



## **Community Integrated Care**

### **RLWC2021 Advisory Group**

#### **Bio**

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 Advisory Group is a team of volunteers with learning disabilities, who are advising RLWC2021 officials and Tournament organisers on ways to make the international event more accessible and inclusive for all.

In partnership with the Rugby League World Cup 2021 (RLWC2021), Rugby Football League and Super League, people supported by official social care partners Community Integrated Care have been given specialist mentoring and development opportunities, designed to fulfil their potential, promote independence, and make dreams come true.

Meeting together virtually every month, the group discuss ways to improve the experiences of people with learning disabilities accessing live sporting events and matchdays. From players in the Learning Disability Super League, to people who had no prior interest in Rugby League, the group have diverse interests and offer differing valued perspectives. Discussions

Sharing their individual lived experiences of navigating live events with a learning disability, they're able to think through practical advice, and offer solutions on difficult topics. This unique experience ensures that they are best placed to help the Tournament organisers achieve their objectives of being the biggest and most inclusive World Cup, ever.

### **RLWC2021 Advisory Group Profiles**



#### **Ben Gomersall, from Normanton, Wakefield**

##### **Fact File!**

- I've supported Featherstone Rovers for 25 years and have a Season Ticket
- I have appeared on the radio for Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity
- I also play in the Community Integrated Care Learning Disability Super League for Wakefield Trinity
- I recently had an acting role in the LD Super League promotional launch video
- My other interests include amateur theatre

##### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"I am passionate about Rugby League and wanted to make an impact beyond playing and being a fan. I'm excited to help support inclusive change."



### **Mitch Woodham, from Otley, Leeds**

#### **Fact File!**

- I love the Leeds Rhinos! I go to every home game on my Season Ticket
- I play in the Community Integrated Care Learning Disability Super League for Leeds Rhinos
- I've played at Anfield Stadium, in front of thousands of fans
- I've been interview pitch side live at Old Trafford stadium, at the Grand Final in 2019
- BBC News produced a feature on me as a person with learning disabilities gaining paid employment

#### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"I have visited many stadiums across the country to watch rugby league. I want to help others with autism and learning disabilities to have a better experience watching a game at the Rugby League World Cup 2021!"



### **Gillian Broadhead, from Stockton-on-Tees**

#### **Fact File!**

- I love watching Rugby League on the television - especially when England are playing
- I helped to arrange the official trophy presentation at the Women's Grand Final at Headingley Stadium
- I volunteered at an England Women's (Lionesses) Football Match at the Riverside Stadium, the home of Middlesbrough FC
- I am very experienced at Horse Riding, and enjoy watching and singing along to musicals

#### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"I am excited to be part of the Advisory Group, as I can learn new skills and be part of something big and exciting! Its good to know that I can help to make things more accessible at the tournament for people like me."



## **James Brooks, from Middlesbrough**

### **Fact File!**

- I absolutely love live sport! Football is my passion, but I'm getting more experienced in Rugby League through my inclusive volunteering
- I've spoken to thousands of fans on stage about improving accessibility, live at St James' Park at the Dacia Magic Weekend
- I volunteered at my favourite team Middlesbrough FC for an England Women's game. I got to see behind the scenes of the club store
- I play the drums and even used to be in a band!
- I'm a Quality Advisor at Community Integrated Care, which means I share valuable insights into the charity's services from the perspectives of people who use them

### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"I first joined the Advisory Group as I wanted to be part of a spectacular event like the Rugby League World Cup 2021. I love to try new things and meet new people and it's helped me do a lot of this. I've had brilliant experiences so far and can't wait for the Tournament."



## **Dassos Peterson, from Liverpool**

### **Fact File!**

- I am very proud of my Cypriot heritage – Cyprus is a beautiful country
- I have watched Rugby League since I was 13, and I support St Helens
- I like to play Table Tennis and football
- I was born in a pub and featured in the local newspaper
- I like to be part of something that helps Community Integrated Care

### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"I previously volunteered at the Dacia Magic Weekend and really enjoyed the experience. I want to help ensure people with learning disabilities and autism are safe getting in and out of stadiums on a matchday."



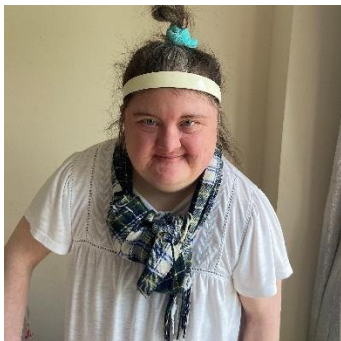
## **David France, from Widnes**

### **Fact File!**

- I love Rugby League! I've been a fan since I can remember, and I support the Widnes Vikings and England
- I've interviewed Sky Sports Presenter, Brian Carney through the RLWC2021 Inclusive Volunteering Programme
- I'm a coach in the Community Integrated Care Learning Disability Super League. I like to help people play the sport I previously played
- I love taking photos! I'm a member of the RLWC2021 Photography Club and can't wait to take photos at the Tournament later this year!
- I enjoy other sports too, such as football. I support Liverpool FC

### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"The RLWC2021 Advisory Group has give me a platform to voice my ideas and thoughts, which is enabling me to influence positive change. Through living with a learning disability, I have a good understanding of what people facing the same things as me are going through. Being part of this group has changed my life."



## **Name: Sue Peacey, from Stockton on tees**

### **Fact File!**

- I am new to the sport of Rugby League
- I enjoy talking to new people I have met through the RLWC2021 Inclusive Volunteering Programme
- I wanted to be part of this project after seeing the opportunities my friend Gill has had access to and the positive change in her
- I hope that volunteering will build my confidence
- I am a big Disney fan and have met almost all the characters on my holidays to Euro Disney

### ***Why I love being part of the RLWC2021 Advisory Group?***

"I can't wait until the RLWC2021 kicks off! I'm really enjoying my volunteering journey and being part of the Advisory Group is giving me the confidence to keep trying my best."