

How this was possible: the Big Lottery Fund

About the grant

In October 2005, ARK Housing was awarded a grant by the Big Lottery Fund to “build the capacity of people with learning disabilities to understand and represent themselves within local governance structures and the wider community”.

What this means is that we asked for money to help our service users learn about citizenship and ways of being more involved in the things that happen where they live. The Big Lottery Fund said yes, and they help us use the money in the best way possible by making sure we set goals and checking to see how the project is going every few months.

About the Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund distributes half of all National Lottery good causes funding across the UK. The Fund aims to enable others to make real improvements to the lives of disadvantaged people and the wellbeing of communities, through fair and open funding of people, projects and programmes.

The Big Lottery Fund was officially established by Parliament on 1st December 2006. Now, it rolls out close to £2 million in Lottery good cause money every 24 hours, which together with other Lottery distributors means that across the UK most people are within a few miles of a Lottery-funded project.

Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to Good Causes. As a result, over £19.5 billion has now been raised and more than 250,000 grants given out to the arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

You can find out more about the Big Lottery Fund’s work in Scotland at their website: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scotland>