



West Yorkshire - Finding Independence
Delivering Fulfilling Lives:
Supporting People with Multiple Needs Programme



The WY-FI Network

WY-FI (West Yorkshire, Finding Independence), is a West Yorkshire-based project, helping people move towards independence by promoting positive change and encouraging system flex.

The WY-FI Network is a group of people with their own lived experience of Homelessness, Addiction, Re-offending and/or Mental ill health (these are known as HARM areas). These people are passionate about system change and improving services.

The Network is consulted on and evaluates the progress of the project on a regular basis and gets involved in local initiatives. Working with WY-FI, the Network has real opportunities to steer the project and influence service changes.

Purpose

The purpose of The WY-FI Network is to:

- Bring together groups of experts by experience and ensure that the voice of lived experience is represented at all levels of the project.
- Be involved in community activities.
- Play a part in leadership and governance by taking seats at the WY-FI Core Partnership Management Board (CPMB).
- Meet regularly in our respective areas in the form of mini Network meetings, in order to hear from and take actions based on the needs of those in the Network.
- Provide opportunities for people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage to become involved in the development and delivery of services aiming to address those needs.

The Network creates and seeks out a range of opportunities from outside agencies as well as the CPMB. These include research, consultancy and training.

What's in it for me?



Hannah's Story

"After suffering a traumatic event I started drinking heavily. Life was spiralling out of control and I didn't know where to turn. I was referred to WY-FI who helped with counselling, housing, finances and my addiction. With WY-FI's help I got myself back on track and it was suggested that I do the Peer Mentoring course so I can use my lived experiences to help others.

On completing the course I started a placement shadowing other Navigators. I work closely with beneficiaries offering help and support and understanding their situation.

My experience of being with the Network is that I have learnt a lot, gained confidence and a new way of learning to deal with my problems instead of going back to drinking.

"By going through lived experience myself I believe I have the empathy to help others who are going through a similar situation.

"WY-FI has helped me realise that I am worthwhile and I can do things and has given me the confidence to go out and do them."

"I believe in WY-FI and love WY-FI. Otherwise I wouldn't do the work I do"

Mutual Expectations

As a Network member the commitment we ask for is no more than what any individual wants to do at any time. You can choose what level of involvement you want to have and what kind of work you would like to be involved with.

There are opportunities to be involved in training, research and consultancy work, in addition to attending the mini Network meetings and the regional meetings monthly.

It is currently a very exciting time for the Network as new opportunities are constantly being presented to us. There is plenty to choose from and different types of work to get involved with.

If you're keen to be involved we're keen to have you on board!

Please email wy-fi@humankindcharity.org.uk or call 0113 887 0000 for an informal chat.



Meetings

Monthly mini Network Meetings take place in each of the five localities of West Yorkshire. They discuss what is going on in each area for Network members. The WY-FI Co-production Team can help people to attend meetings if needed.

A larger regional meeting takes place at the WY-FI Hub in Leeds. Representatives from each locality come together to discuss what has been going on for them and any other national projects or opportunities.

Occasionally other meetings are held, such as

- training sessions
- new pieces of work the Network is involved with
- an appreciation meal from the Humankind Chief Executive for a job well done!

**COLLABORATION
AND
CO-PRODUCTION**

