



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 3rd February 2021

BY: HIVE Portsmouth Board of Trustees & Portsmouth Disability Board of Trustees

Portsmouth Disability Forum and **HIVE Portsmouth** are delighted to be in discussions about how they may develop the work of the Disability Forum going forward.

Portsmouth Disability Forum have made the difficult decision to wind up the charity following several years of reduced funding against a background of increased costs. The Board of Trustees wanted to ensure that the voice and needs of those who experience disability are heard and addressed and are working with HIVE Portsmouth, to seek ways of providing access and inclusion for all in the life of the local communities and city.

Father Bob White, Chair of HIVE, said: 'I am very excited that we are able to develop the important work done by Portsmouth Disability Forum and to integrate that work and voice within our wider discussions and activity as the HIVE Portsmouth.'

'This development recognises the importance of all in our society having a sense of being included and valued. As a city we pride ourselves on our strong sense of community and care and this new partnership will enhance that. It is a tribute to the work of the Forum that they have grown to this position and can now take the next step in their commitment to responding to the needs of those they seek to represent.'

Sharon Smithson, from Portsmouth Disability Forum, went on to say: 'I am pleased and positive that with HIVE Portsmouth we will be able to take the work of Portsmouth Disability Forum to the next stages.'

'They will continue to provide the ability to access information and offer the support that people who experience inequality deserve. Users of Portsmouth Parent Voice and Dynamite will not see a change to their service delivery – this will continue with HIVE Portsmouth as normal. I would like to thank all of the staff, clients and friends of Portsmouth Disability Forum for their friendship and support over the last few years.'

[ENDS]





BACKGROUND

Portsmouth Disability Forum (PDF)

Came into being over 30 years ago when disabled and non-disabled people came together in Portsmouth to try to ensure that everyone had the same opportunities as everyone else.

PDF is a user-led organisation with a trustee board which consists of eleven trustees eight of whom are disabled representing a broad range of disabilities, and other organisations, the remaining three trustees are part of the board either for their knowledge and experience of disabilities or their professional or business knowledge. We are a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee and as such have to operate under these bodies requirements as set down in law in our [Memorandum and Articles of Association](#).

We have a small team, of which the majority are either disabled themselves or have first-hand knowledge of disability. We have a regular team of seven disabled volunteers and a membership of disabled and non-disabled people, voluntary and statutory and a range of local and national disability organisations.

The Frank Sorrell Centre in Prince Albert Road, is owned by the charity and is fully accessible with its own car park. The Centre is run for the benefit of disabled people their families and personal assistants, disability groups and organisations in and around Portsmouth as well as supporting the local churches in our community.

PDF runs monthly Empowering Children and Families meetings, to raise, debate and action topics relating to disability.

PDF provides a range of services itself including;

- [Portsmouth Shopmobility](#) (from where we also issue Blue Badges)
- [Portsmouth Parent Voice](#) (including an electronic newsletter 'Impacting on you')
- [Dynamite](#) and the Young Inspectors.

PDF supports monthly meetings of Loud and Clear (a hearing loss support group), and Cheerful Charlie's (a dual sensory loss support group) and weekly Keyboard Sessions.

From time to time **PDF** also provides work experience and job placements primarily to local disabled students and disabled people.

You will also find within the building:

- Autism Hampshire
- The Blue Badge Assessment Team





We are working with city wide developments with the Community Network, Health Watch, and Community Action in Portsmouth.

We have a number of websites promoting the work of **PDF**, for [Shopmobility](#), for [Portsmouth Parent Voice](#), and for [Dynamite](#) which provides a wealth of information for parents supporting their children and young people through the Education Health and Care plan process.

How to contact us

Email: contact@p-d-f.org.uk | Telephone: 023 9281 5266

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HIVE Portsmouth

HIVE Portsmouth is a strategic partnership in Portsmouth consisting of a representative group of the voluntary and community sector, NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group and Portsmouth City Council.

We work with local people, groups and organisations in a way that recognises and nurtures the strengths of individuals, families and communities and helps to build independence and self-reliance as an alternative to a reliance on traditional services. We connect people and organisations to share, support and learn in order to meet the needs of individuals and are committed to working together with the objective of building a happier, healthier and more connected city.

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