

PRESS RELEASE: You Decide Programme

LOTTERY FUNDING PUTS YOUNG PEOPLE AS THE DECISION MAKERS

IN BOLTON



The consortium representing Bolton's children and young people's voluntary and community sector has received almost £350,000 from the National Lottery, thanks to National Lottery players.

For the first time, disadvantaged children, young people and their families across the borough will be able to decide how it is spent.

The funding given to Bolton Together will be used to support disadvantaged young people throughout the borough, including those who have experienced domestic abuse or who have additional needs.

Working closely with Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC), Breaking Barriers North West and Fortalice, Bolton Together will empower young people and families to design a grant-giving programme. This involves communities directly in decisions about funding and good causes, putting community power, agency and control at the heart of the funding in England, supporting people to live happier, healthier lives.

Bolton Together and its three partners are "very proud to be part of this innovative approach". The funding not only supports more children and young people but will inform and influence future service delivery and decision-making.

As Louise McDade, Chief Executive at Bolton Together, explained: "Now we can genuinely put communities in charge of how and where grant funding is distributed and empower young people and parents who often don't get the opportunity to share their views and insights. "I am excited Bolton Together is leading on this project alongside our wonderful partners."

Emma Hutchinson, CEO at Bolton Lads and Girls Club commented: "As a charity that has young people at the heart of everything we do, it's wonderful to be able to support them to make their own decisions about investment into young people."



Young People engaged in sports at Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC)

Laken Reid, Senior Manager at Breaking Barriers North West, stated: “Through this project we will create meaningful opportunities for children with SEND and their families, including children who are non-verbal, have developmental difficulties and high support needs, to shape funding decisions within their own communities.”

Dr Gill Smallwood, MBE, Chief Executive of Fortalice, said: “The children and young people Fortalice works with are often working through the trauma of domestic abuse and trying to gain confidence to make changes that will improve their lives. By having the opportunity to shape, identify and develop new ideas it will not only help them develop new skills but it will also empower them to believe in themselves.”

Work on the new scheme will begin from August this year.

Notes to the Editor

About The National Lottery Community Fund

At The National Lottery Community Fund, we work within and alongside communities across the UK to strengthen society and build a better future. Thanks to the generosity of National Lottery players, we support activities that strengthen society and improve lives.

With funding teams embedded across the UK, we prioritise our efforts where the need is greatest. We fund projects that deliver our four community-led missions to support communities to come together, help children and young people thrive, enable people to live healthier lives and to be environmentally sustainable.

By 2030, we will have shared over £4 billion to help create stronger, fairer communities across the UK. But we offer much more than funding. We provide practical support, information and insight to all. So new ideas can become reality, and projects that are already making a difference can grow. All to help communities do something truly life-changing.

#NationalLottery

About Bolton Together

Bolton Together is the children and young people’s voluntary and community sector consortium for Bolton. We improve the health and well-being of children, young people, and their parents or caregivers, and provide relief to those facing challenges due to age, illness, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantages. This includes forming partnerships between voluntary, community, social enterprise, and public sectors to support the development and assistance of children, young people, and families in need. To learn more about how we deliver programmes in partnership with our member organisations, visit: <https://bolton-together.org.uk>

