



Press Release : For immediate release
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Network groups shine at the Inclusive Networks Awards

Network groups at Tesco, Lloyds Banking Group, PwC, EY, Action for Children, Bradford University, Standard Life, Transport for London, BNY Mellon and York St John University are recognised at the UK's first awards event dedicated to network groups.

On 19th November over 200 network group heroes attended the inaugural Inclusive Networks Awards, the first ever awards dedicated to network groups, held at iconic live music venue Band on the Wall in Manchester.

Sponsored by organisations including PayPal, Fujitsu, EY, WeAreTheCity, Contracts IT, Manchester Pride, Diversity Jobs, Canal St and Action for Children, the awards recognised the people who make the networks live and breathe, many of whom volunteer substantial amounts of their own time, as well as thank the organisations that support and encourage their work and that of an inclusive society.

Winners included **GLEE@PwC** who were named Employee LGBT Network of the Year, North East London NHS Foundation Trust, **Ethnic Minority Staff Network** who were named Employee Race, Ethnicity & Cultural Heritage Network of the Year and **Lloyds Banking Group**, winners of the Investor in Network Groups award.

What makes these awards different is that they celebrate and reward the work of the doers, individuals and teams who show an extraordinary amount of commitment and dedication to support employees, the wider community and help influence the views of the wider public on their perception of the organisations they represent through their work - creating and developing more inclusive and diverse workplaces and communities. They're real drivers for positive change.

It was an awards event with a difference that celebrated and recognised employee, professional and community focussed network groups covering all diversity strands and sectors, from all over the UK.

Thomas Anderson, Founder of the Inclusive Networks Awards, said : "Having Chaired an employee network group for many years I founded the awards to authentically recognise the doers and recognise all the different elements that make a network group successful. All of our finalists and winners really make a positive difference in the workplace and beyond and it was amazing to be able to recognise the awesome work, dedication, commitment and impact of network groups covering many diversity strands and sectors in the same room. It was a truly inspiring evening with a diverse crowd of network group heroes and it was an honour to celebrate the work of so many awesome networks at an authentic, informal, fun and diverse event."

Our winners :

Employee LGBT Network of the Year, sponsored by Manchester Pride

PwC : GLEE@PwC

Employee Gender Network of the Year, sponsored by WeAreTheCity

EY : EY Women's Network

Employee Race, Ethnicity & Cultural Heritage Network of the Year

North East London NHS Foundation Trust : Ethnic Minority Staff Network

Health & Wellbeing Network of the Year

Lloyds Banking Group : Access Network

New Network of the Year, sponsored by EY

Standard Life : Young Persons' Development Network

New Network of the Year, sponsored by EY

Action for Children : Celebrate LGBT

Inter-Sector Network of the Year, sponsored by Fujitsu

Black Solicitors Network

Professional Network of the Year, sponsored by Contracts IT

Citymothers and Cityfathers

Social Network of the Year, sponsored by Canal St

Manchester Lesbian & Gay Chorus

Network Team of the Year, sponsored by Diversity Jobs

Tesco : OUT at Tesco

Network Leader of the Year, sponsored by Girls Out Loud

The University of Bradford, n-able : Cath Rose and Gill Cockburn

Inspiring Member of the Year, sponsored by Action for Children

Funke Abimbola

Collaboration of the Year, sponsored by Tuk In
**BNY Mellon's PRISM Network and George House Trust -
UK AIDS Memorial Quilt**

Network Event of the Year, sponsored by Barefoot Wine
PwC, GLEE@PwC : #bigGLEEday

Network Engagement Initiative of the Year, sponsored by PayPal
Transport for London, OUTbound : #RideWithPride

Network Champion of the Year
York St John University : Jo Thompson

Investor in Network Groups
Lloyds Banking Group

Guests were welcomed by the sounds of the Caribbean from the awesome Steeldrumband and the welcome bubbly was served by Barefoot Wine. The awards host, Manchester based stand-up Kate McCabe, was a hit with the crowd and provided lots of laughs throughout the fun and uplifting night. Further entertainment came from record breakers Ri Ri's Dance Academy and local singer Maria Kelly.

Inspiring guest speakers at the event were **Sanjay Sood-Smith**, Apprentice 2014 candidate and Co-Founder of Tuk In, and founder of Girls Out Loud, **Jane Kenyon**, who each delivered awesome speeches that inspired attendees.

Winners photos can be found at www.inclusivenetworks.co.uk/awards/in-awards-2015-winners/

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Notes for Editors:

Launched at the end of October 2014 with a good luck message from Stephen Fry, Inclusive Networks aims to bring networks, charities, community groups and inclusive employers of all diversity strands and sectors together, to learn from each other, to share, to collaborate and most importantly, to celebrate the many successes of network groups, the people who make them come alive and the employers and organisations who support them and help them flourish. A vibrant feature and interview driven website is updated frequently and a bi-monthly online magazine, 'Network Buzz' and network group events are produced and delivered by Inclusive Networks. Find out more at www.inclusivenetworks.co.uk/features/

Logos and photographs :

High resolution logos and photographs are available on request.

For all enquiries contact :

Thomas Anderson, Inclusive Networks Founder & Chief Executive
thomas@inclusivenetworksuk.co.uk
07702 130 348

Twitter : @IncNetworks | @IncNetworksMag - **Hashtag :** #INAWards2015