



# Speak Up! Lead Change!

Annual Report 2010 to 2011

# A note from our Chair Person

**This year was very successful for People First.**

We won our bid to the Lottery to extend the Friendship Club. We will be able to reach more people, especially in East Dorset.

We started a Health Project. The Forum were invited to join the Safeguarding Board as well as the Partnership Board.

## Events

The highlights were the Big Relationships Day and Independence Day 5 with an extra day about leisure and activities for young people. Quality Checkers went from strength to strength and they made a brilliant film.

## Staff

Clare returned from maternity leave and we were pleased that Suzanne could join the Friendship Club staff team. Steve and Ruth also joined the Trustee team.



## The future

Things may become more difficult for people with disabilities because of the cuts. This means that our role will be even more important in supporting people to Speak Up and Lead Change!

As chair I would like to send out a big thank you to our excellent staff and trustees and anybody that has supported us over the past year. I am very proud to have been involved.



*Jenny  
Shackleford*



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Company No: 05189356

Company Secretary:  
Sara Whistance

Chair:  
Jenny Shackleford

Independent Accountants:  
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# Dan

I'm more confident now.  
It's about being confident enough to say what you think.

"I work with the Quality Checkers team. I made a film about Quality. I helped write the storyboard and I starred in it too.

The Quality Checkers team goes to day centres and residential homes. We ask ourselves: Are people happy? Do staff know what they are doing?

Friendship Club is great. It's getting more and more popular. There are lots of different events in pubs, clubs and cafes all over Dorset."

# Kerry

People First helps us when there are difficult times in our lives.

“I used to go to a day centre. I spoke to staff and social workers if I needed something sorted. Since then, People First has helped me to be in control.

I felt isolated in north Dorset. People First has helped me to learn to use the train and sort out my benefits. They also supported me to sort out my Direct Payments and interview a Personal Assistant.

I work on the Quality Checkers project now. I’m good at observing people. I know what it feels like to be getting services so I know what to look for. Staff should be polite and not talk to people like children.”





# Andrew

Staff at People First have helped me through difficult times... and helped me say “goodbye” to boring taxis!

“I felt uncomfortable talking in groups at first. I didn’t know what people would think. Now it is easier to talk to people in the Forum about things. They give me support if things are not going well.”

Andrew helps other people too. He has campaigned about Person Centred Planning and transport. He has also made a DVD about moving into his own flat:

“It will be used to help people who are moving into their own places like I did.”

# Jonathan

People First helped us to save our woodwork project when our day centre closed

“I joined the Forum in 2002. I have since been the co-chair of the Dorset Partnership Board. The Partnership Board brings together people who work on Learning Disability services. Our members are an important part of their meetings.

I have been to lots of People First events: Transport days, Forum meetings, and the Brainstormers speaking-up group in Sherborne.

I love the Friendship Club, and have been to lots of their events.

People First is very important to lots of people with learning disabilities in Dorset”





# Peter

**F**riendship Club is so amazing. It helps people with learning disabilities to change their lives.

“When I left school, no-one imagined I would be living the life I have now.

I worked on the Just Say project from 2003, running Speaking Up groups in schools. Then I joined the Forum and worked on a Citizenship project too.

The Valuing People conference was a turning point. Now I think to myself: ‘if I can speak in front of 180 people I can do anything!’.

Now I have a job, and a personal budget, which has really helped me do the things that I want to do.

My ambition now is to have my own house, not be in supported housing. I also want to help other people who have Aspergers Syndrome.”

# Good work, high standards

## Community



Many of our staff have other voluntary and paid jobs or use local care services. Their personal experiences in Dorset's local communities has a strong influence on the work that we do.

## Support



We know each other's strengths and weaknesses. We work as a team to get things done.

## Safety



All of our staff are well trained on topics like abuse and rights, and are fully CRB checked.

## Projects



Our experienced staff work closely with our trustees, members and funders to make sure that the projects are run perfectly.



## Money



Anyone can find out about how we spend our money, and where our money comes from.

The money we spend on wages means that we have the best staff for the projects that we need to run.



We follow strict rules about how we look after our money. We use the Cooperative Bank because we believe in ethical investing.

## Our members



We keep our members' personal information safe. We never pass your personal details to other organisations.

We let members know about events in their local area. We welcome anyone with a learning difficulty in Dorset who would like to become a member of People First.

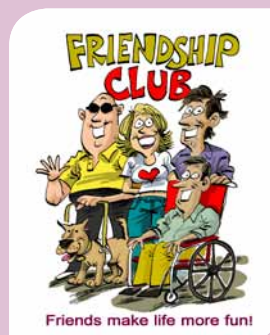


# Our Projects

A quick description and email address for each of our main projects:

## Friendship Club

[laura@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:laura@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk)



Friends make life more fun! Fantastic events all over Dorset. Join us!

## The Forum

[sally@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:sally@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk)



Join in and speak up about the things that are important to you.

## Just Say

[dawn@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:dawn@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk)



Speaking Up groups for young people. Events and consultations too.

## Easy Read

[clare@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:clare@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk)



Our designs use easy words and pictures to make books and leaflets more readable.

## Quality Checkers

[julia@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:julia@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk)



We check the quality of day services and the care people get at home.

## Health Project

[julia@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:julia@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk)



We want it to be easy for you to see your GP! We tell people about yellow health books and health checks.

# Trustees

## What is a trustee?

A trustee is a person who helps to look after a charity.

## How do you become a trustee?

Contact Jenny, our chair, at the People First office. Trustees are voted for at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year.

## How often do they meet?

About 6 times per year.

## Do they get paid?

No - they are volunteers.

## What are trustees responsible for?

They talk and make decisions about the charity. They help with things like employing new staff, writing contracts, organising the AGM and checking the accounts.

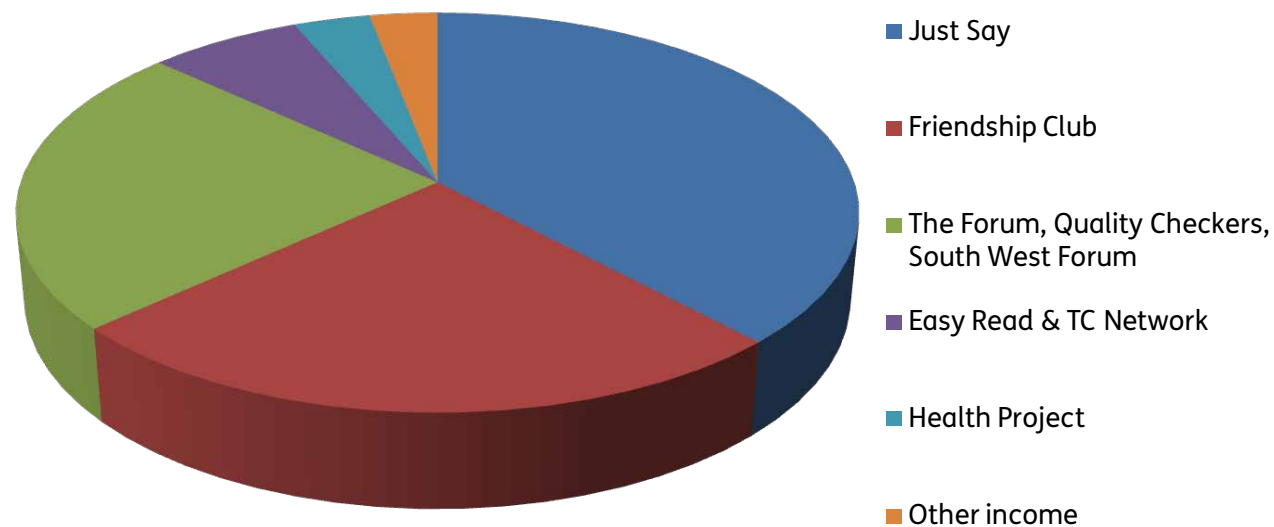
## Who are People First Dorset's trustees?

Our trustees have a wide range of skills. For example, some trustees have experience of using services for people with learning disabilities, and others have experience of running them. To contact them, phone or write to our office address.

- Jenny Shackleford (Chair)
- Oliver Thorne
- Rachel Norton
- Jamie Mears
- Anthony Vos
- Tina Richbell
- Ruth Bettinson
- Steve Pitt



## Money In: £250,674

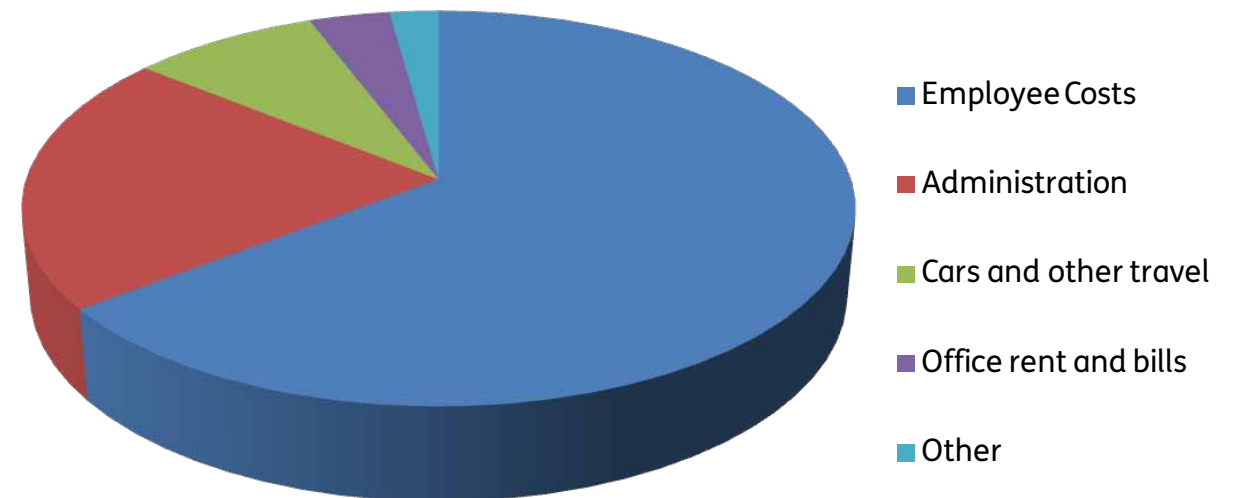


This is a 'pie chart'. The slices of 'pie' are amounts of money. The bigger the slice, the more money we have had.



We cannot do our work without money! It means that we can run projects to support people with learning difficulties to speak up for their rights. A big "thank you" to all of our funders!

## Money Out: £231,059



You are welcome to read a full version of our accounts. For a copy please contact:



**Sara Whistance**  
People First Dorset  
2, Herringston Barn  
Dorchester  
Dorset DT2 9PU

Our accounts are checked and audited every year by our trustees and our accountant.

# Over to you!



## Contact us to:

- Become a **member** of People First Dorset
- Join **Friendship Club**
- Join the **Forum**
- Order some **Easy Read** information
- Ask us to run some **training**
- Find out about becoming a **trustee**
- Make a **donation**
- **Volunteer** to help with our projects



**We look forward to hearing from you!**

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



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