



The Disability North School Fundraising Initiative

Introduction

Disability North collaborates with many community partners. Through discussion with teachers and community group leaders – and a successful pilot scheme - we have identified an opportunity to work with community youth groups in a way that will benefit them, the young people they engage and our charity. Our project – FundED – represents a holistic and concerted approach to supporting the charitable work of schools and community groups.

Disability North - Who We Are

Disability North is a user-led charity based in Newcastle upon Tyne promoting social inclusion, independence and choice for disabled people, carers, and their support networks. Established in 1985, we currently employ 20 people and deliver comprehensive services across the North East and Cumbria. Our team provide free impartial information and advice on: equipment and activities for independent living; welfare benefits; Direct Payments; and Personal Health Budgets, along with a payroll service for those who employ their own Personal Assistants. We also provide support in relation to many other aspects of disability and signpost to other organisations who can help. In addition, we develop and deliver training packages, talks and workshops to professionals and community groups, working in all sectors, across the region.

FundED - Our Objectives

The Disability North FundED initiative takes a simple yet ambitious approach. We use our knowledge and expertise to achieve the following aims:

- To promote a positive, informed understanding of disability issues in society.
- To provide a fun context in which young people can build CV enhancing project management skills, acquire business acumen, and develop entrepreneurial talent, whilst learning to work collaboratively and inclusively.
- To raise money for Disability North.
- To build long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships between Disability North and local community groups.

FundED - How It Works

Disability North will visit your group to deliver an 'Awareness Raising' session. These sessions are a key feature of FundED. They can be developed in collaboration with each individual group and the general themes will be tailored to the specific audience. In the sessions we will work with young

people to talk about 'difference' and help them to develop an age-appropriate understanding of disability, whilst promoting active inclusion and responsible citizenship amongst the adults of tomorrow.

Disability North will then provide the whole group, or teams of within the group, with seed money of £50. Under the guidance of Disability North and group leaders, members will use this fund – over a four-week period – to develop and execute a fundraising idea to raise money for Disability North. At the end of the period, Disability North will host an awards ceremony to celebrate and 'certificate' the achievements of the group and acknowledge the original, ethical and inclusive fundraising activities that have been completed.

We appreciate that all community groups are different. We are therefore flexible in terms of how the 'Awareness Raising' sessions and fundraising events might work. We look forward to working with participating groups to ensure that FundED is a beneficial, bespoke experience for each institution.

What Makes FundED Different

We believe that FundED takes a very different approach to other charitable fundraising initiatives currently taking place within schools and community groups. Not only do we support pupils/members to raise money for a local charity whilst raising awareness of an important social issue, the initiative also encourages the personal development of the young people involved. Pupils/members can document their participation in FundED, and the skills they developed and demonstrated throughout, on CVs and applications for further education/employment.

Benefits for the Schools & Pupils Involved

National and regional statistics – as well as reports from our service users – point to an alarming rise in disability discrimination and hate crime over the last two years. In times of austerity and crisis, we believe that participation in the FundED scheme encourages the adults of tomorrow to actively engage with contemporary issues of disability and discrimination, inspiring them to advocate for a more inclusive and just society. FundED promotes creative thinking and active learning, providing a fun context in which young can practically apply the knowledge acquired through education and community group participation, develop the skills to work collaboratively and inclusively, all whilst enhancing their CVs. This is a unique opportunity to positively promote local community groups and their contribution to wider society.

For further information please contact our Service Development & Involvement Manager at Disability North, Carlene Carter on **0191 284 0480** or email carlenecarter@disablenorth.org.uk