

Part A - General Information

Organisation

The Giving HOPE Project CIC

Organisation Type/Structure

Community Interest Company (CIC)

Theme/Nature of Project

Medical, Health and Social Care

Company/CIC Registration Number (if applicable)

15988580

Project Name (if same as Organisation Name, please leave this blank)

Giving HOPE Project Lived Experience Framework

Name of Lead Contact

Claire Mason

How did you find out about the Awards?

Recommended by a Friend/Colleague or Other Person

Website

<https://www.givinghope.org.uk/>

Part B - Project Proposal

Project Mission: A snapshot of the project's intention (50 words max)

To co-produce the Lived Experience framework for the Giving HOPE Project CIC to ensure we drive change through lived experience. This includes developing our processes, piloting a new Lived Experience mentor role, expanding the group, and developing a consistent, trauma-informed support and training programme.

Situation (250 words)

Giving HOPE was established in response to the lack of support for mothers who experience separation from their baby at birth due to safeguarding concerns. It grew directly from the Born into Care research series led by Lancaster University. The study benefitted from the input of 12 mothers with lived experience, who formed an advisory group throughout the study.

The research highlighted the emotional impact and long-term consequences of separation at birth. It also exposed the inconsistency in how mothers are treated, with many describing feelings of isolation, stigma, and a lack of recognition at a deeply vulnerable time. The work led to new national guidelines being published.

Following publication, the mothers who had contributed to the advisory group (HOPE Mothers) wanted to keep working together to make change for others. They co-designed the HOPE (Hold On Pain Eases) Boxes, now used across 57 health and social care settings in England. The Boxes contain items to offer comfort and help mothers and babies stay connected whilst physically apart. They support maternal identity and help capture early moments and experiences that can be important for both mother and the child's identity in the future if they remain apart. They also give practitioners a compassionate and practical way to respond to a complex situation.

Giving HOPE is now a Community Interest Company (CIC). The HOPE Mothers are central and actively drive the work of the social enterprise. Their experiences shape all aspects of our offer, including the HOPE Boxes and training programme.

Complication (250 words)

Interest is growing rapidly; in the last 12 months we have more than doubled the number of areas where HOPE Boxes are distributed, and many more areas seek implementation support. We also have several development projects to take the HOPE Boxes into new areas of practice. Professionals tell us hearing

directly from the HOPE Mothers is one of the most powerful aspects, deeply influencing how they work. Contributing to this work has also had a significant personal impact on the HOPE mothers, offering healing, validation, and connection.

However, the women involved have faced multiple adversities including, domestic abuse, substance use, and childhood trauma. Their ongoing involvement has been possible because of the trust and relationships built over time.

To sustain and strengthen our work, we need to build the right infrastructure to allow us to expand our lived experience involvement and co-production. We need to ensure consistent support, opportunities for progression that support those women wishing to develop their role further and a pathway for new mothers who want to join our organisation, creating supported opportunities where women with lived experience can build skills and confidence and help change the system for others.

With the right scaffolding in place, training, mentoring, and coordination, this work can continue to grow in a way that is both safe and sustainable. It has the potential to benefit mothers, babies, practitioners, and the wider system, while also opening new possibilities for a group so often excluded from change-making spaces.

Solution (250 words)

We will recruit a specialist advisor on a time-limited contract to support our team to; develop a lived experience support programme, draft relevant processes, and oversee an implementation pilot to:

- a) Develop a mentoring programme for our current HOPE Mothers who will be offered sessional roles as Lived Experience Mentors.
- b) Recruit, induct and support five new women through trusted organisations in the VCSE sector to join the HOPE Mothers group.

The specialist will co-develop a trauma-informed training and mentoring programme, which will include 2 levels a) induction training for new recruits and b) a mentoring programme to allow progression for women in the organisation. The programme may include:

- Sharing stories safely and public speaking.
- Understanding systems and influencing change.
- Safeguarding and self-care.
- Peer mentoring and facilitation.

This would allow us to formalise our current lived experience support offer and infrastructure, ensuring consistency, safety and inclusion. The offer will include; induction, training, payment and personalised support through debriefs, wellbeing support, and reflective sessions.

Outcomes

- Specialist advisor engaged to develop a clear co-designed framework for lived experience involvement and implement the framework in collaboration with the Directors and HOPE Mothers.
- HOPE Mother/s employed in sessional mentoring roles.
- Five new women with lived experience recruited and supported.
- A new co-developed trauma-informed training and mentoring programme developed
- Structured support in place.
- Demonstrated personal growth and confidence among new and existing HOPE Mothers, with feedback captured through evaluation.

Part C - Wider Support

A key part of the value of being shortlisted for, or winning, an award is the network of partners that becomes available to help you. With that in mind, how would the Stephen Lloyd Award network of partners' support be beneficial to your project? (250 words max)

The support of the Stephen Lloyd Awards network would bring enormous value, not only to this specific project, but to Giving HOPE's broader aims to grow in a thoughtful, sustainable, and impact-led way.

As a newly formed CIC (incorporated October 2024), our directors are committed to building a strong foundation that centres lived experience while also meeting the demands of operating a growing social enterprise. Access to network partners such as David Saint (Action Planning) and Bob Thust would be especially valuable. Their expertise in governance, financial modelling, and organisational design could help us embed sustainable practices that ensure the infrastructure we create, such as new lived experience roles and training pathways, has lasting impact beyond the life of this award.

The project would also benefit from Amanda Wells' experience in PTSD and trauma psychotherapy. Her

insight and contacts could guide us in refining our trauma-informed approach to training, mentoring and wellbeing support for HOPE Mothers, many of whom have lived through complex and multiple adversities.

In addition, we would welcome opportunities to connect with others in the network who are embedding lived experience or peer leadership within their own system-change work. Having access to this group of values-aligned thinkers and doers would strengthen our work, open possibilities for collaboration, and provide challenge and support as we grow. We're excited about the chance to contribute to and learn from this partnership.

Part D - Financial Justification

How do you propose to spend the winning funds of £25,000 (50 words max). Please provide a general idea.

Phase 1: Workshops - £7,400

Fees: Specialist advisor, HOPE Mothers, Director
Room hire, travel, refreshments.

Phase 2: Development - £7,150

Fees: Advisor, E-learning support, training film production.

Phase 3: Pilot - £4,103

Fees: Advisor, Lived Experience Mentor, E-learning support
Volunteer event costs.

General Costs – 6,000

Project management/administration.

TOTAL: £24,653

Part E - Supporting Information

Team: We would like to learn a little more about the individual or team invested into the project. What are your individual credentials? Is there a story behind how you or your team all came together to support the project? (75 words max)

Angela Frazer-Wicks MBE, Director – HOPE mother with extensive campaigning and system change experience, ensures the lived experience voice remains central

Claire Mason, Director – responsible for development and partnerships. Her position at Lancaster University ensures the project remains research informed.

Kate Chivers, Director - extensive experience, passion, care and professional expertise to ensure support for those with lived experience.

Rosie Stubbings, Administrator – key administration and supply logistics

Jane Huddleston, Operations Officer – oversight of systems and operations

YouTube Video, if you'd like to add one

<https://youtu.be/ZO8lt1NoyJQ>

Additional References: You are welcome to provide a list of up to 5 links with any relevant supporting material or visuals, as further reference

<https://shows.acast.com/family-justice-data-partnership/episodes/from-numbers-to-hope> - Podcast episode

<https://elht.nhs.uk/news-and-media/news/giving-hope-elht-midwives-honoured-national-safeguarding-award> - NHS Safeguarding Award