



THEME:

Health

FUNDING (ERDF+Match)

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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

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SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: ONSIDE volunteers celebrated as part of Volunteers Week

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.

As part of Volunteers Week (1-7 June 2021) ONSIDE celebrated its volunteers through a special social media campaign, known as 'Unlocking the Internet in Lockdown', illustrating the life-changing and inspiring impact of volunteering. ONSIDE also held an appreciation event on Zoom to recognise its volunteers and say thanks for going above and beyond for ONSIDE participants during COVID-19.

The ONSIDE peer volunteers have had a tremendous impact to date, helping to reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation for hundreds of disabled people during the COVID pandemic, playing a key role in supporting the disabled community at such a difficult time.

During the seven day social media campaign volunteers told their blend of stories of overcoming adversity, helping others with a disability and the life enhancing impact of peer volunteering.

To promote the Volunteers' Week celebrations Elaine, a Peer Volunteer Coordinator and Nigel, a Peer Volunteer, spoke to BBC Radio Ulster's 'On Your Behalf'. You can watch the volunteer videos, as well as listen to a clip from the broadcast [HERE](#)

"Disabled people are disproportionately 'non internet users' so when COVID hit, many disabled people were left stranded, alone in their own homes, with no contact to the outside world. Our volunteers work diligently behind the scenes assisting the ONSIDE team in digitally upskilling participants and supporting them one on one, connecting them to the outside world"

Elaine Roub, Peer Volunteer Co-Ordinator at ONSIDE