

Leeds social enterprise to receive funding from the Big Lottery to support young people with learning and other disabilities



A Holbeck-based social enterprise, People Matters, which creates opportunities for people with learning and other disabilities is to receive funding of nearly £500,000 from the Big Lottery. The funding will enable People Matters (Leeds) CIC to support young people with learning and other disabilities as they become adults and is one of the Big Lottery's largest grants to an individual organisation. Weekly opportunities will be available for the young people that build their independence and plan for the future for the next five years.

Starting from July 2015, People Matters will be developing opportunities for young people 14 - 25 out in the community from their base in Holbeck. They will be working in partnership with Leeds City College and schools across Leeds.

Chief Executive Tina Turnbull, said: "This grant will help us promote friendships and social opportunities away from families. Young people can become very isolated after they leave education. I began working with people with learning disabilities over 20 years ago and since then have seen how much opportunities such as this can transform lives."

The project will involve the young people as volunteers in choosing and organising what happens, developing their personal, social and employability skills. It will be an

important part of expanding the People Matters work in the community with some of the most vulnerable young people across Leeds. We know that as adults less than 7.5% are in work in Leeds, the odds are stacked against them and people involved in our work previously have now gained employment and/or moved out to live in their own home. What we do can make a real difference.

The team at People Matters is very keen to receive new referrals for this project, particularly from people who have never experienced this sort of opportunity. People can refer themselves or alternatively these can come from friends, family or professionals such as teachers and those in health and social care.

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For more information about the project contact Sally or Lucy on 0113 2346896 email: info@peplemattersleeds.co.uk www.peplemattersleeds.co.uk