

Manchester

People

First

Speaking up for ourselves

Annual Report **2012/13**

**Annual General Meeting:
Thursday 24 October 2013
11am to 2pm**

**Manchester People First
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This report says what we have done from April 2012 to March 2013.

You find out more about what we read 'Speak Up' our free newsletter, which we send to members 4 times a year. You can download the latest issue from our website. We also post updates on FaceBook and Twitter.

At our last Annual General Meeting in October, we elected our new committee which was Frank Lee, Edward Kane, Shirley Ryder, Brian Mitchell, Christine Joyce, Steven Burden and Paul Brannick.

Our directors are: Edward Kane and Shirley Ryder.

This has been an important year for us. We started it by celebrating our 20 years of self-advocacy, but we have had to make savings like a lot of other groups that get public money.



Our committee has worked with a consultant called Sarah Forster, who helped us think about the hard choices we have had to make.

Some of the changes have been...

South office

Our South office moved from South Court at Sharston to Baguley Methodist Church on Bowland Road in Wythenshawe. Barry, Jodie and all the members have settled in well. Their newsletter is called 'Down South' and tells you about what they have been doing.

Opal

The group for older people with a learning disability we shared our Cheetham Hill office with, moved on and are now based at The Shaw Centre in Harpurhey. We wish them well.



Staff changes

Our Service Audit Team said hello to Joanne Hickinbotham and goodbye to Rosie Cairns and Kath Carey. The team have carried on inspecting residential services for adults with a learning disability.

April Walkin came to work with Club 3, our young person's group.

We had two student placements from Manchester University, Similo and Tracey, and Joseph from the Lancastrian School in Didsbury, did his work placement with us.

Events

Our Christmas party was held at St Kent's Irish Club in Chorlton and was another big success.

We produced our own radio show with All-FM. We also worked with Drake Music on a project called 'Music First' to compose a piece of music and perform it live.



We held a series of cancer workshops with Ali from Macmillan Cancer Support. These have given people information and offered support to those who have been affected themselves or have family or friends with the condition.

Our drama workshop with The Edge Theatre group in Chorlton ended with a show called 'Passion to Passion'. It was such a success we started work on a follow up called 'Scrambled Café'.

We started a healthy eating and cookery course with Zest, funded by Manchester City Council and Manchester NHS in the kitchen space at our office. It went down well, so we have started running our own cookery sessions for members on Fridays.

We still host the Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board's meetings every two months, and produce their newsletter 'Together'.



Once again we ran an arts course with Venture Arts from Hulme. This time we made some stop motion video animations.

We held our “MPF’s Got Talent” show with support from Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank. Louisa Burton won with her version of “New York, New York”.

We ran a series of fashion workshops with Jacquie Pownell from Unique Cheshire Style ending with a catwalk fashion show with lights, music and a professional photographer to show off the outfits we had designed.

Other social events have been popular, including a Queens Jubilee tea dance, an Olympic games day, and our barbecue.

The Men’s Group meets once a month and we finished celebrating our 20th Anniversary, with a big party at The Band on the Wall. The Mayor of Manchester made a speech and said how important groups such as Manchester People First were.



Hate Crime is still a big issue for our members, so we went to a conference about it and the audit assistants run a monthly training session about disability issues for police officers at their training college.

