



*perinatal peer mentoring project for women living with HIV*

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## **London Fast Track Cities Stigma Empowerment Framework Manual and Stigma Empowerment Project Tender launch . 18/10/21**

*My thoughts on being part of the Fast Track Cities Communities of Practice: An example of good practice in meaningful involvement of communities in developing and delivering work*

**Angelina Namiba**

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Thank you for inviting me to present at this webinar and celebrate the completion of the Empowerment Programme Framework and tender launch.

*My thoughts on being involved in the process* – firstly it has been collaborative and cohesive and for me, a great example of meaningful involvement.

- This is because as a group we all had the opportunity to feed into the process, our thoughts and suggestions were taken on board, any information on our varied experiences and expertise were incorporated into the framework.
- It was also quite a democratic process because although we did not all always agree on everything, the process enabled us to have discussions and reach consensus at all times.
- So a great example of true and meaningful involvement. None of that tick box/tokenistic exercise we see around all too often and I truly believe that this process should be replicated and shared widely.

*What I/we hope the delivery of the framework will mean.* Stigma is being addressed in a dynamic way and on a range of levels – addressing stigma can help us develop self-love which is so valuable.

- The framework has been developed collaboratively with organisations who have been doing this work for years. So there is buy in from organisations from the start.
- We also appreciate the fact that these organisations then have the opportunity to bid to deliver the work.
- What is also great about it, is that for once, organisations will be bidding to deliver work that they had developed, that they want to do that they know how to do, and not the other way which is sadly still the norm where organisations are bidding to deliver work that is dictated by funders and so often times they are having to adapt their programmes to suit required key performance indicators that the funders want rather than what organisations know works and is needed on the ground.
- Just to reiterate, being involved from start to finish was just so refreshing and energising
- Another plus is that this programme will support/better support people living with HIV and will also identify and encourage new opportunities for organisations to work collaboratively.

*Last but not least* – on a practical level, the sessions were well organised. We received information and reading material in advance of meetings and we had ample time to feed into and comment on the framework as it was being developed. During the meetings members felt encouraged and empowered to contribute (even the quiet ones had the opportunity to speak).

*Finally*, I just want to say a big thank you for involving us/4MNet in the process and it is wonderful to be here today to celebrate the manual and the launch of the bid. Again a really valuable and appreciated milestone because we have worked on the manual and now we get to see the resulting work funded in a practical way.



4M Mentor Mothers Network CIC | Perinatal peer mentoring for women living with HIV

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