

SPEAK UP

Issue 37
Autumn
2008

Newsletter from Manchester People First

New office party



Councillor Mavis Smitheman, the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Edward Kane one of Manchester People First's directors.

Over 100 people came to see the Lord Mayor of Manchester open People First and the Kaan group's new offices in Cheetham Hill.



KAAN
a group for older people with a learning disability - 'can' is Mayan for the power to enjoy life



For more about our new offices  see page 3...



The Voice of the Learning Disabled

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.

Contact us

Manchester People First
3 Broughton Street
Cheetham Hill
Manchester
M8 8RF

Phone or Fax (0161) 839-3700

Email: mcrpeoplefirst@googlemail.com

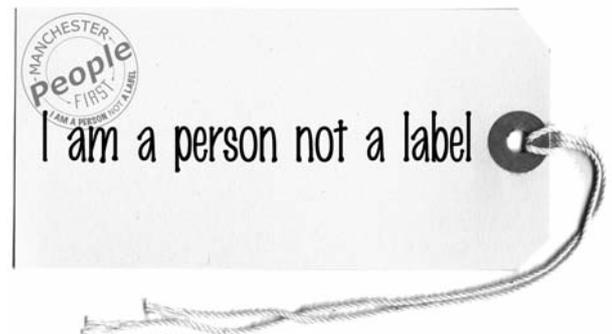
Website: www.manpf.org

Our directors

Edward Kane
Joseph Rooney
Richard Hugehes

Staff

Stephen Hughes
Andy Needle
David Dunnico
Maureen Day
Derek Owen



Manchester People First is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 6339300. We are a registered charity, number 1124426.

News

Our new office

In July we moved to new bigger offices in Cheetham Hill. Having more space will help us do even more. We share the offices with Kaan – the new older persons group.

The offices have been converted to give barrier free access.

Last year we held our 15th birthday party. We have launched our new office with a party in September.

Look at the back page, for a special guide that tells you how to get to the office. See page 2 for our new address and phone number if you want to get in touch.



KAAN
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We share our offices with the Kann group  see page 8.

 See page 7 for directions

Report: Service Audit Assistants

We are pleased to say we have all passed our National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 2 in Business Administration. We are all going to get presented with our certificates soon, which we are really looking forward to.

Over the last few months we have been to more houses to talk to the people living there. We enjoy our work and feel it is important that get a say about where they are living.

We did some more training on health and safety which we all enjoyed and which will help us in our job. Our hours have gone up from 2 ½ hours a week to 16 hours a week. This is a big change for us and we're going to spend the first few weeks seeing how we get on working longer hours. We are really excited about being able to do more visits for People First.

Christopher Kenny is hoping to get a wheelchair through Access To Work (which supports people to get the support and equipment

they need to do a job). This will mean that Christopher will be able to use public transport to get to the houses he needs to visit.

We have met with our new Workers, Maureen and David who will support us to do the visits and with writing our reports.

We are all really looking forward to doing more work and can't wait to get started!

Wot no



We have too much to pack into this issue of 'Speak-Up so we have had to leave out The Fun-Filled Bit in the Middle. It will be back next issue.

Meet Maureen...

Maureen Day is a new worker at Manchester People First. She and David Dunnico will be supporting the Service Audit Assistants to do their job of inspecting services. Maureen will work 21 hours a week and David will do 5.

Maureen said how they will support the Service Audit Assistants so that they can do their visits to houses around Manchester and then afterwards write a report which will be sent to the Commissioners (who pay the money for services).

Maureen said:
“I have spent my first few weeks getting to know the Service Audit Assistants and finding

out what they have done before I started.

It sounds like they have visited quite a few houses and been busy writing up reports with support from Stephen at People First. I have also met with David and talked about how we could give support.



I think that over the next 12 months the Service Audit Assistants will be very busy. They will be working a 16-hour week instead of 2½ hour week. This will mean that they will be able to visit

lots more houses and do the reports. We have already planned in our diaries quite a few visits and are looking forward to getting out.

I think that this work is very important as it gives people living in the houses the chance to have a say about

where they are living, as well as giving the Audit Assistants the chance to do work that they enjoy doing.

We have a lot to do over the next year but are excited.

We want to make sure you enjoy reading Speak-Up.

To help us, please answer these questions.

If there are any questions you do not want to answer, leave them blank.

Your name and address

If the label on the envelope is wrong, please change it and send it back to us with this survey.

Disability

Do you think of yourself as disabled? Yes No ✓

The newsletter

Do you find it easy to read? Yes No ✓

Do you usually read it? Yes No ✓

What is the best bit? News Fun-filled bit in the Middle
 Reports Guest Writer ✓

What is your ethnic origin?

Our funders have asked for this information, it will be kept private.

- White British White Irish White Other Mixed White and Black Caribbean
 Mixed White and Black African Mixed White and Black Asian Mixed Other
 Asian Indian Asian Pakistani Asian Bangladeshi Asian East African
 Asian Chinese Asian Vietnamese Asian Other Black Caribbean
 Black African Black Somali Black British Black Other Middle East
 Any Other Ethnic Group: _____
 I do not want to answer this question ✓

Thank you for your help

Please return the survey to:

Manchester People First, 3 Broughton Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, M8 8RF.



our new address...

From August 2008 Manchester People First will be in our new office, this is how to get in touch with us.

 Manchester People First
3 Broughton Street
Cheetham Hill
Manchester
M8 8RF

 Phone or Fax: (0161) 839-3700

 Email: mcrpeoplefirst@googlemail.com

 Web: www.manpf.org



1. From Piccadilly Gardens, walk to Lever Street Bus stand E. Get bus number 135 (First Bus run the service about every 10 minutes).



2. Get off at Cheetham Hill Road / Derby Street stop just before The Jewish Museum and before you get to Manchester Fort shopping park.



3. Cross Cheetham Hill Road at the pelican and walk down Broughton Street.



4. Our office is at the end of the road on the right.



We are a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number: 6339300 and a registered charity number: 1124426.

 Guest writer: Max from the Kaan Group

KAAN

a group for older people with a learning disability – ‘can’ is Mayan for the power to enjoy life

a new group for older people



Members of People First and Kaan have a brew in the kitchen

Manchester People First and Landridge House run Kaan – an exciting new group for older adults with a learning disability. ‘Kaan’ is pronounced ‘can’ and is an ancient Mayan word which means “the power to enjoy life” – and the group is all about people over 55 years old enjoying life!

We started on 1 July, with lots of regular things such as drama, art, music, gardening, tai-chi and visits to the cinema, theatre, bowling and lunches out. There’s also time to enjoy a chat and a brew with friends and a game on the Nintendo Wii. We’ve already had a trip out to The Bridgwater Hall to see a concert.



The art group

Plans

We are planning to start some social enterprises to help people get jobs.

We have 3 staff – Max Wickens is the Senior Support Worker, Stacey Sullivan and Julie Vernon are our Support Workers.

We are also running a drop-in service on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12 noon, and another session from 1 to 3:30pm.

**To find out more, ring Max on:
0161 819-5262**

You can download this newsletter from our web site:

www.manpf.org

just info

Just Info is our accessible information project – we make leaflets, booklets and reports easier for people to read.

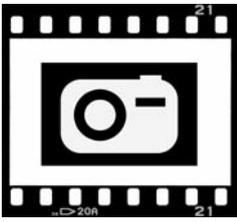
We have been busier than ever as groups see that the law says their information must be able to be understood by everyone.

Recently we have done work for national companies such as Remploy – we are helping them make



their health and safety documents accessible. We have done a survey for the Manchester NHS Primary Care Trust and for the new Manchester Local Involvement Network. We are now doing work for GMPA and GMPTE.

If you want to know more or need some advice, see our accessible information booklet, or contact David Dunnico.



Photography project

People First and Kaan members have been doing a photography project. Paul said he liked getting tips about how to make his pictures better.

Joseph enjoyed making pinhole cameras. Margaret put some of the pictures on her computer at home. Louisa had taken her camera on holiday to Blackpool and took some pictures of her friends. Alan stayed at home and photographed staff in his garden.



Louisa in front of some of the pictures taken for the project

STOP PRESS!

The project has been such a success, it will carry on.



Margaret and Martin cut photographs

The photography project is being run by Martin Livesy. Martin is a community art worker for Venture arts in Hulme. He said it was really nice to work with a group that enjoys itself so much.

Martin who is 26, said he had given people cameras and asked them to take pictures of things that meant a lot to them.

You can see some of Martin's photographs at his web site:
www.martinlivesy.co.uk

You can find out more about venture arts at:
www.venturearts.org



MENCAP
Understanding learning disability



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

www.yourjoblinks.org

**Jobs fair for adults with a
learning disability in Manchester**

your job links^{'09}

Planned date and venue:

Thursday 15 January 2009

10am – 3.30pm

Manchester Conference Centre

(opposite UMIST)

Sackville Street

Manchester





Annual General Meeting

Thursday 23 October 11am to 1:30pm

Open only to Manchester People First members

Agenda:



Welcome



Reports



Voting



Lunch



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