

Changing Futures Monthly Newsletter

New Year edition!

Hello and welcome to our January 2024 Newsletter. We will be looking back at some of our highlights from November and December 2023.



TRAINING SHOUT-OUTS!

A huge shout out to associates Paul, Ferdy, Rita, Justine, Ed and Dave for graduating from the 'Making Your Voice Heard Training'.

The sessions focused on board room training which included improving confidence, communication skills and awareness.

Changing Futures Does Christmas!!!

Thank you for all those who joined us at our Christmas celebration afternoon. Lots of yummy food was enjoyed and competitive games endured! It was nice to get together before the holiday period.



Winter Warmer

Thank you for those associates who joined us for our 'Winter Warmer' event. We enjoyed comforting curry, and it was great to celebrate the service so far as well as gathering all your feedback. Following on from this event we have updated our values and are currently working on other areas of feedback – so watch this space for next steps!



Changing Futures Takes Manchester....

Hear from volunteer Justine about the MEAM event in Manchester....

“On Tuesday 14th a group of us travelled to Manchester to attend the changing futures regional learning event. The theme was ‘how do partnerships support good delivery for people experiencing multiple disadvantage: An opportunity to reflect on local practise.’

It was an enjoyable and also challenging day. There were many others present representing a range of organisations, so we needed to be on our toes - quite literally - whilst networking.

To start off the proceedings and to set an authentic, personalised tone to the event, associate H presented her speech reflecting on the positive impact her time with Changing Futures and her involvement with co-production work had had on her life. It was a deeply moving story. I found myself welling up at one point and I don't believe I was the only one.

We watched a couple of short films produced by the policy lab, followed by a thought provoking discussion about how partnerships can best be structured to deliver quality support to those with multiple disadvantages.

Amongst many others, I was inspired by the conversation I had with Debbie from Hull (council?) around the Poverty Truth Commission. Poverty and the impact it has on individuals and communities is very real in the UK, especially as so many people are struggling with the cost of living crisis. The PTCs partner with a variety of organisations, communities and, vitally, people with lived experience of poverty. Working in partnerships has the advantage of bringing a diverse range of skills and experience together.

Building powerful relationships between those who experience the struggles and those who make decisions is vital to informing and enriching our conversations. By listening to one another we are able to see more clearly the causes of poverty and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities. Poverty Truth Commissions focus on how the issues they identify together can be addressed in their locality. Through national gatherings they decide on ‘amplify’ themes and work together to address issues occurring on a national level.”



Shout-out to associate H, for her moving and inspiring talk at the start of the MEAM event. What an achievement! 😊