

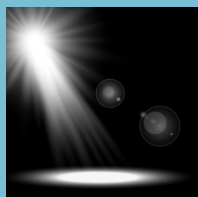
News Matters

Issue no 8 January 2024

Welcome to January'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, please go to www.peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk

AGM / Christmas Party & Awards Special

This month it's all about our annual Annual General Meeting and Christmas party which was held at Slung Low in Holbeck. Although held on a very wet and cold night, a great time was had by all of us there.



Member of the year (The Nicola Storey Award)

2023's award went to Kirsty, in recognition of her determination to enjoy herself in the face of challenges. She engages with support brilliantly and gets involved with new activities. Because of the awful weather and traffic, she hadn't arrived at the time of presentations. Here she is later on in the evening with her award.



Runners Up

There were 2 runners up in this category. They were, Hollie for her "resilience and determination, the trust she's built with staff to express herself more easily, and the huge progress she's made this year" And, Rayyan for his "progress over the past year, enthusiasm in trying new things, and interesting conversations" Hollie's a little camera shy, but here's a photo of Rayyan receiving his award from CEO Elissa and Chair of Trustees Martin who's just out of shot



If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, go to our website www.peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk and follow the link.

People Matters (West Yorkshire) C.I.O
41 Barkston House, Croydon Street,
Holbeck, Leeds LS11 9RT.
email: info@peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk
Tel: 0113 234 6896

Frontline staff of the year 2023

Formerly, support worker of the year, now changed to reflect that many members of staff have multiple roles within the organisation.

Liam was presented the award by CEO Elissa and Chair Martin, in recognition of his exemplary enthusiastic support to members, flexible, knowledgeable and considerate manner of working, and being a pleasure to work alongside.



Runners up

There were 5 runners up in this category. **Mila**: for her organisational skills, hard work, reliability and calm, person-centered approach.

Jess: for having a helpful and supportive attitude, an encouraging and motivational approach with members and being amazing in a crisis.

Lee: in recognition of his knowledge and expertise, going above and beyond with members and being a brilliant communicator.

Christine: for her generous support with other staff members, confidence, and dedication to drive progress with other members.

Lynsey: for her kind and compassionate attitude with both members and staff, developing members confidence, and her attentive, enthusiastic and caring support. We are lucky at People Matters to have an absolutely brilliant staff team so this award was so highly contested that we had 5 runners up. This means we don't have the space for all of their photos. There were also lots of other contenders. We'd like to thank all of our fantastic staff.

Trustees Award

The Trustees Award for 2023 went to Jane, in recognition of her commitment both as a support worker and social groups coordinator, and for the last 7 years providing her wealth of expertise. She also has both independently and proactively organised many events and activities, including an AIR hub working with volunteers from PM, as well as from outside the organisation, at Leeds Festival last August.



Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the year 2023 went to Allana, in recognition of her dedication and commitment to volunteering with People Matters, pictured below with Martin & Elissa.

Allana is also part of our members council. We are looking for more members to join. If you would like to know more contact us via email at info@peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk



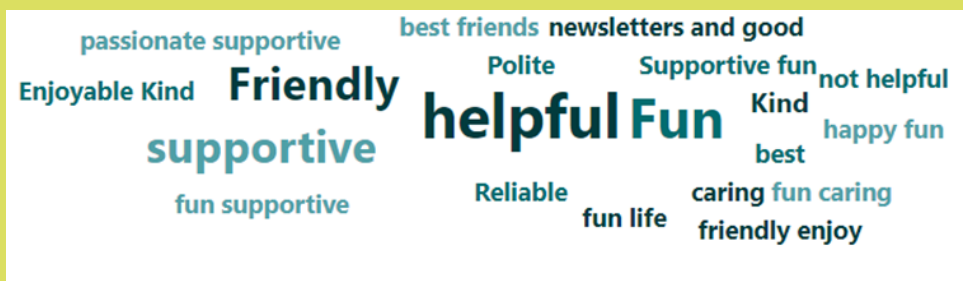
Member Survey

Last month we brought you the results of our annual staff survey, We ran a member survey in October which had 101 responses. A sample of the results of this are shown below.

We had some great feedback. 100% of members said they'd recommend People Matters (PM) to a friend. 99% said they thought PM staff would take their worries seriously and help to resolve them. 100% said PM supports them to make their own choices and decisions. Finally, 86% of our members said they receive enough communication from us. Everyone said they felt safe and respected at People Matters all of the time, most of the time, or some of the time.

Our members said we supported them with gaining confidence, going to new places, making friends, learning new things, improving their health and wellbeing, improving their relationships, advocating on their behalf at their request, supporting with daily living skills, supporting them with money, and with finding work, just to name a few.

Members were asked to describe the culture at People Matters in 3 words, see the word cloud below:



We were told some brilliant good news stories through the survey as you can see below

"Thanks to support from People Matters I was able to improve my mental health feel hope again come out of anxiety depression and rumination discover new things"

"People Matters have helped me get onto the 12 week program at Leeds Wood Recycling where I am learning new skills and getting training in woodworking equipment"

"The Wellbeing Group have had lots of people come in to talk to us about our health and this has helped me know different things about my body and what to do if something isn't right."

"I did a mock job interview with Leeds Building Society at the employment workshop and it really helped me with my confidence"

"Going to Blackpool Pleasure Beach was amazing. You gave me the confidence to go on the big rides and this has made me so proud. Everyone thinks I'm brave and that makes me feel special"

"My support staff at People Matters have helped me to tidy my flat which has been good for my health, and have also helped me to manage my finances."

"I got to go on holiday with my staff, this year I went to Whitby for 4 days and I enjoyed it."



It was a bitterly cold and wet evening (inside & out), the traffic was awful but our members are a resilient bunch and they danced and played games and won prizes. They had hoop-la, pass the parcel, best Christmas jumper, best dancer, musical statues and pin the red nose on the reindeer. There were lots of prizes to be won. A massive thank you goes out to all who arranged and ran the games on the evening. The raffle was drawn by Martin from Dataflow who donated the top prize of 2 tickets in Dataflow's hospitality box at a Leeds Utd match in April. In all we sold 1320 numbers for the raffle and we have posted the names & prizes of all the winners on our social media. Thank you to everyone who bought a number and thank you to all our generous donors for the prizes which made it such a success.

From all of us here at People Matters, have a safe and secure Christmas and we'll see you all in 2024