



ASSIST Sheffield

Annual General Meeting 2025

Thursday 10th July 2025

Time: 4:45pm – 8:05pm

Location: Committee Room, Victoria Hall, Sheffield

Attendees: 60 total individuals present

Welcome (4:45 PM – 5:10 PM)

- The AGM commenced with attendees arriving, enjoying refreshments, and listening to live music from guest Oud player, Farhan. This period allowed for informal networking, connecting, and settling in.

Looking Back (5:10 PM - 6:10 PM)

- Welcome & Opening Remarks: Peter Nduva, ASSIST Trustee, welcomed attendees and grounded the meeting in the spirit of solidarity and community.
- Opening Speech from the ASSIST Director: Anna Rudd delivered a speech titled "Community Power Against the Hostile Environment," acknowledging challenges experienced and overcome by the organisation over the past year, whilst celebrating shared resistance in the face of rising hostility.
- Presentation: 'Solidarity in Motion' - Our Year at ASSIST: Anna Rudd presented a look back at ASSIST's activities and achievements in 2024/25.
- Team Stand-Up: Leah Lapautre, the ASSIST Volunteer Coordinator, led a session celebrating each of the ASSIST teams. This acknowledged all volunteers, trustees, and staff present, showing gratitude with a round of applause.
- 'Resourcing Our Work': Phil Moore, ASSIST Operations Manager, presented a financial update on how ASSIST sustains its work. The 2024/25 ASSIST Sheffield Accounts were available for viewing by attendees.
 - **Resolution: The 2024/25 ASSIST Accounts were voted on and agreed by all Trustees present, with no objections raised.**

Shared Meal & Conversation (6:10 PM – 6:40 PM)

- Dinner was served, providing an opportunity for attendees to eat together and reflect on what they would like to see happen with ASSIST in the coming year.

Community Power in Practice (6:40 PM – 7:00 PM)

- Leah Lapautre and Melinda Momartinez, from the Lift the Ban Coalition and City of Sanctuary Sheffield, facilitated a discussion and activity exploring creative responses to real challenges. This included free bus passes, local campaigning, and healthcare justice, as well as practical ways attendees could create and grow positive change.

Our Words, Our Power (7:00 PM – 7:15 PM)

- ‘Community Power Recipe Poem’: Part 1: Sarah Orola, the ASSIST Client Support Manager at ASSIST, initiated a collaborative poem-building activity by inviting attendees to share words, images, and ingredients from their collective experiences. Participants formed groups at tables and began collaborating on poems, working together to think and express their creative ideas on the theme of Community Power.

Looking Ahead (7:15 PM – 7:45 PM)

- ‘Threats & Opportunities: The Year to Come’: Co-Chairs of ASSIST Sheffield, Pious Nyandro and Paul Harvey, gave a short talk on anticipated challenges and opportunities for the year ahead and how the organisation plans to address them collaboratively.
- ‘Community Power Recipe Poem’: Part 2: Sarah Orola concluded the collaborative poem session, which featured voices from the Client Consultation Group reading the 60-person co-created Community Power themed ASSIST poem.

Closing (7:45 PM – 8:05 PM)

- Samya’s Leaving Speech: Samya, the recent departing ASSIST Casework Coordinator, shared reflections on her journey with ASSIST and expressed her thanks.
- Gratitude & Celebration: Attendees participated in a joyful closing session, sharing what they were thankful for, what they wanted to celebrate, and what they had enjoyed hearing about during the evening.
- Questions & Answers: Several attendees raised comments and questions, all of which were addressed by the relevant staff and trustees.
- Feedback & Farewell: Attendees were encouraged to complete a short feedback form before they departed the venue.
- Acknowledgements: Thanks were extended to everyone who contributed to the event’s and years past success, including the ASSIST Trustees. A special thank you was given to Anna Rudd for leading the organisation over the past year, especially during the challenging times experienced during the riots and the spontaneous decisions made. This acknowledgement included the presentation of flowers.