

The voluntary and community sector together



Bradford District Assembly

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



BDA Annual Report

2018-19

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Introduction

The Bradford District Assembly (BDA) was established in 2009 and has successfully developed its objective to become an effective and influential voice for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in Bradford district within the local authority, Bradford City and Districts CCGs, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner West Yorkshire and other public sector bodies. CNet is commissioned by the council to co-ordinate and facilitate the Assembly, and to support its members and representatives.

The Assembly is firmly embedded in local structures and partnerships and is recognised as an important means of communication and engagement with the sector. It is open to any not-for-profit VCS organisation in the district via membership of forums, attending events and exchanging information.

This structure enables organisations to work together to shape local policy and services, and increases mutual understanding between the VCS and statutory partners. Representatives are elected or selected to participate in partnership meetings, task groups, and consultations to present a voluntary sector perspective.

The CNet website contains information about how the organisation works, who is involved, reports from meetings and representatives, updates on important policy developments or consultations, and the latest decisions that affect our district's communities. Visit <https://www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/about-the-assembly>

How the Assembly works

The Assembly comprises of five key forums, all of which have open membership for people involved in voluntary/community groups and organisations. Collectively there are over a thousand members participating in the Assembly. The five key forums are:

- Health and Wellbeing Forum
- Community Economic Forum
- Young Lives Bradford
- Equalities Forum
- Safer Communities Forum

Members become involved at whatever level suits their requirements and capacity. Below are some examples:

- Giving, receiving and sharing information
- Attending meetings and events
- Participating in the one or more of the forum strategic core groups
- Chairing a forum and becoming a member of the Assembly Steering Group
- Becoming a representative for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
- Participating in themed task and finish groups

The forums meet regularly and are independent but work under the Assembly umbrella and structure. They provide a vital means of accountability for the Assembly and enable more co-ordinated responses to situations and consultations. Forums work with public sector colleagues to represent the needs of communities and the VCS, tackle inequalities and find solutions to the growing challenges facing the development and delivery of local services.

The Assembly Steering Group (ASG) has representatives from each of the forums plus other VCS partners. Its role is to filter views, issues and information from the forums through to decision making negotiations. See the CNet website for more information about ASG members.

ASG members meet representatives from the council on a regular basis, at meetings called the Relationship Management Group (RMG) which is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, Cllr Abdul Jabar.

The RMG provides an opportunity for honest and open debate and problem solving, using information from the forums and elsewhere. The RMG has been meeting since January 2011 and has played a key role in influencing and informing strategic decisions.

For further information and details of how to get involved, contact the Assembly Co-ordinator, Janet Ford janet@cnet.org.uk 01274 305045 or visit the website www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/

Also on the CNet website:

- A directory of assembly representatives and officers
- Minutes of meetings
- Dates of meetings and events
- Reports from representatives
- Links to other websites and information

Janet Ford - Bradford District Assembly Co-ordinator

Activities & Achievements

Bradford District Assembly Steering Group (ASG)

Chairs: Sam Keighley (to Sept 2018), Kim Shutler (from Oct 2018)

Vice-chair: Helen Speight (to Aug 2018), Nasim Qureshi (from Sept 2018)

I stood to be Assembly Chair in October 2018 of last year because I care passionately about the role that the VCS has to play in helping to address health inequalities – particularly when we know that our communities continue to face incredibly difficult struggles and that this is not going to improve any time soon. I don't think any of us are seeing the end of austerity.

I have been doing Representative roles linked to the Assembly – mainly focusing around urgent care and mental health for the past few years and have seen what a difference we can make by influencing at that

level. It is a challenging time to work in the VCS but out of these tough times, there can be opportunities for us as a sector to play a bigger role and make even more of an impact for the people we serve.

One of the ways we can do that is by being at the table, being influential and negotiating effectively but also being proactive in shouting about the brilliant things that everyone is doing. A big challenge is how we provide more collective support – again, particularly thinking about our diverse but often tiny organisations. I believe that we need to do more to invest in upskilling and supporting our Reps so that the voice can be wider and louder, and that we need to support others to take on these roles.

Since being in post, a major priority has been around how we can work more effectively across our VCS support structures. Each, whether it is the VCS Assembly, the VCS Alliance or another aspect, is delivering strong work but I absolutely believe that by working together more closely we can be stronger, more efficient and more effective in how we support our sector, and ultimately the people of Bradford. As I write this we are in the middle of an independent review which will be looking at what is needed to support the sector to deliver to the best of its ability, and how that this support can be better joined up. I feel hopeful that this will help to move us forward.

Building the capacity of and growing our future sector leaders is also key. My plea is to those existing and aspiring leaders to be part of this movement for change, and to come with us on a journey with the creative solutions to problems, which I believe is our forte in our sector. I have stepped up to be Chair, and we have brilliant Assembly Forum Chairs in place but this must be about collective leadership and we need more people to help us to drive our sector forward. To support this, I worked with the previous Chair to initiate a cross sector mentoring programme which will launch later this year, and I am now working with other colleagues on a cross sector leadership induction programme. We have also now agreed with our major public sector leaders to release their staff time to get involved with VCS Boards, which I hope will help some of the smaller organisations who often struggle to recruit.

I look forward to working more with you all in the coming year and if you want to get involved or have ideas about how we can make things better, please do get in touch.

Kim Shutler – Bradford District Assembly Chair

Assembly Steering Group Members



Kim Shutler



Nasim Qureshi



Javed Khan



Soo Nevison



Penny Wangari-Jones



Peter Horner



Vicki Beere



Helen Speight



Yasmin Khan



Tony Dylak



Jon Royle



Helen Davey



Ranjit Arora



Dave Forrest



Sam Keighley
BDA Chair to Sept 18
& HWB Co-Chair to Jul 18

Assembly Forums

Health and Wellbeing Forum

Co-Chairs: Helen Speight, Sam Keighley (to July 2018) and Helen Davey (from August 2018)

The Health and Wellbeing Forum members have faced another challenging year. The Forum is a testament to the commitment of our members who attend, provide representation on key boards and partnerships and keep wider members up to date in relation to current agenda across the health and wellbeing landscape.

This year opened with structural changes within Bradford Council as the Health and Wellbeing Board became the strategic lead partnership for the district. This year has also seen increasing pressure on local vulnerable communities with the introduction of Universal Credit and the fears of increased levels of poverty affecting physical health and mental wellbeing.

This year Public Health began working with staff from the CCG self-care team on a whole system approach to reducing levels of obesity. They worked with Leeds Beckett University and many members of the forum at a series of workshops to better understand the causes of obesity and potential solutions. Living Well, as it is now called, will roll out in the months to come.

2018 was also the year when the CCG launched the new Community Partnerships. Bradford VCS Alliance kept the Forum informed of this new initiative and worked with Forum members and others to establish Community Anchors across the ten Community Partnerships to ensure effective representation on these GP lead multi-agency teams. The Community Partnerships will be integral to a new way of working, as what was 'Accountable Care' morphs into Integrated Health and Care.

The Forum continued to invite speakers to Forum meetings to ensure that whatever size organisation members represent all are kept informed of 'what is going on'. BVCS Alliance continued to attend every Forum to provide updates around current initiatives being funded and new opportunities to apply for funding. This year the Forum also heard from Sport England's new initiative in Bradford and from Collette Connolly providing updates on Self-Care and new apps to support the community to stay healthy. John Wright from Born in Bradford gave an impassioned talk about childhood obesity that both inspired and resonated with many members.

This year saw Sam Keighley move onto a new post in Sport England. This was a really sad loss to the Health and Wellbeing Forum and to the wider sector as she also stood down as Chair of the ASG. We just want to take this opportunity to thank Sam formally for her commitment to the sector and to promoting

partnership work and her unstinting work to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the people of Bradford.

Our new Co-Chair Helen Davey has brought new ideas and challenge to the Forum. With Helen's encouragement the October forum was turned over to plan for the year ahead so that there was clarity in relation to the purpose of our meetings.

The plan for the coming year will see the Forum focus on key areas outlined below:

Jan 2019 – Deep dive into self-care and prevention including the Living Well initiative

April 2019 – Deep dive into Community Partnerships and improving links with BVCSA

July 2019 – Deep dive into the Care Trust, update on Better Start Bradford and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

October 2019 – Horizon scanning

Our thanks go to all the representatives and the members who attend and participate, question and challenge. In the light of the year ahead with further reductions in funding, potential closures of organisations and the reshaping of infra-structure support it is essential our members keep attending, working together to improve the health outcomes of the people of Bradford District.

Community Economic Forum

Co-Chairs: Tony Dylak and Nasim Qureshi

The Community Economic Forum (CEF) ran a programme of meetings for Forum members over the year which brought in key speakers such as the Chair of the Economic Partnership, David Baldwin, and key staff from the Council responsible for economic development and alleviation of poverty within the district. Members considered how to reach more VCS organisations and in 2018/19 CEF introduced themed sessions, action learning workshops and explored the possibility for evening events which are less formal.

Members continued to be engaged with the new Economic Strategy, which for the first time includes inclusive growth and sustainable economic regeneration, as well as recognition of the role the VCS can and does play in tackling poverty and worklessness in the District. The Forum was instrumental in promoting the community anchor model which is now seen as a key opportunity for both the Council and the CCGs, and was involved in the reviews of both procurement and social value within the Council. Anchor members are part of the Keep it Local programme, which aims to create more local contracting and commissioning with the VCS, and a second phase is now well established.

Members continue to engage with other initiatives in the District such as the regeneration of Oastler and Kirkgate Shopping Centres and the old Odeon building, which are seen as conduits to create jobs and bring economic improvements.

Members were engaged in discussions with Bradford Council to review their procurement and commissioning processes so that more local/ smaller organisations are able to apply for commissions. As a result, 'Social Value' has become part of the assessment process and discussions continue to improve the process.

Young Lives Bradford

Rolling Chair

This year the work has been dominated by two key programmes of change:

- Significant changes to how prevention and early help is delivered in the district.
- The Council's improvement journey as a result of the Ofsted inspection.

Our role has been to inform the sector about the changes, provide routes to being involved and to influence them and to provide support and challenge to the change processes.

Prevention and Early Help

There has been a major change to how prevention and early help are delivered in the district and Young Lives has responded to this by:

- Encouraging voluntary sector involvement in the emerging structure, in particular the local network meetings and encouraging links to the VCS to be made.
- Ensuring the workforce passport would be available to VCS organisations to use, if appropriate.
- Promoting the opportunity to be involved in the 0-19 public health contract.
- Providing information on the changes and an opportunity to find out more from the officers leading the change, so that the sector understood the changes.
- Ensuring the voice of the voluntary sector fed into the developments and that appropriate support and challenge is provided.
- Publicising the consultation relating to future use of buildings and emphasising the potential to use community venues, but also ensuring that potentially affected VCS organisations were notified in advance of the consultation.

Improvement journey

As a result of the Ofsted ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) Bradford's children's services are now undergoing an improvement journey. Coupled to this there have been significant changes in key personnel. We have already:

- Ensured there is VCS voice at the Improvement Board and that there are routes to and from the Board via our safeguarding steering group.
- Contributed to consultations and discussions on changes to the consent policy and referral pathways.

As the improvement journey develops we will continue to:

- Keep the sector updated on changes
- Respond to other consultation processes
- Service the emerging improvement board sub groups where practical
- Contribute to ongoing preparations for follow up inspections with appropriate support and challenge.

Safeguarding

We have ensured there is a strong voice in all relevant parts of Bradford Safeguarding Children Board's structures and have acted as a conduit for voice, information and expertise between the sector and the board. We have particularly:

- Supported development of the new Section 11 tool
- Supported and promoted Safeguarding Week
- Run an event to support organisations with assessing their organisation's safeguarding practice
- Promoted local safeguarding training and resources
- Promoted safeguarding policies and procedures
- Contributed to discussions on the future structure of the board

Other activity

We have undertaken a wide range of other activity including:

- Budget: We raised concerns about the impact of budget proposals on the most vulnerable young people, proposed cuts to youth services and proposals to take services in house.
- SEND: We promoted the consultation on the draft SEND strategy and ensured there is VCS voice into the emerging task and finish groups that will support development of services and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Local Delivery pilot: Promoted the Sport England local delivery pilot and encouraged involvement of local VCS in development of the plans.
- Trusted relationships bid: We supported discussions that led to a successful partnership bid for the district and delivery by VCS partners.
- Education covenant: We have promoted opportunities for VCS to be involved in the covenant and its prospectus whilst putting the case for a broader more collaborative approach to supporting improvement in children's attainment.

Peter Horner - Strategy Development Officer

Equalities Forum

Co-Chairs: Penny Wangari-Jones, Ranjit Arora (from May 2018) and Mark Nicholson (from March 2019)

The Equalities forum began the year by voting in a new co-chair after Neal Heard stepped down from the post. Ranjit Arora, a seasoned equality and diversity champion, was elected.

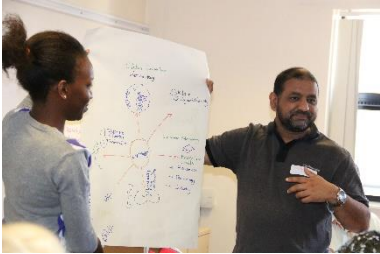
The Forum focused on a range of issues affecting communities in Bradford and District and held a number of events during the year.

An Anti-Poverty and Universal Credit event took place in May 2018 at Equality Together, Manningham Mills Community Centre. The event proved to be very popular and attracted over 60 organisations and individuals. The first half of the morning focused on the roll out of the new Universal Credit and the impact on communities and attendees also heard lived experiences of poverty from four different guest speakers.



The second half of the event focused on the draft Anti-Poverty strategy presented by Martin Stubbs and Helen Johnston from Bradford Council. Attendees had the opportunity to feed their views into the draft Anti-Poverty strategy in the different workshops.

In July 2018 the Equality Forum took on the issue of the lack of BAME participation within the Assembly. An event took place which aimed to identify actions to increase the number and range of voices from BAME communities on the Bradford District Assembly and its Forums to enable it to become an even greater influence for positive change in Bradford District.



The 'Your City Your Voice' event took at Carlisle Business Centre and was facilitated by Elaine Appelbee using an appreciative enquiry model. It was a very well attended event with over 40 attendees present. The full report of the event including outcomes and recommendations can be found at www.cnet.org.uk.

A Brexit Roundtable event was held in partnership with the Brexit Civil Society Alliance to highlight the potential impact of Brexit on the third sector in Bradford and to tackle the worries and concerns people had in terms of the impact on their particular organisations. The event was held in December 2018 at CNet and had approximately 20 attendees. To see a summary report of the event go to <https://www.cnet.org.uk/node/81>.

In March this year, members reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference for the forum, they can be viewed on the CNet website. There are a number of representatives attending a range of strategic meetings including BMDC's Equalities and Community Relations Strategic Group, Anti-Poverty Co-ordination Group and the CCG's Communications, Engagement and Equalities Reference group. Members also played a key role in organising and contributing to consultations around Bradford Council's budget proposals.

The work of this forum is supported by COEMO, Equality Together and the Equity Partnership.

Bradford and District Safer Communities Forum

Co-Chair: Yasmin Khan and Jon Royle (from December 2018)

Continuing on from last year's decision to prioritise four key areas of work a series of activities were held to address several of these identified priorities. The four priorities are:

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse, to include CSE and Prostitution.
- Safer Neighbourhoods, to include drugs, alcohol, and substance misuse, traffic accidents, anti-social behaviour and hate crime.
- Criminal Justice system, to include offender management and community rehabilitation.
- Stronger Cohesive Communities, to include preventative initiatives with communities and community cohesion projects.

August: A Yorkshire Day Celebration and Networking meeting – this included a Presentation of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s Safer Communities Fund and an update on the work being done by the Community Safety Partnership. This was then followed by a networking lunch consisting of Yorkshire fayre.



November: Working Together for a Better West Yorkshire Part 3 – this event focused on The Criminal Justice System and included presentations on the Reducing Reoffending Strategy by Ivelina Metchkarova–Taylor of Clinks, the Chaplaincy services provided at Bradford Magistrates court and the work of volunteers of the Restorative Justice Volunteers. This was then followed by a roundtable discussion on what other services are being provided by third sector groups in this area of work and where there are gaps.

December: Journeys to Bradford – this was a network event to celebrate International Migrants Day. Four individuals from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds shared with the 35 attendees their story as to how and why they came to settle in Bradford. The others also got to share their stories in roundtable discussions. There was also a slide show with a narrative on chronicling the history of how communities from across the UK and the world have come to settle in Bradford.



February: Working Together for a Better West Yorkshire Part 4 – the theme was Community Safety and there were presentations from The Bradford Hate Crime Alliance, Bradford Council’s People Can Campaign, Neighbourhood Watches and West Yorkshire Police’s Independent Advisory Group. As in previous events there were roundtable discussions to identify what other examples of good practice are taking place and to identify where there are gaps.

Annual Assembly Conference

The annual conference took place on Tuesday 19 March at Bradford City Football Ground. The title of this year’s conference was “Shaping the Future”, a joint event bringing together the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local authority, Bradford District Care Trust and NHS colleagues to plan for the future.



Over 200 delegates from a diverse range of groups, sectors and organisations came together to share information and discuss key issues.

The event featured an information marketplace, with a number of VCS organisations and Community Partnership representatives displaying information about the work they carry out.

Keynote speakers delivered the following presentations:

- Shaping the Future – VCS and Council Collaboration – Steve Hartley, Strategic Director of Place, Bradford Council

- Bradford VCS Alliance and Community Partnerships – Helen Speight, Chair, Bradford VCS Alliance / Co-Chair BDA Health & Wellbeing Forum, and Louise Keighley, Senior Commissioning Manager, Bradford CCGs
- Working with the VCS to give children the best start in life – Gladys Rhodes White, Interim Strategic Director for Children’s Services, Bradford Council
- Better Lives Together – working to deliver great care in our communities – Brent Kilmurray, Chief Executive, BDCT
- Keep it Local, a national movement working in-depth to develop more local commissioning – Sophie Michelena, Locality and Caroline Howe, Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Working Together as a System – Helen Hirst Chief Executive, Bradford City, District and Airedale Wharfedale Craven CCGs



Delegates participated in themed workshops, “Reshaping the VCS Compact”, “Reshaping local procurement and commissioning: ‘Keep it Local’” and “Review of support for the VCS”. Outcomes and actions from the workshops and the full report can be found on the CNet website.

Acknowledgements

CNet and the Assembly Steering group wish to thank the following officers who have stood down this year:

- **Sam Keighley – BDA Chair to September 2018 and HWB Co-Chair to July 2018**
- **Helen Speight – BDA Vice-Chair to August 2018**

Also, the Assembly members and supporters.

And last but not least, our funders:

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

This report is available to download at <https://www.cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/about-the-assembly>

Alternative formats available on request. Contact saima@cnet.org.uk

Contact information

CNet (Bradford & District Community Empowerment Network Ltd.)

Enterprise Hub

114 -116 Manningham Lane

Bradford

BD8 7JF

Tel: 01274 305045

Email: janet@cnet.org.uk

Website: www.cnet.org.uk

Bradford District Assembly Staff Team



Janet Ford
Assembly Co-ordinator



Javed Khan
CEO



Saima Ashfaq
Information & Admin Officer



Wendy Collins
Admin Officer



Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire



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