



PRESS RELEASE

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£149,946 for new National Lottery funded research project

Barod Community Interest Company is delighted to announce that we will be working in partnership for the next two years with Carmarthenshire People First, My Life My Choice (an Oxford organisation), People First Dorset and Social Firms Wales on a project called The Bridge. Says Anne Collis, project lead, *“The project is called The Bridge because we aim to bridge the gap between the current situation where too many people with learning difficulties are working for free and their organisations struggle for funding, to a future where individuals and organisations are well paid for their work”*.

People with learning difficulties across the UK have developed highly desirable skills through their involvement in self-advocacy and are engaged in high level policy and service design work. However it is rare to be able to secure well paid work that uses these skills, and many groups struggle to find funding.

Five years ago, a small group of people with and without learning difficulties founded Barod Community Interest Company to create their own jobs and run their own

business. Recently, Barod benefited from business growth support from Social Firms Wales, funded by Social Business Wales, leading to the idea of the two organisations combining forces for a research project to support and work alongside a small number of self-advocacy organisations who were looking to create paid work for members or generate income for the organisation. Thanks to this funding from the National Lottery Fund, via DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning), over the next two years these five organisations will be working together to build a brighter future for people with learning difficulties and for self-advocacy organisations.

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For further media enquiries:

Please contact Anne Collis, lead project contact, 07800755076, anne@barod.org

For information about DRILL:

Please contact Miranda Evans miranda.evans@disabilitywales.org or Dr Jody Mellor, jody.mellor@disabilitywales.org on 02920 887325

Notes to editors:

The DRILL programme is being delivered by Disability Rights UK, Disability Action Northern Ireland, Disability Wales and Inclusion Scotland.

Each country has a National Advisory Group, including disabled people, academics and policy makers, who provide advice, scrutinise research proposals, make recommendations and help promote and disseminate the findings. A Central Research Committee, made up of disabled people, academics and policy

influencers from across the UK makes the final decision on which research proposals receive funding.

Big Lottery Fund is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Last year it awarded almost £713 million and supported almost 14,000 projects across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.

Three other projects in Wales have been funded through the DRILL programme during the first call for applications.

Photo and interview opportunities at a launch event, hosted by Barod, in Swansea, 2pm to 4.30pm, Thursday 1st February. For an invitation or to arrange an interview with members of the Barod team, please email anne@barod.org