



Why Don't We...

Please pass this information on to your social worker if you are applying for funding to attend Why Don't We. Remember to tell them about your personal reasons for wanting to be in the group as well. What does it mean to you?

Background

Why Don't We (WDW) was previously an independent charity, delivering a weekly group session for adults with autism and/or a learning disability. The charity was wound-up in Spring 2021 and its Board of Trustees asked Pyramid, a Leeds-based arts collective, to take over the running of the group.

Pyramid is registered with Bradford Council as a day opportunities provider and the following information is provided in order for applications for funding to be assessed.

Activity

Sessions run for 3 hours on Thursdays, for 50 weeks per year. The current venue is Artworks Creative Communities, BD7 1AA.

The group is led by two professional artists, trained in inclusive arts practice and supported by Pyramid volunteers as needed. The group work on various collaborative and individual arts projects, with a particular focus on digital media and photography.

Outcomes

This is an opportunity for members to socialise, forge positive ongoing relationships and learn new practical skills in the creative arts. All Pyramid groups regularly share their work through a programme of public events and exhibitions, which has personal benefits such as improved confidence, self-belief and sense of pride in achievements. For example, our members have produced three pieces of permanent public art in Leeds (at Thwaite Mills, Leeds Industrial Museum and Meanwood Valley Urban Farm) and exhibit work regularly at prestigious arts venues such as The Tetley, the Dean Clough Gallery and the National Science and Media Museum.

WDW group sessions are suitable for any adult with a learning disability and/ or autism who has expressed an interest in the creative arts. We tailor our projects to work for each individual involved, whether they are completely new to the artform, or have significant experience and want to develop to a professional level.

We continually demonstrate the superb contribution that autistic people and those with learning disabilities can make to arts and culture, and challenge the deficit model of disability by showcasing work, addressing barriers to inclusion in the arts and supporting our members to work professionally (e.g. applying for their own arts funding and commissions).

Costing

The cost to attend Why Don't We is £26.59 per session. This price has been set by Bradford and Craven CCG and Bradford MDC Commissioning.

Terms and Conditions

We do not offer drop-in sessions and members are expected to attend every week. Short absences (e.g. minor illness or holiday) are still billable. Members must notify us of any long-term absences or issues affecting attendance so we can discuss billing and pause payments if appropriate. Members leaving the group must give four weeks' notice (this is billable even if they choose not to attend during the notice period).

We reserve the right to exclude a member from our groups if they act in a threatening or abusive way (after being warned that their behaviour is unacceptable). No notice period is payable if we exclude someone, and we will refund any membership fees received in advance. Where behaviour that challenges is a recognised access need, we will do our best to accommodate the individual and may offer an alternative activity if group work is not suitable for them.

Contact

Any queries regarding membership and payments can be addressed to Sarah Cockburn, Operations Manager:

email: finance@pyramid.org.uk

phone: 07549 782 794

Funding approvals

Please notify us of the result when your client's application goes to panel.