

## National Advocacy – Best Co-production Award 2023 Winners are HIOW ICS, Koala Hub and Lived Experience Experts

The Best Co-production Award recognises best practice with co-production. Co-production is about working in equal partnerships with people who use services and carers. Leading the way in using co-production to design, deliver and evaluate the advocacy service.



Nicky Adams, Lynne Tapp from our ICB, Tori Rist from Koala Hub and our two lived experience experts Naomi and Rob, accepted the award on behalf of all that worked on the project at the award ceremony in Birmingham on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### The project:

Experts by Experiences involved in the project have increased their confidence in self-advocacy and are better equipped with tools and resources and are taking what they have learnt and using it not only to have a voice in service improvement projects but within their own personal lives e.g., planning and going on a bus on their own which they wouldn't have done prior to the project.

The project also brought together individuals with different abilities, skills, knowledge to share their experience to support each other and provide a safe space where they felt accepted and understood. Individuals have started up their own self-advocacy social group to share their experiences, get and provide peer support and inspire each other.

The judges were impressed with how co-production was at the heart of the project and how the work improved the skills and knowledge of everyone who attended the training, but also resulted in the lived experience trainers developing skills, feeling respected, valued, and included.

The National Advocacy Awards recognises people. People are what matter – and the award dinner was about celebrating people who go the extra mile. Bringing everyone together for the award ceremony was to say: we see what you do, your effort is noticed, your support is appreciated.

Advocacy Quote: “Leave safety behind. Put your body on the line. Stand before the people you fear and speak your mind – even if your voice shakes. When you least expect it, someone may actually listen to what you have to say. Well-aimed slingshots can topple giants. And do your homework” – Maggie Kuhn.