**Taking Steps to grow together**

**This is the Expression of Interest for Huddersfield to host the Recovery Walk in 2020 and was put together by a group of people from the Recovery Community in Huddersfield.**

**There are various reasons why Huddersfield should host the Recovery Walk and 500 words would only be the start of what could be an exhaustive list of reasons. Harley Davidson once used the strapline, “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey” and like every other Recovery Community, the journey of Recovery in Kirklees has been an exciting and enlightening journey. Much like the Luddites who originated in Huddersfield and smashed the machines during the Industrial Revolution, the Recovery Community is littered with stories of people smashing the stigma of addiction and finding Recovery and creating a whole range of revolutions that were once seen impossible.**

**Huddersfield sits at the heart of West Yorkshire and is a diverse and multi cultural location and that is reflected in the Recovery Community and much like Huddersfield boasting the birthplace of two Prime Ministers, shining a light on Recovery for the past 4 years has created leaders of its own. We are more than the stereotype of flat capped Yorkshire Folk, we are passion, we are strength, we are unity and at the heart of the Community, the lived experience and visible recovery is what drives the desire to show others that it is possible.**

**We know how to throw a party and put on an event or two in Yorkshire, you only have to look at we hoisted stages of the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire and Huddersfield, and the strength mentioned above is reflected in the achievements of its locals in many arenas. From Gold Medalist Cyclists to Game of Thrones actresses and the birthplace of Rugby League, strength in adversity is very evident and there are many role models to aspire to in the town of Huddersfield.**

**Whether rolling green country side or historic buildings are what you want to see, Huddersfield has it all alongside a population built up to 200,000 people who will be able to see, hear and witness the value and strength that sits in their streets, their estates and their town whilst never knowing the stories that take a life of their own when people find their Recovery and go on to live fulfilled lives. So we ask that having the opportunity to host the Walk will create a mosaic of stories that for one day at least, will have the power to move mountains and change the minds of people all across Kirklees. We ask that the Recovery Walk becomes part of the Journey, not be a destination and we as a family of Recoverist’s from all over the United Kingdom and further afield, know that we can all take steps together to grow together.**

**Thank you.**