




The Youth Inclusion Hub project is based at Mencap and works in partnership with Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), Disability Sports NI, Cedar Foundation, Brain Injury Matters and Action Deaf Youth;

Project funded by: 



What is the Youth Inclusion Hub?



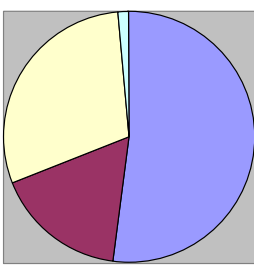

The project is led by Mencap, made up of a consortium of disability organisations:
RNIB – Royal National Institute for the Blind,
NDCS – National Deaf Children's Society, Cedar Foundation, Action Deaf Youth, DSNI – Disability Sports NI and Brain Injury Matters.

The Youth Inclusion Hub project aims to make a real difference to the lives of children and young people with disabilities by helping youth clubs and organisations to be inclusive of all young people.

Young people with a disability accessing mainstream youth provision amount to 3.5% of the youth population in Northern Ireland which is 183,000.

The work of the project

2011 - 2016



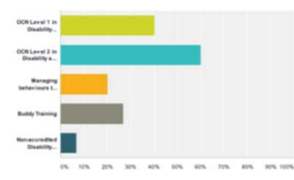
- 415 Youth Workers worked with
- 160 Groups and organisations worked with
- 210 Enquiries from the Youth Sector
- 9 Examples of good practice stories gathered

The work of the project

- Information and advice on how to be inclusive of all disabilities
- Creation of an Digital Inclusion toolkit www.mencap.org.uk/northern-ireland/advice-and-support/northern-ireland/youth-inclusion-hub
- OCN Level 2 in pan-disability awareness and Inclusion training for youth workers, volunteers and young people
- OCN Level 1 in Disability Awareness
- OCN level 1 in Buddy Mentor training Providing recipients with the skills and knowledge on disability awareness, which will enable them to take on a supportive role to members who have a disability who are part of their club or group
- Managing behaviours that challenge training
- Non-accredited training in Visual Awareness and Brain Injury Awareness
- Regular updates on youth and disability issues through a bi -annual newsletter and a Webpage
- Inclusion resource library has a wide range of useful resources, such as sports equipment, books, kitchen equipment, technological aids, and team games. The resources are loaned for free
- A focus group made up of young people who have pan-disabilities to have their voice heard around the area of inclusion, the young people also co-deliver disability awareness training and organise one off youth events.

Response from a quarter of the groups

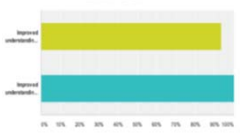
Disability Awareness - Proportion of respondents by training type



| Training Type | Proportion of Respondents |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| OCN Level 1 in Disability Awareness | ~45% |
| OCN Level 2 in Disability Awareness | ~35% |
| Managing Behaviours 1 | ~15% |
| Buddy Training | ~10% |
| Non-accredited Disability | ~5% |

What have you gained from the training?

Q4 What have you gained from doing the training?



| Response | Proportion of Respondents |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Improved understanding | ~85% |
| Improved understanding | ~15% |

Feedback from Youth Workers who completed training

- “Increased other staffs' awareness and impacted our new building design concerns”
- “Improved understanding & more aware of different issues & considerations in my practice. Trained young people to increase their understanding.”
- “Made my projects more inclusive”
- “The training was to an excellent standard, I don't think I can fault it.”

Feedback from Youth Workers



- Process of inclusion is ongoing not a one off
- Benefits for non disabled young people – changing attitudes, perception and behaviour
- Needs prioritised and implementation requires resource to inform and support the sector –raise skill levels, share practice

The focus group



- The involvement of the focus group members in co-facilitating training has been very well received by the sector, as the young people speak so passionately about their disability and their experiences.
- Their involvement has helped improve the attitudes and perceptions towards disability.
- The current members have also helped with the development of one off events – Have your Say event, Virtual Inclusion event, CREdability and input into Consultations and involvement in various campaigns – Anti-bullying week and Learning Disability Week;

The focus group



- *“The focus group has helped me with making new friends, encouraged me to speak up for myself and for other people that have a disability. If we lose this then a lot of youth clubs and youth workers wouldn't know how to include people with a disability” (Josie)*

Benefits of the work



- Working in collaboration allows for the combined strength of the messages about inclusion of young people who have a disability
- Increased reach of the services by working together
- Increased awareness of hub partner activities, thereby avoiding duplication
- Bringing together examples of good practice in engagement of young people who are disabled

Achievements of the project



- 1 Supported 2 Youth groups to become inclusive
- 2 Using the Buddy Mentor Training has enabled clubs to open up to the arena of Inclusion
- 3 Focus group members sharing their experiences, making a difference
- 4 Gathering of examples of good practice

Challenges to the project/ Barriers to Inclusion



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The project needs to influence changes to the YS1 data collection mechanism in particular how this measures and tracks the participation of young people with disabilities in Youth Service across NI. | 4. To influence policy makers and other Youth work practitioners in their struggle to meet their statutory duty to develop and implement policies and strategies that will lead to equal opportunities for all young people |
| 2. Changing and challenging attitudes and perceptions towards disability | 5. Disability and inclusion isn't an issue for my club as I don't have any members who have a disability |
| 3. Fear of the unknown | |



Any Questions?



If anyone is interested in finding out about how the Hub can offer further support please contact Helen on:

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The Hub distributes a quarterly Hub News if you would like to sign up to this please leave your details with Helen
Website: mencap.org.uk/northern-ireland/what-we-do/services-children-and-young-people

Facebook: [Inclusion Hub](https://www.facebook.com/InclusionHub)

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