



Annual Report

Our mission is for all learning disabled people in Manchester to have control over their lives, make their own choices and be confident self-advocates.

We will work with other groups to help us reach our goal. We will be brave and strong in how we support people.

We will be positive and move forward together.



2015



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Welcome to our annual report

This report tells you what we did from April 2014 to March 2015. This has been another very hard year for Manchester People First. The Committee and staff have tried to make sure the important work we do goes on.

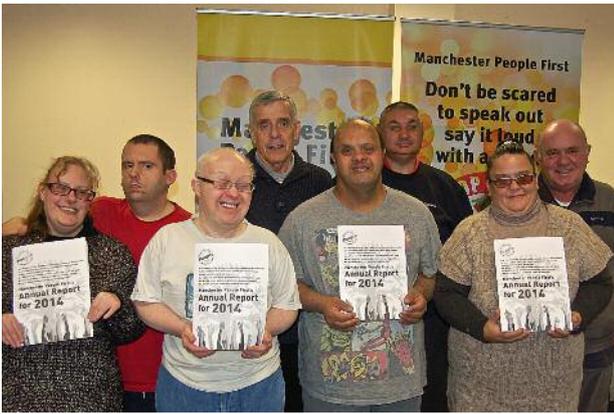
The Committee has been supported once again by Sarah Forster. They have had to look at how to save money, get new funds and make sure we have still been able to put on events for our members.

Our staff and cuts

There have been more cuts to the money we get to run. So, we had to close our South Office and make Jodie Deegan, the South's Admin Worker redundant. We thank Jodie for all her hard work. Barry Hills, South's Project Worker was redeployed to work as the Audit Assistants' Support Worker.

We also introduced new contracts for the staff and a new staff handbook that made all our policies and procedures clearer. Staff have done safeguarding and first aid training and some are doing their NVQs.

The closure of the South Office meant that the Young People's Parliament had to end. We have started a Young People's Forum, which meets on Tuesdays, so the voice of young people with a learning disability will carry on being heard.



Committee

The Committee meets every month, they are elected at our Annual General Meeting and run Manchester People First. After our last AGM, the Committee was Ronnie Hailwood, Stephen Burden, Cyril Brodie, Joseph Rooney, Nadim Akram and Patricia Philips. During the year, Cyril and Nadim resigned.

What we have done

The Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board has carried on meeting every two months at our office. We produce their newsletter and do their web site, which brings money into MPF. We also host the pre-Partnership Board meetings, where self advocates look at what will be talked about in the full meeting.

Our Just Info project put on a training session about making easy read information for Greater Manchester Youth Network.

We put on a new show with Expressive Edge Theatre Group.

Health is always an important issue for our members, so we had an event about information sharing in the NHS. McMillan Cancer Care told us about their work, we held a workshop run by Health Watch and several healthy cookery courses ran over the year.

As there was going to be a general election, we did some work about voting.



Hate Crime is such a serious issue we held a workshop and made a new banner to tell people about it.

Our Service Audit Assistants have done monthly training sessions on disability issues for police officers at their training college, as well as their main job of inspecting services and reporting back to the Manchester service commissioners.

They also were on the interview panel for the Chair of the council's safeguarding boards.

The National Citizen Service, which is a programme for young people to gain skills, came and met with us at our office and made videos about what we do.

We sent members to conferences including 'Our Voice, Our Choice' in Leeds and Stephen Burden was elected onto the health board at the North West Training and Development Team conference. We held an Open Day to let people see what we do.

We did not forget to keep up with social activities and had a trip to the pantomime, cheered on England in the World Cup, held our annual BBQ and put on our annual show, People First's Got Talent.

So thank you to all the people and groups we have worked with over the last year and we hope we can put on as wide a range of activities over the coming year.