



## **Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

### **Aims and Purposes**

To support learning disabled adults who live in Bury, Greater Manchester to achieve their full rights as citizens.

To make available to the same people information that is accessible and easy to understand.  
To provide training opportunities that will enable them to take part in their own local and wider communities and to widen their life experiences.

To support people to engage with local Social and Health Services to ensure they are as appropriate as they can be for the people we represent.

### **Objectives and Activities**

Bury People First has a strong commitment to offer its services to as many representative people as possible. Training sessions are held in venues that are welcoming and accessible and are also accessible by public transport. Information is produced in such a way that it is understandable and easy to read by both the people we represent and those who are supporting them.

### **Achievements and Performance**

Bury People First's biggest achievement of this year is receiving continuation fund from the National Lottery Reaching Communities fund and the increasing request of our one to one advocacy service funded by Lloyds Foundation. The funding from the National Lottery allows us to continue the work that we do and continue making the positive impact to the lives of the learning disabled community.

Bury People First has continued to prioritise their work in supporting the learning disabilities community and the effects the cost of living crisis. Whilst continuing to carry out as much of our core work as possible, we continued to obtain funding to support the needs of people during the cost of living crisis. We have supported the learning disabilities community, in Bury, with food, supporting with the increase in bills, housing issues and other resources as well as helping people get online to reduce isolation and loneliness. We have held a number of drop in session as the keep warm initiative to support the learning disabilities community to keep warm. We have partnered with other local voluntary organisations to support local communities during the winter period.

We have continued to run our core activities which has included a co-production network, one to one advocacy and group advocacy. We have continued to work alongside local

statutory and voluntary sector services to enable them to make appropriate changes to the provision they offer.

Representation has been made at conferences, events, meetings and forums within both the Health and Social Care sectors where the quality of service provision is scrutinized and can be influenced.

We have continued to work with Total Communication CIC on our Communication Rights Charter and have continued to work towards lobbying for 'Communication Rights'.

Members continue to take the opportunity to present our work in different platforms and how we can ensure the charter sits in current law to ensure everyone is given the right to communicate. Members attended a Speech and Language conference called ASLTIP in which Bury People First and Total Communication were guest speakers. Members presented the Communication Charter which was very well received and we had many people sign up to the charter.

Bury People First has also been working with Made by Mortals to create a video all about reasonable adjusts. We have been doing this alongside NIHR Greater Manchester Patient Safety Research Collaboration who have been conducting research on reasonable adjustments. This video will be shared across the country, focusing mainly to GP and health services to improve reasonable adjustments for people with learning disabilities.

We have co-produced and co-delivered a number of workshops this year including healthy living, wellbeing sessions, domestic abuse, safeguarding, friendship and relationships and Hate and Mate crime. All workshops had been requested by our members and reviewed regularly to ensure the workshops continue to meet the needs of the learning disabilities community.

We continue to work with Northern Care Alliance in developing their training for staff. As an addition to the work we did with the top 20 hospital sites last year, this year we continued to work on top 20 hospital sites for children and young people which is now part of staff training. This was produced as a video alongside the chief executives of Northern Care Alliance and hospital staff within children's services.

We, once again, worked very closely with Bury ICB to increase the uptake of the flu vaccine and the Covid-19 vaccine. We also supported the work to increase the uptake of annual health checks to ensure people with learning disabilities were supported by their GP's to have an annual health check so health related issues could be dealt with at the earliest possible stage.

We have had an increase in demand for our group advocacy group and supporting people with one to one advocacy. We have successfully formed 1 new self-advocacy group that has regular monthly sessions. This has been done alongside our members who have led the sessions and supported people to speak up.

We continue to have a sharp increase in the request for one to one advocacy for people with learning disabilities. This has been a result of people not being able to access statutory



advocacy due to the eligibility of statutory advocacy. Therefore we have had to ensure staff are appropriately trained and we have enrolled one member of staff on to the community advocacy training. We secured funding from Lloyds foundation to develop our one to one advocacy service to meet this demand.

We continue to support Rochdale People First in Rochdale. This group is going well and picking up with members.

We continue to generate income for Bury People First. Staff and some members have attended training to delivery the Tier 1 and Tier 2 to deliver the Oliver Magowan training across England. We also continue to offer our easy read service. We also trained our regular volunteers and members in 'Making Information Easy Read' with some formal 6 week training to help develop further skills for our regular volunteers and members.

We have continued to actively be involved in the Grether Manchester Peoples Panel which has been set up by Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham. As part of this work we have fed into Greater Manchester housing strategy and transport strategy.

Links have been strengthened/created with other charitable and voluntary organisations that represent, the same community of people as Bury People First. We have worked closely with North West Training and Development Team (NWTDT) on various projects, such as the Confirm and Challenge group, Transforming Care, Self-Advocates Training and Mental Capacity Act training.

We continue to carry out 'Care and Treatment Reviews' whilst people are living in secure and long-term hospital care.

### **Financial Review**

We received a grant from Bury Council, National Lottery, Lloyds Foundation and Bury VCFA,

We have been successful in a continuation fund and have received another 5 year funding from the Lotteries 'Reaching Communities Fund'.

Some revenue was received from consultancy work that we carried out, involvement in the Oliver McGowan training, making information easy read and our work with Total Communication CIC.

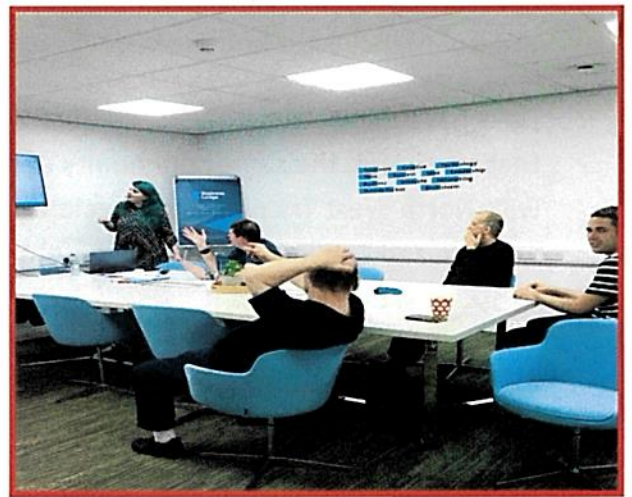
Donations were another source of income.

Rebecca Lunness, Trustee: Rebecca Lunness

Date: 19/11/2025



AGM



Making documents 'Easy Read' sessions



Partnership Board Meeting







Promoting our Work



ASLTIP Conference

## Workshops



Reasonable Adjustments video Made by



Wellbeing Walk



Manchester Conference





Healthy Eating Workshop



Eye Care Workshop



Wellbeing Workshop



Hate/Mate Crime Workshop



Friendship/Relationship Workshop



