

Kathryn Burgess RIP

Breathing through tears

It is with a very heavy heart that we let you know that our very dear colleague and friend Kathryn died suddenly on 20 November. We are sure you will share in our shock, grief and sadness.

Kathryn was a Co- founder of Reaching People and a passionate warrior for all that we are trying to achieve. For many years she has been our Vice-Chair. She has always been deeply committed to collaboration and partnership working with her eye always on the results and impact for all Cals and RP clients.

We took time at our AGM on Thursday 26 November to pay our respects and remember Kathryn. Several members have phoned and talked to us about how much Kathryn will be missed. They are heart broken and words are difficult to write to express how much she will be missed. Others have written to express the loss they feel. Some of the tributes and thoughts we received have been collected below.

Sorely missed does not come close to expressing the loss we feel. Our sector has lost a mighty champion.

Gaynor and Jenny

RP Chair and CEO

Condolences, tributes and memories from Reaching People Members

- What a shock finding it hard to believe she looked so well a couple of weeks ago at RP board meeting. Sincere condolences to her family Kathryn was so committed to her work and always up beat and so enthusiastic. Words fail me. Tony Cusack RP Trustee
- Hard to believe, a terrible shock. We will miss her so much. Thank you for letting us know - much appreciated Kindest regards Mandy RP Trustee
- Please can you send my condolences to all her family, such sad news. Regards Tracey RP Trustee
- I cannot think of much to add to my colleague's comments (says he after staring at a screen for quite a while). I know nothing of the circumstances but certainly a shock and very sad, and a big hole of upbeatism and enthusiasm, positivity, humour & goodness to fill! Dave Ahlquist RP Trustee. DA xx
- Oh goodness – my heartfelt sympathies to all of her family, friends and colleagues. She will clearly be greatly missed. Susan Hoath RP Trustee and Vista CEO

- I've just heard the news about Kathryn and wanted to pass on my condolences. If you want to chat or need anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. Big hug, Salim x Salim Khalifa (*pronouns: he/him*) Director – Trade Sexual Health
- I just wanted to reach out to you both and send you my love in response to the awful, sad news about Kathryn. I must admit its taken me a couple of days to process it and still actually can't quite believe it. It's such a devastating loss. I have known Kathryn for over 20 years and feel like I've not only lost a colleague for also a dear friend. I can't imagine how her family and her work colleagues must be feeling right now – if you are able to please pass on my sincere condolences to them. I hope you are both ok and receiving the love and support you need right now. I am planning to come along to tomorrow's AGM and I hope to see you both there. With much love to you both Sara Sara Swire Chief Executive New Dawn New Day Ltd
- This is indeed a shock and terribly sad news. Was she unwell or dare I ask, was it Covid? Our hearts go out to her family. Sujata Sabharwal Resources Director Giving World
- What shock!!! Kathryn was an incredibly motivated stalwart of Reaching People and the sector. Will very much miss her - very sad news for everyone. Kind Regards, Rama Bhalla Projects Director Giving World
- Dear Jenny, I am so saddened by this news. Kathryn left a wonderful legacy. If there is to be a collection in her memory, please let us know. Kind regards, Jane Avery Case
- We are very sorry to hear the sad news about Kathryn and pass on our deepest condolences. Varsha Parmar Executive Officer Equality Action
- I have just read the emails from Shafinaz today and learnt the very sad and shocking news about Kathryn. I was only speaking to her the week before last, and having a good chat and of course a laugh, she didn't mention that she had been unwell. Sending you and all those at RP condolences and warm wishes, Kind regards, Elaine Macmanard. Operations Manager. Home-Start Horizons. Supporting families in Leicester and Leicestershire.
- Many thanks. It's an inspiring read, especially as I comparatively hardly knew Kathryn at the depth that others did. She remains an inspiration. Peace in Advent, Tony Payne Equality Action Board
- I am so sad to hear that Kathryn has died and send my sincere condolences to her family and friends. Kathryn was always kind and supportive to me and she made all interactions so easy and straightforward. I know that I am not unique in saying this because Kathryn made everyone that she worked with feel special. She was a stalwart of the third sector and we have lost a true champion who can never be replaced. She is in my thoughts and I will miss her. Dorothy Francis CASE