

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: ONSIDE Project's Midway Progress Report



THEME:

Health

FUNDING (ERDF+Match)

€5,557,509.42

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Health
Northern Ireland & Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Disability Action NI

PROJECT PARTNERS

Disability Action NI, NI
Housing Executive,
Supporting Communities,
Independent Living
Movement Ireland

Start Date: 01/05/2018

End Date: 31/12/2022

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 ONSIDE Project

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The Outreach and Navigation for Social Inclusion and Digital Engagement (ONSIDE) project has been improving the health and well-being of disabled people by reducing the social isolation they often experience.

Having reached it's halfway point at the end of August 2021, the project decided to collate a summary report; outlining key events, the challenges faced as part of the COVID-19 pandemic and a look towards future activity.

Some of the key events to date include:

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2020.** Hosted by the Department of Communities and Disability Action NI, ONSIDE presented at a special Zoom event, elaborating on its efforts to make digital communication accessible to all and highlighting how the digital divide is a very real issue for disabled people.
- **Staff Appreciation Day, 2 February 2021.** To acknowledge the care and dedication that ONSIDE staff demonstrated with participants during the three COVID lockdowns, the project held a staff appreciation day, bringing the project board and staff together via Zoom to say thank you for their huge effort.
- **Volunteers' Week 2020, June 2021.** To celebrate, ONSIDE ran a social media campaign 'Unlocking the Internet in lockdown' which gave volunteers a platform to tell their stories of volunteering.

For a copy of the full report click [HERE](#)

"It was boost to my life! I enjoyed talking to people and doing things I have never done before. I looked forward to it each week."

"I feel much more independent in using the tablet and would be more open to joining other online groups. I would never have thought about joining a reading group before but I think I would enjoy it!"

Participant Statements