity to work with other self-advocacy organisations and the people we support to co-produce better services and processes on the Wirral. Alongside being able to provide more casework support to families, this will make a real difference to the people we support.”

Based in Birkenhead, Wirral Mencap’s services are open to people with a learning disability and their families from across Wirral. Raising all its own funds, the charity provides a wide range of services for local people, from help and support with paperwork and access to services, to drop-in clubs and accessible courses. Throughout the pandemic, supported by a team of volunteers, Wirral Mencap has continued to support people across the region with a full timetable of online activities.

If you want to find out more about the services that are available, or about volunteering for Wirral Mencap, visit the website, www.mencapwirral.org.uk or call the office on 0151 666 1829.

The Case Worker vacancy is advertised on www.charityjob.co.uk.

-Ends-

Photo caption:

Tina Phelan, Information and Advice Manager at Wirral Mencap and Colin, who has enjoyed the online activities during lockdown.

Notes for Editor

About Wirral Mencap

- Contact for media enquiries: Sharon Nicholson (Wirral Mencap), 0151 666 1829 / snicholson@mencapwirral.org
- Wirral Mencap is a local, independent charity that promotes equality for people with a learning disability - helping them to discover new opportunities, make new friends and feel valued and safe in their community. www.mencapwirral.org.uk
- Wirral Mencap is not Royal Mencap Society (National Mencap) The charity is affiliated to National Mencap by way of its mission to advance equality for people with a learning disability and their families but is governed by local people and raises its own funds to deliver projects in Wirral.

What is a learning disability?

- A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability which can cause problems with everyday tasks – for example shopping and cooking, or travelling to new places – which affects someone for their whole life;
- Learning disability is **NOT** a mental illness or a learning difficulty, such as dyslexia. Very often the term ‘learning difficulty’ is wrongly used interchangeably with ‘learning disability’;

- People with a learning disability can take longer to learn new things and may need support to develop new skills, understand difficult information and engage with other people. The level of support someone needs is different with every individual. For example, someone with a severe learning disability might need much more support with daily tasks than someone with a mild learning disability.

About The National Lottery Community Fund

- We are the largest community funder in the UK – we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people.
- We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people's lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.