



News Matters

Issue No 7 December 2023



Developing Inclusive Communities

Welcome to December's newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy reading about what our members, staff and volunteers have been doing this past month. If you would like to find out more about People Matters, and the services we offer, go to www.peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk

gofundme



There are still numbers available for our great Christmas raffle, the draw will take place at the AGM on 7th December, all prize winners will be notified shortly afterwards.

We can announce that until 9am on the 19th December if you make a donation through the Aviva Crowd funding page we will receive an additional matched donation from the Aviva Community Fund. It's not all give as you'll see, details are at the bottom of this months News Matters where there is an extra Fundraising item



AGM & Christmas Party

Don't forget to get your ticket for the Christmas party at Slung Low we still have some left, tickets are £5 each. Please remember to dress warmly as the building doesn't get that warm. We look forward to seeing you all in your best Christmas jumpers.

Slung Low, The Warehouse in Holbeck, Crosby Street, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 9RQ



Member Spotlight

Meet Rayyan, he is one of the volunteers who help run People Matters' information stalls at events. He has volunteered in multiple events since June 2023 – he tells about his experience below.

“What does an Events volunteer do?”

“At the events I greet people and explain what we do at People Matters. I also share my personal journey which took me from depression to full of hope, discovery and support.”

“What have you learnt during volunteering?”

“How to approach people, sell things, explain things and how to speak to people.”

“What is the best thing about volunteering?”

“The feeling of being useful and time worth spent. Also, achievement and the fact I have contributed to a good cause.”



Rayyan with Coordinator Mandy at a recent SEND event at Leeds First Direct Arena

Meet our staff



This month the spotlight falls on Christine, who is one of our support workers, a group leader and also the staff representative, she is also one of our mental health champions. she told us

“When I first started, my only experience was as a PA to a teen with learning disabilities while I was at university, so I relied on my colleague's support and knowledge. I think this ties in with why I'm really big into personal wellbeing and mental health, how can we best support members if we are not looking after ourselves?”

You can come chat at the Staff Room or get in contact personally.

BTW, it's an aubergine I'm holding! Trying to face things we don't like could be opening up for a chat, putting ourselves out there, or in my case too, trying to enjoy aubergine.



The People Matters office will close at 5pm on Friday December 22nd and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. 1-2-1 services are operating services based on members requests.

From all of here at People Matters, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and we'll see you again in 2024!

Wellbeing

Unfortunately December will see the end of the current Wellbeing project. Over the last two years it has been hugely successful. Members have tended flower beds in Holbeck, litter picked in Beeston as part of the #keepbritaintidy initiative, Had lectures on health related issues such as looking after you skin and your feet and have organised two exhibitions the latest one as recently as November.

I'm sure that you'll join us in thanking Mandy, volunteers and the members for making it such a fantastic two years.



Did You Know that?

December starts on the same day of the week as September starts every year, and ends on the same day of the week as April ends every year.

You can also sign up to receive a digital copy our Newsletter by going to our website at peoplemattersleeds.co.uk and following the link on our home page.

#InLeedsPeopleMatter

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Our Staff Survey

In August we had our annual staff survey, over half of our staff completed the online questionnaire. When asked to think of three words to describe working at People Matters they came up with the word cloud below, the larger the word the more times it appears in the survey. As you can see the three which appeared most are Supportive, Friendly and Dedicated.



There were lots of positives coming out of the survey. Everyone agreed that they were trusted to do their work, had the opportunity to use their initiative and had the right equipment to do their job safely. 96% said that they enjoyed their job and that they are able to make suggestions to improve the organisation which are listened to too.

However, that does not mean that management aren't just sitting back, some of the things they are going to do to improve working at People Matters are:

- More investigation on travel costs and benefits
- Review the staff support offered through the staff room and staff representative
- Publicise the employee assistance programme and other benefits again so newer members of staff are aware of what's available
- Have more staff social events

Once a year as many members of staff that can be spared get together for our annual 'Away Day' this year we all met up at Slung Low in Holbeck and Libby a professional vocal coach managed to turn the group into something resembling a choir! It was a fantastic afternoon and everyone enjoyed themselves.





Fundraising

The Aviva Community Fund is helping your donations to People Matters go further this Christmas. Until 9am on December 19th, every donation made to us via Crowdfunder will be matched – amazing right?

Your support will help us take our trainee led social enterprise Nourishing People to the next level. Funds will allow us to create branded resources like uniforms and retail event equipment, helping to nurture a sense of belonging and pride when interacting with the public, unlocking further skills and the potential for paid work and financial independence.

If you haven't tried our tasty snacks yet, there are a few special rewards available too. Find out more and donate by visiting

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/people-matters>

If you see the page below you're in the right place

