



Community
Holistic
Accessible
Rights based
Mental health

Magazine

Issue 1, February 2025

CHARM Projects CIC

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<https://charmmentalth.org/about-us/charm-backers/>

CHARM Society

Is the unincorporated supporters' group, meets monthly online, first Tuesdays 6.30pm

Contributions to this magazine welcomed, may be edited for length and access.

Images welcomed with full source credit.

CHARM Projects CIC
Co. number 14437077

New report by CHARM shows alarming growth on deaths from 2016 where coroners criticise GMMH Trust

CHARM has analysed 34 coroners reports on preventable deaths by mental health service users and found a clear growth in the numbers of people dying for avoidable reasons.

CHARM is writing to the chief executive of GM MH Trust and to the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership leadership asking for urgent meetings, calling for an independent audit of the deaths of people who had contact with GMMHT, including denials of service. This draws on the lessons of a similar independent audit commissioned by officials in Norfolk & Suffolk, following a campaign by activists. (continued, page 2)

News shorts

- **Tues 4 Feb**, our submission of evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee in Parliament, read it on our website.
- Up to **Sat 22 Feb**, *Who is Your Mummy, and Where Did She Go?* Free exhibition, Waterside Arts Centre, Sale M33 7ZF. Explore the world of Postpartum Psychosis, experienced by around 1 in every 500 mothers, inspired by one of the artist's ancestors. Opposite Sale tram stop, buses inc 41 to NMGH.
- **Tues 4 Mar, 6.30pm**, CHARM Society meeting online.
- **Thurs 6 Mar**, *Platform to Wales Week* in London.
- **Weds 19 Mar, 9-5pm**, *Open Dialogue and Peer Support*, free but pre-booking required, Manchester Deaf Centre M13 9GH. Details: <https://opendialogueCHARM.eventbrite.co.uk> Two workshop days follow, as explained in the details.
- **Mon 14 - Sun 27 April**, Norwich, *Not Safe for Treatment*, exhibition.
- **Sat 26 April**, Norwich, *National Conference for Grassroots Mental Health Campaigns and Campaigners*.

“You need to stop this, or more people will die”

(from page 1)


In a nutshell, this is what a coroner is saying when they write a PFD report – Prevention of Future Deaths – to an organisation which has contributed to someone’s early death.

In Greater Manchester it seems that matters have become so bad that coroners have stopped sending reports to GMMHT in recent years and instead they send them to the Department of Health and Social Care HQ in London, and to the GM Integrated Care Partnership, hoping that someone somewhere will take notice.

As the graph on the front page of the report shows, and quoting from the CHARM report, “there is a trend from 2016 to 2023 of roughly one extra PFD each year, from one a year to seven a year”.

PFD statistics nationally also indicate that Greater Manchester is receiving the largest number of PFDs in England outside of Greater London.

Of particular concern to CHARM is that previous requests to GMMHT for details on how they are systematically addressing the issues raised have been refused and deflected.



Prevention of Future Deaths Reports concerning persons having contact with NHS mental health services in Greater Manchester in 2016-2023

Technical Report

January 2025

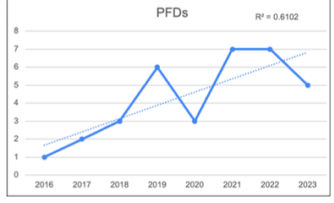
Executive Summary

This technical report has been produced by a data analysis project delivered by a group of CHARM volunteers. A volunteer project manager was chosen from within this group. This was a task-and-finish group, which ran from August to December 2024. (paragraph 1).

Overall, from the data we can say that there is a trend from 2016 to 2023 of roughly one extra PFD each year, from 1 a year to 7 a year; and we can say this with a level of confidence that is statistically accepted as ‘moderately strong.’ (paragraph 21).

Year	PFDs	T-	B-	G-	S-	C-	E-	H-	I-	L-	N-	P-	D-	O-	A-	F-	M-	J-	R-	U-	Q-	
2016	1	1	1	1		1	1		1				1	1								
2017	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			2	2		2		1	2	1				1	
2018	3	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	2						2							1
2019	6	4	4	6	4	3	4	5	5	4	5	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	2	1		
2020	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1						
2021	7	7	6	6	7	7	4	7	2	5	5	1	3	5	2	1	4		1			
2022	7	6	5	6	5	7	4	5	5	5	4	5	2	3	2	2						
2023	5	3	4	2	5	1	3	1	3	1	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	2	1			
TOTALS	34	29	28	27	27	24	23	23	20	19	19	16	13	13	12	11	9	6	4	2	1	

TABLE 1 (above) GRAPH 1 (below)



What is a PFD ?

Coroners’ Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) reports to NHS mental health services highlight systemic failures that contribute to avoidable patient deaths. These reports, issued under Regulation 28 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, aim to prevent similar incidents by addressing identified risks.

NHS Trusts have a legal duty to respond to PFD reports within 56 days, outlining what action they are taking to prevent future deaths. While coroners cannot enforce compliance, regulators like the CQC and NHS England can intervene if systemic failings persist.

Greater Manchester's rich history of radical mental health campaigns and projects



Images show files and boxes of papers within an archive.

A social history project by campaigners has been gathering the lost stories and lessons from radical mental health projects and campaigns in Greater Manchester, starting with the 1960s onwards. Here is a summary of what has been found so far:

1960s

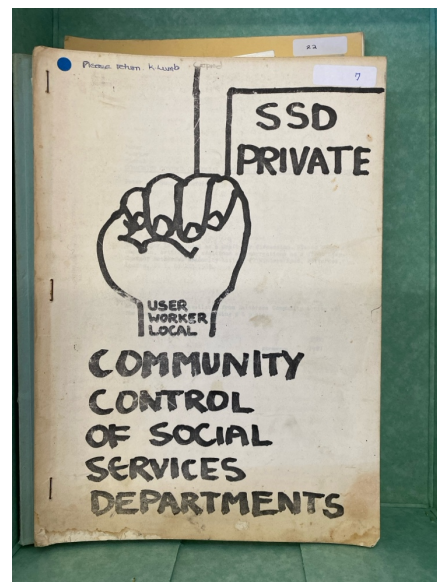
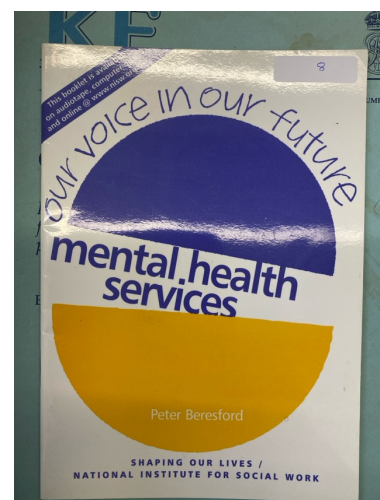
- Stepping Stones Club, Salford
- Psycon - on confronting abuse in psychotherapy

1970s

- Community Action Projects: group homes
- Manchester Mental Patients Union (MPU), "Your Rights in Mental Hospital"
- Mcr Mind: Afro-Caribbean Mental Health Project
- Mcr Mind: Akimbo magazine
- National Federation of Mental Patients Unions, founded in Manchester
- Phobics Society
- PNP - People Not Psychiatry / People Need People
- PROP - Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners
- South Mcr Law Centre
- Taboo, Womens' Rape Crisis, Womens' Aid,
- Tekla Housing Association

1980s

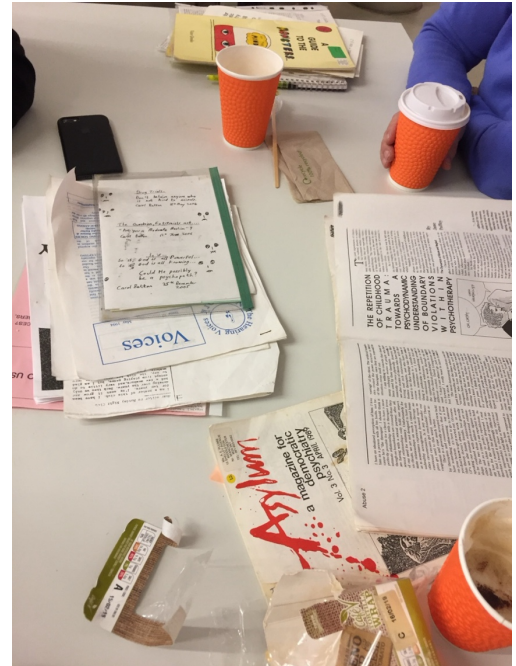
- 42nd Street
- AWAAZ, an Asian mental health advocacy project
- BLISS, Blackley Leisure Integration Support Scheme
- CAPO, the Campaign Against Psychiatric Oppression
- DATA, Distress Awareness Training Agency
- Getting To Know You (project)
- Harp project, Harpurhey Resettlement Project
- Hearing Voices Network, via Mcr Mind and Mcr Alliance for Community Care
- High Elms
- History of Springfield project, North Mcr Mental Hospital
- Jewish Users Support Group
- Judith Gray archive
- Mcr Mind Consortium
- Mcr Mind: Advocacy Project,



- Mcr User Group: Having A Voice, first session held at North Mcr General Hospital
- North Mcr Users Support Group
- North West Regional Mind, "Wrong End of the Telescope"
- Powell Street project
- Psichiatria Democratica (Democratic Psychiatry) - Mcr Mind and from Trieste
- Rochdale Mind becomes user-led
- South Mcr Users Group, SMUG
- Springboard meetings on good practices in mental health services
- St Luke's Arts Project, Ardwick
- Voices of Experience - consumer perspectives of psychiatric treatment

1990s

- Action Consultancy Training, ACT
- Forging Our Futures conference, Manchester Airport
- Mcr Hearing Voices Network
- NEESA project, Cheetham Hill
- North West Right to Refuse Electroshock Campaign
- Nth Mcr Black Health Forum
- Oldham Hearing Voices Network
- Pakistani Resource Centre
- PPR - Psychology Politics Resistance, network and magazine
- Schizophrenia Media Agency, "Freed to Kill - the representation of schizophrenia in the British press"
- The First 24 Hours, pamphlet
- Wai Yin, Chinese women's mental health group



activists gathering to share histories

2000s

- Ann Lee Centre and Community, via HVN
- Arc, Arts for Recovery in the Community, Stockport
- Asylum in the 21st Century, national meeting of PPR, Mcr
- CASL, Campaign for the Abolition of the Schizophrenia Label
- Greater Manchester Survivors History Group, Recording Our Histories
- Hearing Voices group started in Strangeways Prison, Manchester
- History of the Hearing Voices Movement, PhD thesis, MMU
- Survivor Workers' Conference, Mechanics Institute
- World Hearing Voices Day first celebrated in Piccadilly Gardens, Mcr

Ear to the Ground

There is one mental health archive that deserves particular attention, called *Ear to the Ground* and collected by Anne

Plumb from her lifetime of radical activism.

With around 1000 items, many rare or unique, she has published the index as a small book to help other activists and researchers browse her catalogue.

The contents can be viewed by appointment at the Archives+ search room on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library, ref "Acc 2023/14". It helps if you can specify when booking which of the roughly 20 boxes of papers you wish to inspect.

