



We enable support that makes a positive impact

Message from Kat

As we move into the summer months, it feels like the perfect time to reflect on what has been a fantastic few weeks across Persona. We've enjoyed a number of memorable events that have brought together colleagues, people we support, families and friends, showcasing the strong sense of community that makes Persona so special.



Our Persona Pride celebrations were a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate diversity, inclusion and individuality. It was great to see so many people getting involved, showing support and embracing the values that sit at the heart of our organisation.

We also enjoyed a fantastic Party in the Park at The Green, with plenty of fun, laughter and opportunities for people to connect and spend time together. It was lovely to see so many staff members and people we support joining in the activities, making new memories and enjoying the day. We certainly have some Zumba professionals and some artists amongst us!!



Alongside these celebrations, our annual staff workshops provided a valuable opportunity for colleagues from across the organisation to come together and share ideas around how we improve wellbeing. That doesn't mean we're all going to start meditating and doing yoga (although that can be very beneficial to wellbeing!!) What we talked about were the things at work which get in the way of us thriving and make the work we do feel harder. Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to making the sessions so engaging and productive. We've captured all of the feedback and themes from those sessions and will be working on these within the management team to look at how we can approach things differently to improve.

What stands out most from all of these events is the incredible participation, **enthusiasm** and sense of togetherness on display. Seeing so many staff members and people we support enjoying each other's company, building relationships and creating positive experiences together is a powerful reminder of what Persona is all about. It's also been amazing to see people's passion and energy to make things happen and I want to thank all of you who have made those things possible, bringing your ideas and enthusiasm to your work.

Kat

This quarter's highlights

3 - Highlights	17 - Recognition
6 - Stories	19 - Compliments
8 - Staff News	21 - Service News
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16 - Digital Update	28 - Upcoming Events

If you're reading this online, you can click for more information where text is [blue and underlined](#).

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CELEBRATING PRIDE TOGETHER



Our annual Pride party was an amazing celebration of equality, diversity and inclusion, perfectly reflecting our themed quarter at the time.

Following last year's success, we needed a bigger venue so we could welcome more people to join us! It was thanks to the support across our services that so many people were able to attend and enjoy the party.

Despite the rainy weather, spirits stayed high as people came for a day of fun.

The entertainment didn't disappoint as DJ Macc got the party started, while the Whitney Houston tribute act, I_Wanna_Whitney, had everyone on their feet singing and dancing.

One of the highlights of the day was seeing so many smiling faces with vibrant, rainbow face paint.

No party would be complete without great food: hot dogs and corned beef hash, prepared by IWDI Catering. Then to finish, plenty of cake!

Although it rained, it seemed fitting that the day ended with a rainbow, the perfect finishing touch to a memorable celebration!

Those who have attended previous years say the event "gets better every year and the new venue was fabulous".

Newcomers said "it was a lovely day and seeing people smiling, having fun and dancing was so lovely".

Carmen, manager of Learning Disability Day Services, said "it gets me emotional every time I think about the value it brings to us as an organisation, showcasing being different is our strength and people thrive from it."

Kat, our managing director said, it was "a celebration of people being happy in their own skin and supporting those around you to feel the same. Pure joy."

Click [here](#) for more.



PARTY IN THE PARK RETURNS

Our second Party in the Park was a fantastic success, bringing together more than 300 staff members and people we support for a day of laughter and celebration.

The Green Café was transformed into a vibrant space, full of colour thanks to the bunting, artwork and activity stations. From the moment people arrived, there was an atmosphere of excitement.



We started the day with breakfast butties, helping everyone fuel up for a leisurely walk around The Lido. After stretching our legs, it was time to get moving for a lively Zumba session, where we saw a crowd of people come together to enjoy the music, laughter and energy of the session.

With all that activity, we worked up an appetite, so everyone was ready for lunch. The team at The Green Café did an amazing job cooking up burgers on the BBQ, providing the perfect opportunity for everyone to connect and recharge.



The warm weather made it the perfect day to enjoy a variety of garden games and activities. Throughout the party, people enjoyed rides on the Wheels4All bikes and got creative on two special projects.

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The Persona Snake

We saw the creation of our very own Persona snake, where people coloured their own stones and added them to the growing line.

We now have a beautiful, one of a kind snake winding its way through the Top Green garden.

Our Trees of Joy

Leaves were decorated with kind messages, drawings and names.

Together, we created four wonderful trees that celebrate kindness and creativity.



We were also thrilled to showcase the beautiful tiles created during last year's Party in the Park, which are now on two display boards for everyone to admire.

The celebrations carried on into the afternoon with live music from Mandatory Fun, who were back by popular demand. They played us well-loved classics and got everyone singing and dancing.

Of course, no celebration is complete without cake, so we ended the day on a sweet note with a well deserved slice... or two!



Thank you to everyone who helped make the day possible.

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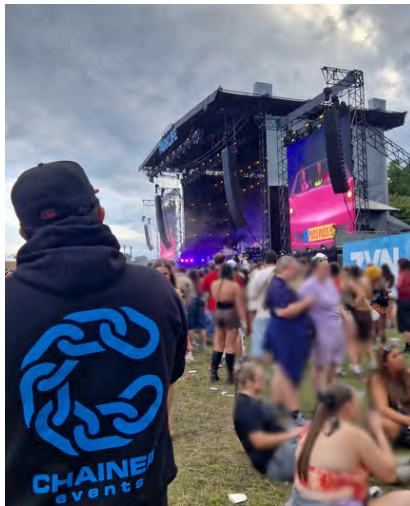
CAMERON TAKES ON PARKLIFE

Festival season is one of the busiest times of year, and Cameron couldn't wait to start his job as barback at Parklife!

When he got to Heaton Park, he put his staff wristband on before heading off to work. As barback, Cameron was responsible for making sure the fridges stayed stocked and the festival goers were served quickly.

He told us his favourite part of the weekend was travelling round the site with the operational manager in a buggy, checking all the bars had enough stock.

On the Saturday, he worked hard all day and said "I can't wait" to come back for more on Sunday!



Cameron wants a practical job where he can stay active and be part of a team. He was looking forward to starting work; the right support from Zabeena and the PEP team helped him to manage his anxious feelings in a busy, new place. On his first shift, his supervisor praised Cameron for his hard work and effort and he won Star of the Weekend for his work at the festival.

Congratulations Cameron, if you can handle Parklife there'll be no stopping you!

Click [here](#) to read more and for pictures.

Cameron's success is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through our Persona Employment Pathways service. We support people with learning disabilities to learn new skills, grow in confidence and gain the experience they need to achieve their employment goals, whether that's paid work, volunteering opportunities or skills-based placements.

Find out more here: tinyurl.com/EmpPath



SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA TO LIVE MORE

Our **Shared Lives team have been changing Bury lives** over the past year, supporting people living with dementia to stay independent and do what they love, while giving their carers valuable time to themselves.

"Mike's visits have been invaluable for Dad's quality of life."

"We named our Live More dementia project carers 'companions', to get people used to regular, professional support," Mo Arthur, registered manager, says. "People who are living with dementia don't understand or feel they need support, so we built on our existing matching process with low key, informal introductions."

"Dad started reminiscing about his navy days and how he speaks French, he also shared that he doesn't like rice pudding!"

"The biggest difference it's made is for family members." Jane's dad Neil was supported by the team. She adds "We were worried about Mum; she felt trapped in the house. Live More meant she could go out and lead a more independent life, happy that Dad was being well cared for by someone we all trust and that he has a good rapport with."

"You have been there when I really needed someone to talk to."

"It's been a challenging project on a personal level but we know how much of a positive impact we have made on many people's lives. **We're grateful to have had this opportunity to prevent crisis and promote independence and inclusion for people living with dementia and their families and carers.**" Jane adds "We are forever grateful to Sulyn, Mo and Mike for everything they did for me and my family. Their work is so important and essential to families - and to my dad."

"I don't know what we would have done without you and Mike. I feel as a family we were in crisis."

We worked with Shared Lives Plus and the Accelerating Reform Fund on this project, hosting an event where visitors including the chief social worker, Sarah McClinton, heard directly from people supported by the project. She said Live More "shows how a little bit of help to connect people, with reciprocal relationships at its heart, makes such a difference to people's experiences and wellbeing."

Mike and Neil

Mike spent two hours a week with Neil. Neil's daughter, Jane, said "it's the only time Dad socialised outside of the family! Mike was patient, kind, understanding and got Dad talking, finding out things from his past that none of us even knew about. He had Dad smiling and laughing and has brought back so many happy memories, so Mum and Dad now have something they can talk about again. We were astounded by what's been coming out thanks to Mike."



SHAPING OUR SERVICES



We believe co-production is essential. By listening to people with lived experience we can improve and create services that meet people's needs.

We want to put people at the centre - not just of delivery, but of design because we know this achieves the best outcomes.

For Co-Production Week (29 June - 3 July), we reflected on some of our projects, which show first-hand the benefits of co-production.

Our **Persona Your Voice Committee** has been involved in a number of projects, truly shaping the future of our services.

Some of the things they've been involved in are:



REACH Retreat - people we support told us it was difficult for them to find accessible, affordable holidays so we decided to buy a holiday lodge. Our Your Voice group helped us choose the location and design of our lodge.



Inclusion - the group talked about inclusion and what it means to them, which gave us an insight into what people we support and our staff value. This will influence our future decisions, helping us create an inclusive environment where everyone is heard.



Persona Flags - for our 10-year anniversary, we worked with Cabasa Carnival Arts to create our legacy flags. During a committee meeting, we shared what Persona means to us and our answers were turned into designs for the flags. Everyone was invited to attend sessions where they could apply batik wax and paint the silk using the colours of our values.

Lived Experience Activity Organiser - following on from Your Voice feedback, we've created a new opportunity for someone we support to lead on getting ideas from people we support about what activities and events they want. They will then set up events throughout the year for everyone to join in.



But it's not just our Persona Your Voice Committee who collaborate with us, it's happening across our services all the time! Our most recent projects have been at:

Sunnybank

The centre's long-awaited refurbishment is complete with its modern design, improved accessibility, and calming spaces.

Every step has been guided by people we support and our staff team to create spaces that reflect what truly matters.

Some improvements we've made are:

- new accessible and comfortable toilets
- a refreshed look with new décor and flooring
- a transformed side lounge/breakout room, now a cosy haven for relaxation
- new immersive and tactile sensory rooms to enhance emotional well-being

Read more on page 13.



Elton

Everyone's been busy with two projects at Elton:



Woodpeckers Workshop

A group of people we support loved going to Men in Sheds Bury to try new tools, learn practical skills, and create things they were proud of. When they closed, staff knew they wanted to bring that same opportunity to Persona. They won funding through our Ideas Hub, which helped them create Woodpeckers Workshop!

A small committee of staff, people we support, and their families, worked together to design the workshop. They researched equipment, planned the layout, and ensured that the space would be accessible for all; every detail was carefully selected to create an inclusive and welcoming space. Sharon, who attends Elton, planned the opening of the workshop with staff and cut the ribbon to officially open the service. Read more on page 12.

Persona Prints

This is our brand-new printing room workshop and mini social enterprise, shaped by ideas from people we support. It's already shaping up to be of huge value to people we support, who also shared their ideas for the service's name and logo.



Persona Prints isn't just a workshop. It's a chance for people to express themselves, learn and take pride in contributing to something that reaches beyond the service. They will be able to create their own designs and learn the skills needed to print them.

Read more on page 27.



Thank you to everyone who has helped us on our journey so far.

Click [here](#) to read more.

THE DOORS ARE OPEN!

The Woodpeckers Workshop at Elton has officially opened its doors, marking an exciting chapter for Persona.

We celebrated with a special launch event that welcomed colleagues and people we support from across Persona to explore the new space, meet the people involved in the project and learn more about how the workshop will be used.



Sharon, who attends Elton and helped plan the event, had the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially open the workshop. She even made the scissors herself especially for the occasion.

Visitors were shown around and had the opportunity to look at lots of sample projects showcasing what people can make in future sessions.

For everyone's safety, we didn't have the machinery on during the event because of the big crowd. Nevertheless, staff could still show off the equipment, explain how it all works and talk through the different activities that are available.

Jane Unsworth, support co-ordinator, tells us: "seeing everyone in the room and their faces light up with excitement made all the hard work worth it".



What comes next?

The workshop is open to anyone who uses our Learning Disability Day Services.

As sessions begin, people will have the chance to learn:

- practical woodworking skills
- how to use tools safely
- how to create projects of their own

The workshop aims to build confidence, while encouraging creativity and giving people a sense of achievement by making something they can be proud of.

NEW SENSORY ROOMS

People we support are already enjoying our two, brand-new sensory spaces created as part of the recent Sunnybank refurbishment.

People we support, staff and family members have worked together to design the rooms, sharing ideas to shape them. We now have two new spaces that are welcoming, engaging and tailored to a wide range of sensory needs.

An immersive sensory experience:

One of the new rooms is an immersive sensory room! The space features bubble tubes, fibre optics, an infinity tunnel mirror, sensory lights and diffusers designed to meet olfactory sensory needs.

Relax in our new cosy seats and enjoy our favourite feature: the projector. Lose yourself in immersive scenes, calming visuals and sensory experiences.



A space to explore:

Alongside the immersive room is a tactile sensory room with a range of interactive wall panels and busy boards. Sensory equipment is kept in accessible storage containers so people we support can easily access them independently.

The rooms have already proved to be popular with people we support:

- “Andrew smiles and interacts with the sounds and visuals. You can tell how much he is enjoying the space”.
- “Robert uses the musical tactile equipment, he enjoys creating sounds and moving them”.



The rooms are open to everyone we support in our Learning Disability Day Services.

To book your visit, call Sunnybank on 07356 153 644 or ask a co-ordinator to book on the schedule in the Learning Disability Day Services teams channel.



Nominations are closed

We've received 130 wonderful nominations highlighting the dedication and efforts of our staff.

Thank you to everyone who nominated and well done to those who received one!

Nomination post cards are being sent out now and shortlisting is taking place until Sunday 2nd August.

Our theme of the night is...

Enchanted Forest

Connect

Take Notice

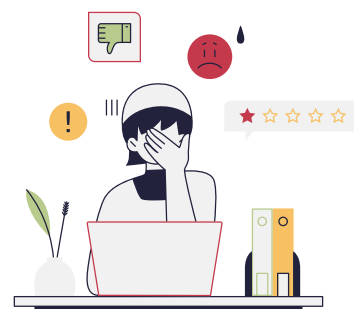
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PERSONA THEMED QUARTER

Our Current Themed Quarter: Closed Cultures

Closed cultures are environments where there's a lack of transparency, open communication, and poor practices go unchallenged. This can have a serious impact, with the voices, rights and choices of people being overlooked, which can lead to neglect, poor practice or even abuse continuing unchecked.



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) are focussing more on closed cultures, particularly around leadership, safeguarding, learning from incidents and how comfortable staff feel to speak up.



Good leadership is key when preventing closed cultures by promoting openness, encouraging reflection and creating environments where concerns can be raised safely. Where leadership is weak, absent or there are too many, top-heavy levels of management, poor practice can become accepted and unchallenged.

Examples of closed cultures are staff controlling people's choices, treating people's homes as their own, a lack of respect for rights and independence, high staff turnover, managers not being visible in services and families and advocates not being involved

Preventing closed cultures is everyone's responsibility. It's important to take time to reflect on your own practice and the culture within your service. How might it be affecting you and people we support?

If something does not feel right, it likely isn't, so speak up. You can talk to your manager, head of care, director of care, Persona leadership team or the workforce team.

We all share a responsibility to make sure closed cultures don't exist anywhere at Persona.

Our Previous Themed Quarter: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This year, Pride Month marked the end of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) themed quarter where we had:

- a [festival of food and music](#) to celebrate food, music and stories from around the world
- a cup of kindness event to share what respect and kindness mean to us
- interactive training for managers to refresh and raise awareness of EDI at work
- intensive interaction staff training to promote inclusive communication
- the relaunch of our sensory spaces at Sunnybank
- a [Pride party](#)
- a refresh of our EDI policy to reinforce safer spaces, inclusive language and best practice in recruitment

Thank you to everyone who made these all happen!

Click [here](#) to read more about our Themed Quarters

Register now for the Bury 10k and Persona will refund 50% of your entry fee!

Connect

Be Active

Why not join us for the Bury 10K on Sunday 20th September? No matter how much or little training you've done or whether you choose to walk, jog or race on the day, it'd be great if you could join us and build on the huge success of last year's event.

Throughout the build up to the race I'll be doing Clarence parkrun every Saturday at 9am. It's a free, fun and you can to walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate, so why not join me in the build up to the 10K?

Click [here](#) to sign up to Bury 10k general entry for £28.60 (including service fee). You can claim £14.30 back from your petty cash hub or at Basecamp when you provide proof of your entry.

If you do enter, could you email me to let me know?

John.

For more details and for how to join John every Saturday at Clarence Park parkrun, click [here](#).

Working with a disability

Three in four disabled people say they've had negative experiences in their daily life; Disability Pride Month - is "an opportunity to change the conversation, It's a chance to speak up, be proud and create change" ([Scope](#)).

What is a disability?

It's a physical or mental impairment (like a chronic condition or an injury) that impacts on your daily life and lasts for more than 12 months. If you have a disability, you might need **reasonable adjustments**, from time to time or permanently, to do your job well.

Any of these could be classed as a disability if they have a significant, long-term impact on your life:

- depression
- asthma
- high blood pressure (hypertension)
- COPD
- autism
- diabetes
- epilepsy
- back or joint problems
- arthritis
- migraines

How do I find out more about reasonable adjustments?

You might already know how best to support your own health, but you might not be sure how you can do it while you're working. If something is affecting your ability to do your job, ask for help. It can be hard to see the answers ourselves when we're having a tough time.

You can talk to any manager, or one of the workforce team about reasonable adjustments. You could speak to other Persona teams to find out what might work best for you - different people will have different ideas on what could help. The adjustments we can make are as unique as you are.

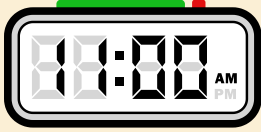
Any adjustments have to take account of the service's requirements, including supporting people and staff available, but don't let this stop you asking for help.

Click [here](#) for more suggestions from the wellbeing hub.



Please share these tips with your friends, family & people you support

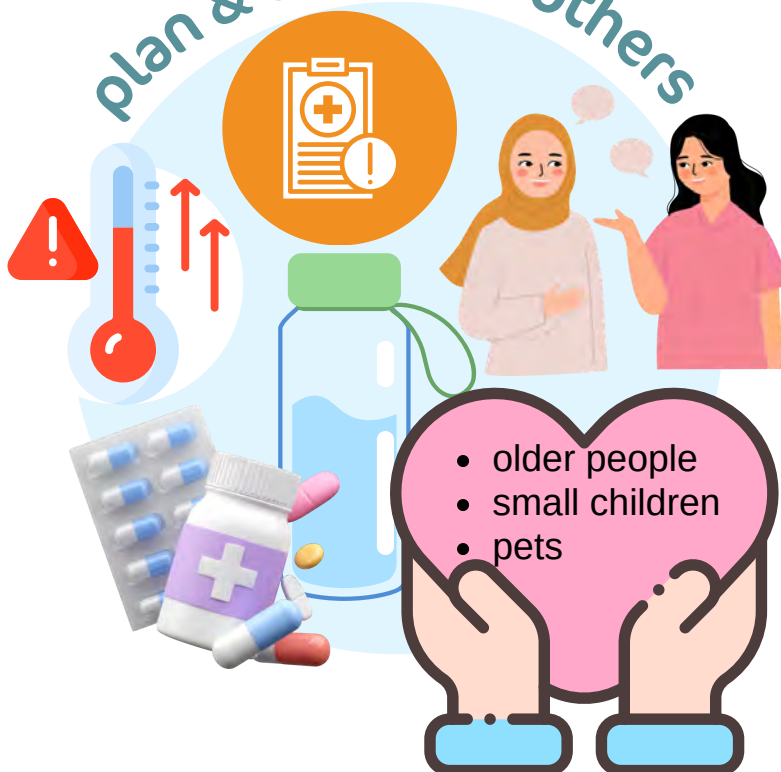
Stay in the shade & take it easy
from eleven until three!



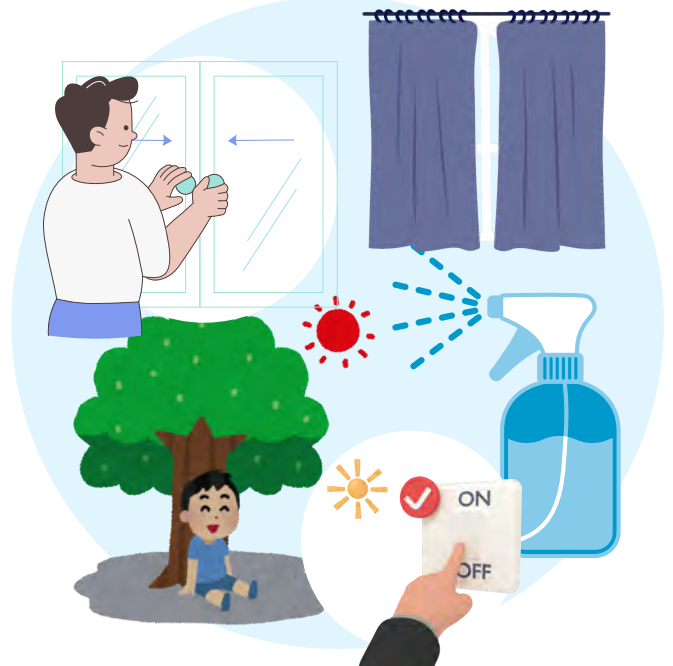
stay hydrated



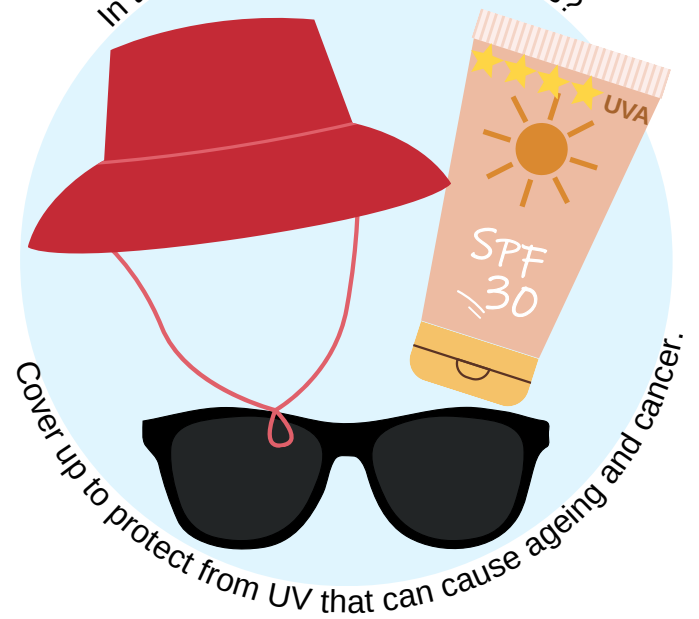
plan & check on others



stay cool



use sun protection
In the sun for more than 10 minutes?



Did you know?

It only takes 10 mins in the sun to make the vitamin D you need. After that, protect your skin from UV.

There are mineral alternatives to chemical sunscreens that protect you, your health and the environment.

For more tips, links and a poster to share, follow: tinyurl.com/SummerWellIP

Please share these tips with your friends, family & people you support.

SONA IS LIVE!

Following months of preparation, testing and training, we are pleased to announce that Sona is now live across Persona!

This is an important step in our commitment to embracing digital solutions that support our strategy, improving efficiency and strengthening communication with our teams.

What Sona Means for You

Sona gives you greater access to and overview of your working life, enabling you to:

- view your rota anytime, anywhere using your phone
- pick up available overtime shifts more easily
- request annual leave directly through the app
- get important updates and messages for your role and the wider organisation
- help streamline processes that used to be done manually

By bringing these functions together in one place, Sona will help us reduce administration, improve accuracy and create a more consistent experience for everyone.

Acknowledging the Challenges

We recognise that moving to a new system is a significant change and that, for many colleagues, it means adapting to a different way of working.

As with any major system implementation, there have been some teething issues during the early stages of the rollout. We appreciate the patience and flexibility shown by everyone as we resolve these and continue to refine processes.

Your feedback so far...

Although we're still in the early stages of implementation, we're already noticing positive outcomes from Sona, such as:

- staff appreciate instant access to their rota
- better visibility of additional shifts across services
- shifts are being covered faster
- key information all in one place, reducing admin time and improving communication with teams

Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the testing, training and implementation of Sona.

Your feedback has played a vital role in helping us get to this stage and will continue to shape improvements as we move forward.

It's great to see so many staff being recognised for living our values.

Here's a selection of this quarter's High Fives - congratulations to everyone!



Joe and Anita Kenny

Respectful

I would like to nominate Joe and Anita both who provide support for a number of people, they are both respectful to the people they support, their families and other professionals. They are a great example of how Shared Lives can work for a couple. They welcome each person into their home like they are part of the family. What a difference you have both made to so many people.

Holly Moran

Enthusiastic

Holly has been the consistent staff member supporting Escape's production of The Wizard of Oz. Along with other staff, Holly has been making props for the big performance day and even went looking for outfits in the shops for the characters. In the last practice, Holly noticed that the people we support were being distracted by their scripts, getting in the way of their performance and so she removed the scripts, which allowed them to realise their potential within their roles, how much they have achieved so far and boosted their confidence immensely. Holly gave the people we support plenty of praise which was well received and boosted the moral within the group.

Susan Partington

Adaptable

Susan helped me to organise equipment training for my Shared Lives carer, this was done with care and consideration to all involved. Susan always goes above and beyond for anyone needing support. Thank you for all that you do and have done.

Nicola Depledge

Nicola is one of the most supportive people I have ever got to work with, she constantly shows compassion and wants to help and support others. She is full of advice and guidance for all the staff in supported living and all the people we support.

Andy O'Dell

Caring

I noticed his interaction with people in his care on the bus; total perfection! This skill cannot be taught, it's got to be natural and he has it in bucket loads. The people in his care were relaxed and enjoying every minute.

Ifeoma Ubah

Honest

Ifeoma completed a shadow shift and had to take a person we support to hospital. Her record keeping was clear, **honest** and very factual. Best record keeping I have seen in a long time. Perfect example of how records should be done.

Living the Values - Above and Beyond

This quarter's winners of a £50 gift voucher of their choice were...



Andy O'Dell
Respectful



Michael Jones
Respectful



Trishia Hulton
Respectful



Alex Casey
Enthusiastic



Bernie Walsh
Enthusiastic



Caroline Brennan
Enthusiastic



Cheryl Sheridan
Enthusiastic



Christine Dawson
Enthusiastic



Dawn Adams
Enthusiastic



Elton Community Centre
Enthusiastic



Louisa Marshall
Adaptable



Nicola Depledge
Adaptable



Regina Ogwuegbu
Adaptable



Bolton Road Community Centre
Caring

Well done & congratulations to you all!

I have never met such lovely dedicated and **caring** staff members.

They have gone above and beyond to make Ben feel comfortable and happy and dealt with any issues in a professional and timely manner. Now Ben is his happy, chatty self, enjoying life again.

Learning Disabilities
Day Service

Ben is talking more, learning new words and this is due to the interaction and care from the staff. **Seeing Ben happy and cared for is all I have wanted.** Thank you to your amazing team.

Steve stayed at Elmhurst for four days as an emergency admission.

He says the staff couldn't have been kinder and he really quite enjoyed his stay, even though he hadn't really wanted to go in the first place.

Elmhurst & Woodbury
Short Stay

He had a lovely room overlooking the garden and staff took him outside for short periods. **He can't speak highly enough of the staff.**

From my own point of view they have been very supportive and at times **I don't know what I would do without them.**

A huge thank you to all the staff at Red Bank for all your kindness and care of my Dad, Brian.

He loved living here and he held you all in great affection.

Red Bank

Thank you also for your care and support of us as a family over the past few months. We will miss you.

Love Trudy & family.

The Green
Community Café

Lovely place to have a cheeky bacon butty in the early afternoon.

**Very welcoming, relaxing atmosphere.
Quiet and very thoughtfully arranged.
Highly recommend.**



 In Carnforth, near Morecambe, Lancaster,
Lake District & Yorkshire Dales National Parks

 Family & dog friendly with
secure decking area

 Sleeps 7 people:

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 wet rooms
- 1 ensuite



Wheelchair accessible 

Free leisure pass
(worth up to £116 per week
for a family of 4) 

Wi-fi, smart TVs and
waterfall showers 

External bookings: £189 per night

Special price: £115 per night (for people we support,
Persona and Bury Shared Lives colleagues)

For more information, T&C's and to book, scan or follow:

tinyurl.com/REACHRetreatP



CELEBRATIONS ACROSS OUR SERVICES

There have been plenty of reasons to celebrate in our services. From milestone birthdays to new beginnings, we've enjoyed coming together to mark important moments.



Brian celebrated his 60th birthday with all his friends from Grundy Hub.

Happy Birthday Brian!



Sheila celebrated her 90th birthday with a huge birthday cake and some flowers.

Happy Birthday Sheila!



The team and people we support at Bolton Road were "going bananas" for Dawn's 50th birthday!

The group used their new signing skills too, as they sang and signed 'Happy Birthday'.

Happy Birthday Dawn!



Tom celebrated turning 40 years young with pasties and cake with everyone at Elton.

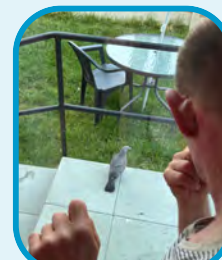
Happy Birthday Tom!

Mark celebrated his 60th birthday with his friends at Potters Bar. He sang with the singer, danced and had a custom-made cake.

Happy birthday Mark!



William moved into his new home at The Willows after 11 years in his previous home.



Woody the wood pigeon is a regular visitor in his garden.

SPRING FUN

Spring brought plenty of opportunities to get together, enjoy the season and celebrate some fun awareness days.

Ramsbottom had an egg-cellent Easter party, joined by friends from Escape, featuring singers Brian and Maxine Warner.

They danced, enjoyed food from spud lady, played Easter games, and had an egg hunt with chocolate prizes.



People we support at Ramsbottom also started going to a monthly arts and crafts session at Cosalea Café. They enjoyed decorating Easter biscuits, which went down a treat with a nice cup of tea.



There were lots of Easter crafts to enjoy at Grundy Hub:

- baking
- bonnet making

Grundy Hub also did something fun for:

- VE Day
- Bee Day
- Apple Pie Day
- Art Day



We couldn't let Biscuit Day pass without baking a batch at Elmhurst! We also enjoyed timeless treats like shortbread, KitKats and many more.



SUPPORTING CONNECTIONS

We've had many opportunities for people to connect and spend time together over the summer.

This year's Dementia Action Week saw everyone at Grundy Hub buzzing with activity. We celebrated the week with a party complete with live music, dancing and balloons all around!

The ladies in our Knit & Natter group created beautiful forget-me-not bunting, which was displayed from the ceiling in the reception area. They also made some flower pins for people to take home.



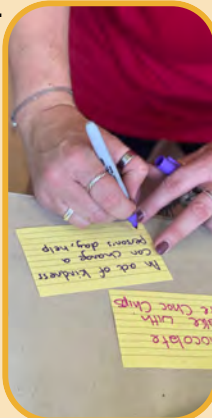
During Carers Week, Elmhurst received a wonderful hamper and lots of thank you cards.

We celebrated Afternoon Tea Week in the most fitting manner: with an afternoon tea.



GO on Tour paid a visit to Bolton Road and wowed everyone with an amazing show.

We had a great time at our Cup of Kindness event at The Green Café, where we talked about kindness and what it means to us.



A member of the group even celebrated her 70th birthday with us!



CELEBRATING DIFFERENT CULTURES

We held a Festival of World Food and Music throughout May, exploring cultures through their food and music.

Elmhurst - food from around the world

Staff shared delicious dishes so everyone got the chance to experience new flavours and spices. We held a world quiz and enjoyed music from different cultures.

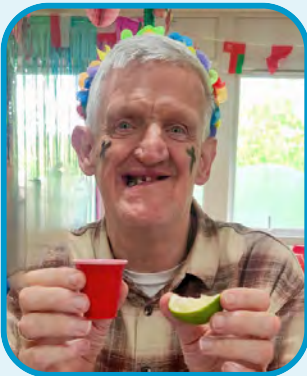


Sunnybank - Irish culture

We cooked Irish stew and baked no-Guinness cake with cream. Staff dressed up and we listened to folk music during lunch.

Hoyles - Mexican culture

We enjoyed Mexican foods and music, along with non-alcoholic tequila slammers. We played a game where everyone won a prize.



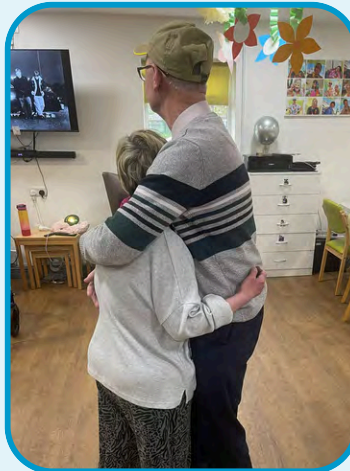
Elton - English culture

We had a seaside day with fish and chips, choc ices, games, and a special visit from Daffy Duck, which the people we support enjoyed.



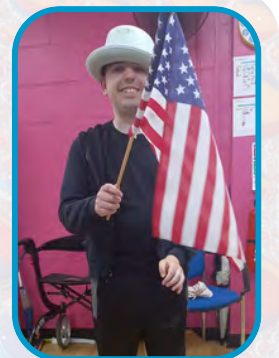
Bolton Road - the world, with a focus on Asia

We created decorations, wore traditional Asian clothes, enjoyed homemade food and listened to music from around the world.



Escape 1 - Indian culture

We created display boards and dreamcatchers, tried Bollywood dancing and tasted a range of Indian dishes.



Escape 2 - Modern American culture

We made themed display boards, created cowboy hats, had a go at line dancing and ate American foods.



Ramsbottom - Eid

We enjoyed henna art, made hats and enjoyed a selection of sweets.



OUT AND ABOUT

There have been plenty of chances to get active and enjoy the summer weather.

Thanks to Wheels4All people we support at Escape could keep fit in the sunshine while using the accessible bikes.



Staying cool in a heatwave isn't easy, but at Bolton Road they've found a fun solution: soaking your hands and feet in cold water.



Elmhurst welcomed two students, Faye and Rhianat, on work placements.

They supported Alan with weeding and planting new plants in the garden.

Alan told us: "I like to keep on top of the gardening as it makes it an easier job, and it helps relax my mind".



AN EXCITING CHAPTER

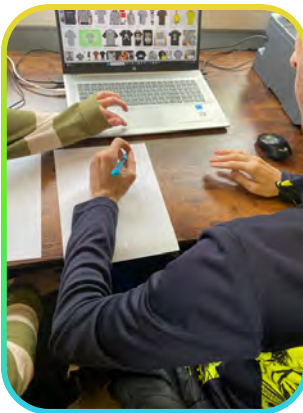
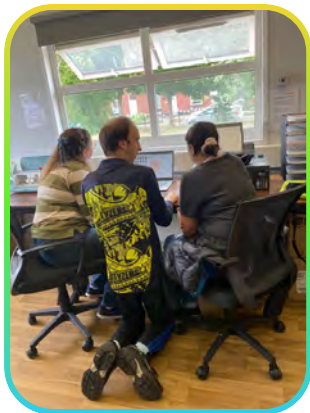


Persona Prints has been given the opportunity to bring its vision to life; we're one of only 21 organisations across Greater Manchester to get funding through the GMCA Everyday Economy Fund.

This funding marks the beginning of a new chapter for our growing creative enterprise and will create more opportunities for people we support to develop new skills, express their creativity and become a thriving social enterprise.

As part of this exciting journey, we have recruited to a brand-new role: creative enterprise lead. This person will oversee the day-to-day running of the workshop, lead on design and production and support people to transform creative ideas into high-quality finished products.

We held a series of successful taster sessions across our Learning Disability Day Services, which helped us find **enthusiastic** staff members who are eager to champion Persona Prints in their services and support the creative enterprise lead to drive projects forward.



A dedicated working group has been set up to support the long-term development of the enterprise, including Lisa Duggan, Carmen Gillon-Weerasinghe, Laura Stott, Kat Sowden, Bernard Noblett, Geraldine Condon, and Neil Simpson from The Growth Company. They will help shape the future of Persona Prints, ensuring it continues to grow in a sustainable and meaningful way.



The team shared:

"Persona Prints isn't just a workshop; it inspires people we support to design and produce amazing products. It offers people the opportunity to get involved in activities that also support a sustainable social enterprise. It allows people to express themselves, learn new skills, develop confidence, and take pride in contributing to something that has purpose far beyond the service."

We look forward to watching Persona Prints grow into a vibrant, creative space that empowers people, showcases talent, and makes a lasting impact.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd July



**Hollywood Bowl
with Escape**

23rd July



**Chat & Crafts
at The Green**

24th July



**Musical
Memories**

25th July



**Join John: parkrun
at Clarence Park**

28th July



**Escape
Fest**

4th August



**Monthly Shared
Lives Drop In**

31st August



**Elmhurst
Summer Fair**

19th October



**Persona Your Voice
Committee Meeting**

For more information & events, click [here](#).

Connect

Be Active

Take
Notice

Keep
Learning

Give to
Others

These are the #FiveWaysToWellbeing, approved by the NHS, that remind us how to keep well. You'll see them throughout each newsletter, to celebrate how people are living their best life.

If you'd like to share a story, photos, or an idea,
please email us at info@personasupport.org

We enable support that makes a positive impact

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