

# People First

a voice for people with learning difficulties



## People First newsletter August 2023



Welcome to the summer issue of the People First newsletter!

We have a lot to tell you about.

**Andrew Lee, People First Director**

Over the last few months we've started a few new pieces of work and launched our new website.

Over the last year, the team has been working hard on expanding the Empower Enterprise. This is our accessible information and communication service. It includes easy read translation, training, and the easy read picture bank.

We are also supporting the campaign to stop the closure of ticket offices. Being able to travel on all public transport gives us our independence. Read more about this in one of the articles in the newsletter.

The fight to get and keep our independence should not be getting harder. Please enjoy the newsletter!

## Website launch

Earlier this month we launched our new website. This was made possible with funding from the Leaders with Lived Experience National Lottery Community Fund grant and an Esmee Fairbairn Funding Plus grant.

Check out our new website here!  
<https://www.peoplefirstltd.com/>



## London Campaign Network

In July we started our 3-year project to strengthen campaigning between self-advocacy organisations across London.



This work also includes a management committee development programme for self-advocacy organisations. We got funding from Trust for London's Disability Justice Fund.

Find out more [here](#):

## Self Advocates' Support and Action Group

Online meetings are now monthly.

- Wednesday 20th September
- Wednesday 18th October
- Wednesday 29th November



All meetings are 12:30pm – 2:30pm

If you would like to join us, please email [info@peoplefirstltd.com](mailto:info@peoplefirstltd.com) and we will send you the Zoom link.

## Coproducing Accessible Legal Information



We are working on a new project with the research team led by at the University of Birmingham.

The project brings legal professionals together with disabled people to co-produce accessible legal information and explore the relationship between legal advice and legal information.

In July we presented at the Third UK and Ireland Mental Diversity Law Conference in Nottingham.

We will work together to:

- Choose the most important legal topics for accessible information.
- Make accessible legal information for disabled people
- Make a guide for other people who want to do co-production.

We will also produce some accessible legal information templates that participants will be able to share with their firms and colleagues.

Find out more about the project here:

[www.legalcapacity.org.uk/take-part-in-our-research/](http://www.legalcapacity.org.uk/take-part-in-our-research/)

## Free Our People Now Campaign

Simone Aspis from Inclusion London is leading the Free Our People Now campaign.



The campaign aims to help autistic people and people with learning difficulties, with lived experience of the psychiatric system, to have a voice and advocate for urgent change so Autistic people and people with learning difficulties can live in their own homes rather than in hospitals.

The project will be able to offer training, information and support so we have more Disabled people helping other Disabled people to leave hospital.

Simone will also be working with groups and organisations run by Disabled people who are interested in getting laws, policies and rules changed so that everyone has the right to live in their own homes with good support.

<https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/services-and-support/our-projects/free-our-people-now/free-our-people-now/>

## **Shaping our future after 13 years of austerity: Deaf & Disabled Peoples Organisations (DDPO) national conference**

**Date:** Friday 22 September 2023

**Time:** 10:30 - 16:30

**Venue:** People's History Museum, Left Bank,  
Manchester M3 3ER

**Book here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ddpo-forum-england-national-conference-tickets-667669325927>

In-person and online places are available.

A day-long conference and free access to the Nothing About Us Without Us landmark exhibition exploring the history of disabled people's activism and ongoing fight for rights and inclusion

[www.phm.org.uk](http://www.phm.org.uk)

The conference will be:

- Launching the DDPO General Election manifesto
- Exploring the policy asks we want to see from a new government in its first 100 days
- Refreshing our campaign and influencing skills, tactics and planning as we enter the crucial pre-General Election lead up
- Exploring what next for our vision of a national independent living service.

## **Growing Our Own Leaders Programme**

Free Leadership training for Deaf or Disabled people. You need to be nominated by a London-based organisation or network run by Deaf/Disabled people.




Find out more here:

<https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/news/growing-our-own-leaders-programme/>

## Research study: Identifying as LGBT and having a learning disability

Abi Hughes, a Trainee Clinical Psychologist at the University of Bath is doing some research into how adults with a learning disability have experienced 'coming out' and she is looking for participants. See the poster below for more information about the study and how to take part.



**Do you identify as LGBT and have a learning disability?**

**Are you 18+ years old?**

**Would you like to take part in a study?**




I would like to ask you some questions about:

- Coming out
- What it is like to identify as LGBT


It will take about 1 hour.

To say thank you, you will receive a £20 Amazon voucher.

If you would like to take part, or would like to have a chat about the study, you can email Abi:  
Email: [ah2769@bath.ac.uk](mailto:ah2769@bath.ac.uk)



Ethics approval code: 23035  
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## Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch is an international organisation that investigates and reports on abuses happening in all corners of the world. They work to protect the most at risk and in need [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)



They would like to learn more about the experience of people with disabilities who live or have lived in residential care homes or hospital units. They are also interested in the support that people who live at home receive. They will write a report and share it with government, authorities, and NHS to help challenge abuses of human rights.

If you are interested in speaking to them about your experiences, then please contact Karolina Kozik [kozikk@hrw.org](mailto:kozikk@hrw.org)

## News from our members



People First Dorset:

[https://www.peoplefirstdorset.org.uk/files/ugd/1a02a0\\_a16d3e94ddbd4790bc5c526fd43b6c3](https://www.peoplefirstdorset.org.uk/files/ugd/1a02a0_a16d3e94ddbd4790bc5c526fd43b6c3)

People First Scotland:

<https://peoplefirstscotland.org/people-first-scotland/newsletter/>

Speak Up Sutton:

<https://www.advocacyforall.org.uk/self-advocacy-groups/>

Hackney People First:

<https://hackneypeoplefirst.com/videos/>



## Campaign news

### Rail Ticket Office closures



Public consultations on rail ticket office closures across the country have been happening. Some of these ended Wednesday 26th July but we want to keep up the pressure.

Transport for All has provided a template letter and contact details of transport companies. They also wrote a detailed letter of objection with 50 organisations representing disabled people and allies. They have pushed for an extension for the consultations from 3 to 8 weeks.

<https://www.transportforall.org.uk/campaign/ticket-office-closures/take-action/>

## Funding

The National Lottery Community Fund has launched The Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund for applications between £10,000 and £75,000.



<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/community-organisations-cost-of-living-fund>

The deadline for applications is **16 October 2023** at 12 noon

## Policy news



### Do you know what a Dynamic Support Register is?

A Dynamic Support Register is a list of people with a learning difficulty/disability and autistic people who need extra support for their mental health.

The NHS say that 'people who are on the Dynamic Support Register are at risk of going into hospital if they do not get the right care and treatment in the community.'

Because there have been many cases of abuse and poor care in some mental health hospitals the NHS has a new policy for people to get the right support, at the right time, and in the right place.

The new policy is about 2 important things.

1. Staff in each local area must know who is in danger of going into hospital because of a mental health crisis. The list of people who might need this extra support is called the dynamic support register (DSR).
2. There must be reviews to check people are getting the right care and treatment for their mental health. For adults this is called a care and treatment review or CTR.

These reviews are not new. But the new policy says more about how they must work. Reviews must be about

more than just people's care and treatment. They must be about people having a better life as well

Go to the web address below for the Easy read version of the dynamic support register and care, education and treatment review policy:

[www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Easy-read-version-of-the-Dynamic-support-register-and-Care-Education-and-Treatment-Review-policy-and-guide-Jan.pdf](http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Easy-read-version-of-the-Dynamic-support-register-and-Care-Education-and-Treatment-Review-policy-and-guide-Jan.pdf)

You can watch a film about improvements to the policy here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LERrFD3RXuw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LERrFD3RXuw) and the questions that are asked in the review meetings, called the key lines of enquiries (KLOEs).

There is a web address here to the dynamic support register and care (education) and treatment review policy and guide: [www.england.nhs.uk/publication/dynamic-support-register-and-care-education-and-treatment-review-policy-and-guide/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/dynamic-support-register-and-care-education-and-treatment-review-policy-and-guide/) (not easy read - more detailed)

Here you can read an infographic about the new policy: [www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/supporting-people-with-a-learning-disability-and-autistic-people-to-get-the-right-care-at-the-right-time-in-the-right-place-infographic/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/supporting-people-with-a-learning-disability-and-autistic-people-to-get-the-right-care-at-the-right-time-in-the-right-place-infographic/)

## Join us!

Anyone who lives in the United Kingdom and has a learning difficulty can join People First. You can join as an individual or a group.



## To apply to join, you can either:

Complete a form (online or by post) here: [www.peoplefirstltd.com/pages/become-a-member-today](http://www.peoplefirstltd.com/pages/become-a-member-today)

Contact us by telephone 020 7274 5484 or, Email us at [info@peoplefirstltd.com](mailto:info@peoplefirstltd.com)

If you are on X (formerly known as twitter) please let us know your X name and follow us at [@PFselfadvocacy](https://twitter.com/PFselfadvocacy)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Watch our [YouTube channel](#)

Take a look at our [website](#)

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