



Manchester People First Annual Report

2005

Who we are and *Thanks to*

Committee 2005: Richard Hughes (Chairperson); Edward Kane (Secretary); Joseph Rooney (Treasurer); Nadim Akram; Roy Burns; Louisa Burton; Shaun Cheetham; John Cookney; Clare McCormack; Francis Swain.



Staff: Stephen Hughes (Project Manager); Andy Needle (Project Co-ordinator); Derek Owen (Admin Support); Janet Adams (Development Worker, Salford Being Heard); Phillo Christopherson (Development Worker, Black group); David Dunnico (Development Worker, Friday Group & Designer, Just Info); Chris Sullivan (Development Worker, Friday Group South Manchester).

Thank you: We would like to thank the following people and groups (in no particular order) for their help and support over the last year and apologise to anyone we have forgot to mention! Primary Care Trust; Third Sector Enterprises; Breakthrough UK; GMPA; GMP; Gaynor Roe & Judd Skelton at Mencap; Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board; LDDF; GMPTE; Manchester City Council; Steve & Colin at MARC; Bury People First; Salford Being Heard; St. Helens Peoples Choice; Gorton and South Friday Groups; York People First; Iain Carson at Manchester Metropolitan University; Landridge House; Irish World Heritage Centre; Community Chest (VAM); Pavilion Publishing; GMCDP; Nick at DPAG; Jean Roper and Denise Price; Lesley, Morag, George and Sahira at Community Accounts; Mrs Kane; Unity Trust Bank; Greater Manchester Fire Service; JobCentre Plus; DRC, Caroline and James at North Manchester PCT; Elaine Clarke at Wythenshawe Hospital; Turning Point; Phil at Trinity Press and People First and self-advocacy groups all over the country.



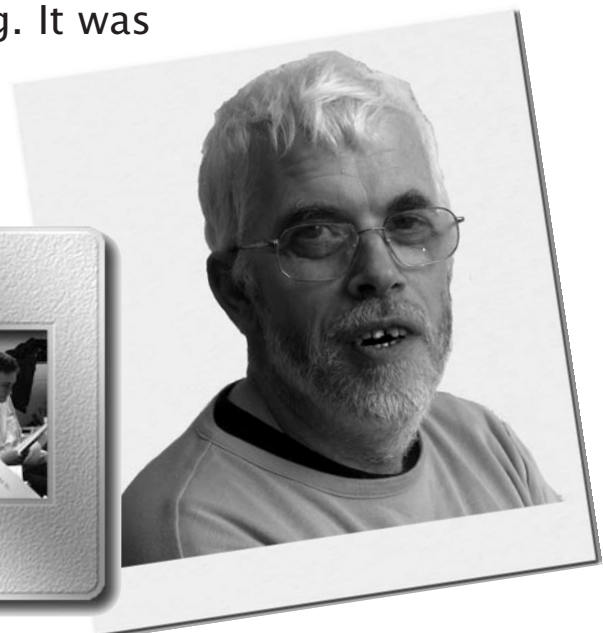
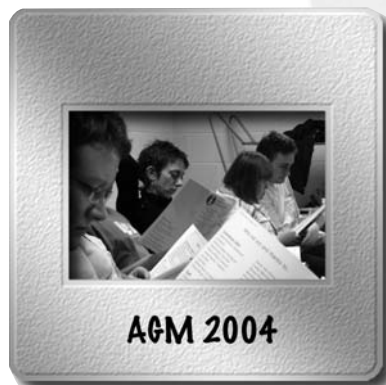
Chairperson's Report *Richard Hughes*

HELLO and welcome to our annual report. This year has been very busy for me because I have been getting more involved with the Partnership Board and all its sub groups. I now sit on six different sub groups: Housing, Health, Learning Disabled Development Fund, Personal Centered Planning, Employment and Modernising Day Services. If you would like me to ask any questions at these sub groups please contact me at the office.

On 6 May, we organised an event to celebrate 50 years since VE Day. It was a nice day and we had traditional wartime food both hot and cold for our lunch. We also had our photograph in the local press the following week. We held a raffle, the prize was a weeks worth of wartime rations.

In July we held our annual health workshops. The day I enjoyed the most was the Exercise/Try a Sports Day at the Manchester Velodrome. Lots of people turned up to for the day and competed at different sports. We tried basketball, badminton, walking, curling and weight lifting. It was hard day, I enjoyed myself but ended up tired.

So long for now
hope to speak to
you all soon.



Secretary's Report *Edward Kane*

HELLO Edward here. In January we went to give a presentation to Third Sector Enterprises on making companies more accessible to disabled people. The work was around accessible information, accessible buildings and attitudes of staff. We were all a bit nervous before the presentation, but as soon as we started we were OK.

Everyone around the table said it was a good presentation, well delivered and well thought out.

Also this year we got invited to Bruches; the Police training academy, to help train the new cadets. Each person was given a role play to do when the police arrived on the scene. In my role play, I had vandalised a phone box. I had to act like a hooligan, be cheeky and disrespectful to the police. I enjoyed helping train the cadets.



In the first of our health workshops in July, we looked at hygiene and keeping our hands clean. First, we got our hands really dirty by rubbing our hands together with paint. Then we washed them thoroughly, by scrubbing our hands and nails with warm soapy water for a count of 20. The workshop was about how important it is to always wash your hands and keep clean. That's all for now.

Treasurer's Report *Joseph Rooney*

JOSEPH here. We went to see 'Star Wars III-The Revenge of the Sith', with the Men's Group. We saw the film at Showcase Cinema on Hyde Road, Gorton. The film was good. It had plenty of action and drew all the threads together from the other films.



We have also had a talk from a fire fighter who came and spoke to us about fire safety. He gave us lots of information and we watched a video and had a discussion about keeping safe. It was a very busy day, lots of people came.

We had a smoothie day as part of our health workshops. We tasted lots of different fruits and things. We mixed up lots of fruit such as bananas, grapes, strawberries, melon, peaches, apples and oranges.



We mixed these with fruit juice, yoghurt and milk. The best bit was when the person making the smoothies forgot to put the lid on the blender. All the liquid and fruit shot up and covered everybody and went all over the floor.

Project Co-ordinator
Andy Needle



WELCOME to my update for the annual report. We have now been in our new offices for around a year and are settling in nicely. I hope most of you have been down to have a brew and see the new building. Some really big changes have happened at People First. We have moved, updated our newsletter and built a new

website (www.manpf.org). We have

new workers and are becoming a charity and a limited company (see more in Stephens's report). We are working on new projects all the time.

People First have recently got some funding to employ two new workers, one to work with black learning disabled adults and one to work with Asian learning disabled adults.

We have employed Phillo, who will be supporting the black group and I would like to welcome Phillo to MPF. I hope her group goes from strength to strength. The Asian group has been a little trickier, we have yet to employ a worker for this group, but will keep on trying until we find the right person.

We manage Salford Being Heard who are setting up a self-advocacy group like People First. The group is starting from scratch so there are lots of new systems that need to be created and lots of networking that needs to happen.

The workers will support learning-disabled adults in Salford speak up for themselves and others, and tell people what they want they from services. We wish them all the luck in the coming year.



Bury People First is still under our wing and we have always worked closely with them since being set up a number of years ago. They are now developing into a strong group and more and more services are listening to what they have to say. The group are getting more involved in community issues and representing learning disabled adults in Bury.

Finally I would like to thank a few people. First the committee; there have been a lot of new members on the



committee this year and I feel they have all worked really hard to keep People First on the up. Also I would like to thank Stephen for all his hard work and David for taking yet more work off my hands and leaving with more time to administer the various projects. Thank you all.

Project Manager

Stephen Hughes

HELLO As you may well know, we are in the process of becoming a limited company. This is a big change for us and it is taking a long time. This is because we need to make sure things are right, for the organisation, the committee and for you the members.

It will mean that the committee will have more security and be less vulnerable. At the moment if something went wrong the committee could be taken to court and sued for lots of money. When we are a limited company this could not happen. The committee would only have to pay £1 if things went wrong.

In 2006 we will also become a charity. This will help in lots of ways. It will help with fundraising such as getting money from the lottery and other places. You as members will not see any changes from Manchester People First. The real changes will happen inside the organisation to make people less vulnerable. One change you might see, is that we will be able to provide more services as hopefully we will be better off when we become a charity.

Thanks for all the support over the last year from the committee and I look forward to working with the new committee/board of directors over the next year. Best Wishes.



Development Worker *David Dunnico*

Just Info

Just Info is People First's project to make publications accessible to people with disabilities. We have produced a series of leaflets for Greater Manchester Police Authority. We helped design an accessible version of the guide to the SkillCity event, and have designed a new accessible fire plan for Manchester Town Hall.

Friday Group Gorton

The Friday Group's funding ended this year, but People First have managed to find some money so it can carry on. The Community Chest funded us to make a short video about the group. Please contact the office if you would like to see it. We also held a series of health days for members looking at diet, diabetes and exercise. We have raised money this year for Comic Relief, Diabetes UK and Christies Against Cancer. And we have organised the usual trips out.

Partnership Board

The Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board meets every two months to look at how services for people with learning disabilities are run. People First have played an active part in its work. We produce their newsletter in print and audio versions. We are building a web site for them, and have put a Board page on our site.



Development Worker

Phillo Christopherson



HI EVERYONE I am the new worker who has been employed to develop a self-advocacy group for adults with a learning disability from the black ethnic minority communities. The group will look at different issues affecting black people and the help available. We will also look at how services reflect our culture and how we can work with them to understand us. I am still settling in and trying to get the group together. I am also setting up a new Women's group which will meet on the last Friday of the month. Get in touch and join in.

Development Worker

Chris Sullivan



HI FOLKS The South Manchester Friday Group has now been meeting for just a year. Group numbers were small at first but have steadily grown. We now have a regular group of about 8 people. There have been a number of changes, such as the venue. We now meet at Crosssacres Day Centre.

In the last year the group has looked at lots of different issues, such as transport, employment and personal safety. We have done this through discussion and watching videos. Also by asking people to come and talk to us about different issues such as health, hospitals and fire safety at home etc. Although they are serious issues we have tried to make it fun at the same time. We went on social trips to the Lowry and Trafford Centre.

Summary of *Accounts 2005*

Money in:

Grants

Core £49,416

European Year Disable People £1,946

Partnership Board Newsletter £9,993

Bury People First £610

Salford MBC £54,222

Salford CVS £4,540

Other income:

Videos and Book sales £1,151

Training £23,817

Donations £201

Other Income £3,035

Returned Grant (Awards for All) £1,195

Total money in: £147,736



Money spent:

Employment Costs £109,258

Therapeutic £3,464

Staff Travel & Training £912

Advertising £501

Commonwealth Games £5,844

Launch, AGM & Room Hire £5,844

Volunteers Expenses & Travel £2,234

Rent, Rates, Heat & Light £8,338

Printing & Photocopying £4,097

Post & Stationery £2,937

Telephone, Fax & Internet £3,067

Insurance £919

Accountancy & Payroll £1,023

Subs & Equipment £4,066

Bank Charges & Sundries £218

Depreciation £1,409

Total Money Spent £148,287

Surplus (Deficit) for the Year £-551

If you would like to see the full detailed accounts, please get in touch.

What we do:

Manchester People First is run by and for learning disabled adults and is independent of all services.

We give training, support and advice to learning disabled adults and professionals and campaign for disabled peoples rights.

Manchester People First

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