

## Call for Expressions of Interest: Increasing the voice of Lived Experience

**Deadline: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 5pm**

### Summary

Together Leicester has received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to pursue the aims of Leicester's Homelessness Charter and is looking for an organisation to undertake a project to increase the voices of those with lived experience of homelessness. The personal insight of people who have experienced homelessness can often be overlooked and the Charter seeks to ensure these voices and experiences are elevated and present at discussions around homelessness in Leicester.

We are inviting organisations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), which details how they would deliver the project activities in order to meet its aims. The EOI should include;

- What experience and competence does your organisation have to deliver the project
- What would your approach be to engaging with people with lived experience
- What barriers do you envisage there being in achieving the outcomes of the project and what will be your approach to overcome them
- What capacity and resource will you apply to deliver the project.

The EOI should also include a project timetable.

The EOI should be no more than 1000 words (excluding budget).

A total of £7000 is available. We are looking for organisations who can be creative in making the best possible use of this funding.

The project is time limited (4 months). We expect the project to commence no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

EOI's should be submitted as a PDF document to [Eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk](mailto:Eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk) no later than the deadline. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel comprising of members of Leicester's Homelessness Charter Management Group and scored against their ability to meet the aims of the project. All applicants will be notified of a decision by 22nd February 2021.

### Background

Leicester's Homelessness Charter came about because a number of organisations working in the field recognised that we can achieve more together than separately.

We wanted to 'join the dots', eliminate duplication and address the gaps in provision and support.

Led by the Diocese of Leicester and following a series of lively and well-attended workshops, the Charter was launched at Leicester Cathedral in November 2018. Its first signatories were the City Mayor, the Bishop of Leicester, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Dean of Leicester. Many others, including the Lord Lieutenant attended and also pledged their support.

To date, we have 150 signatories and 36 organisations actively working together. These include major institutions, businesses and statutory and voluntary sector bodies. There is greater understanding of who is doing what, and much better communication across the sector. Particular current objectives are:

- To ensure that anyone with no recourse to public funds has access to safe accommodation when needed
- To increase the availability of affordable accommodation for those in housing need
- To tackle rough sleeping to ensure no-one is sleeping on the streets;
- To improve local systems for homeless people through better partnerships and co-ordination
- To ensure the voice of those with lived experience is at the heart of designing services for people who are homeless.

Read the text of the Leicester Homelessness Charter here: <https://www.giveleicester.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Homelessness-Charter-Pledge.pdf>

### **Project activities**

Leicester's Homelessness Charter aims to ensure that the experiences and insights of people and families that have been through homelessness are at the centre of service design and delivery across the city of Leicester. The project aims to further the objectives of the Charter by;

- Creating spaces for individuals with lived experience to connect and come together, building a network
- Facilitating lived experience led conversations on a range of topics related to homelessness
- Ensuring, where needed, people with lived experience have access to support which enables them to participate in discussions
- Identifying opportunities for lived experience panels to meet with service providers and commissioners and feed into wider discussions around homelessness in Leicester using the Charter network
- Exploring future development and structure of a peer-led network

### **Project outcomes**

The project will ensure that those with lived experience of homelessness in Leicester have their voices heard;

- Lived experience voices play a pivotal role in the Charter and projects led by Charter members
- The value of lived experience is recognised and used effectively by service commissioners and providers to improve solutions to homelessness
- People with experience of homelessness know where and how they can use their voice to help other people facing homelessness
- People with lived experience of homelessness have opportunities to be at the forefront of work to combat homelessness and are considered more than merely a 'consultative' partner
- Services and initiatives to tackle homelessness are coproduced
- Anyone with lived experience of homelessness is able to have their voice heard.



For further information please contact Eilidh Stringer, Leicester's Homelessness Charter Development Manager, at [Eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk](mailto:Eilidh.stringer@togetherleicester.org.uk)