

Chamber Meeting

Our project coordinator alongside two volunteers attended the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Board meeting in Calderdale.

We were invited to talk about the project and lived experience. Our coordinator and two project volunteers attended. Two of our volunteers who wanted to be there but couldn't make it on the day shared their stories to be read out.

In many ways, it was a pretty intimidating space, but a hugely empowering experience and a great opportunity to be in a room with decision makers.

The West Yorkshire Mayor invited us to apply for their funding pot during this Chamber meeting in order to extend this project but unfortunately this funding pot was closed.

We also had a follow up meeting with West Yorkshire Healthwatch after the meeting to discuss how to make such meetings more accessible for lived experience participation in future.



Impact

Project Officer, ICB

“Just to say you were amazing! Just incredible to hear what you both said – so powerful. Hopefully something will come out of it too...”

Volunteer:

“You were amazing. Thank you so much for being my voice. I really hope you were able to soak up the whole experience and recognise what phenomenal work you have done for the project”

Associate Director, West Yorkshire Healthwatch

“It was inspiring to hear the lived experience of the volunteers and for the Board to see first hand why it is so important to involve people with lived experience in this and other projects, and the positive impact this can have on people and services.

The Volunteers and coproduction coordinator from Leeds Mind played such an important role in bringing people’s voices into the meeting and gave the partnership’s aim to reduce suicide by 10% across West Yorkshire real meaning. The project has been hugely successful in empowering people with lived experience of suicide, and providing peer support to those who are impacted by suicide. It is an essential service that puts people at the centre.”



Watch the Board Meeting [Here](#)
(skip to 1hr 7mins to see our bit)

“Being able to speak at the WYHP board meeting in Halifax was something else... what an honour to speak on behalf of so many in the mental health arena /system and to so many in powerful positions to hopefully make an impact or indeed start much needed conversations toward systematic change.”