

Bradford District Assembly Conference 2019: Shaping the Future

Tuesday 19 March 2019



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 will be shared in the near future.



Conference Feedback

Too much being talked at

Stop using acronyms

Felt like an information overload at times

The content of the workshops was not very good

The facilitator was not engaging and did not allow us to speak, even when people had valid points

Exceeded expectations

Great networking opportunity

It would have been nice to have the opportunity to ask the speakers questions

At the end there were no closing remarks

Top down approach

Range of interesting speakers, but few voices were heard on the stage from the voluntary and community sector representatives. Co-productions model entails all sides having a voice and sharing their visions for the future. Attendance demonstrates the willingness to be part of 'Shaping the Future'; would have been good to see more involvement and discussion from the field

The morning presentations were a bit wishy-washy

More of this needed

Quite a 'management/corporate' approach

Did not notice any speakers who were actually volunteers

Some acronyms were unexplained, in fact most of them

Too much waffle in the presentations – overran – less time for the discussion groups

VCS speakers self-interested; good public service speakers

Same faces – spewing the same old. Same talks we have heard before – very little change taking place. Repeating the same issues again and again

Within discussions would be helpful to understand that some people have much more experience than others with VCS and how currently working in the community

Good speakers

More discussion and Q&A required

Cover other areas as well as health

The commitment is clearly there and we need to start translating that into 'doing'

Looking forward to continuing this journey with our partners

Need more action / real examples of how partnership working has happened, i.e. recipes for success

Wide ranging content, but how this will focus in on day to day issues

Comments about conference logistics

Well put together conference.

Bit too long

Too many speakers – they were good

Hopefully, copies of the presentations, as, even sat at the front, one presenter had tiny writing on her slides

Timekeeping very poor

Death by PowerPoint

Would be better to hold workshops in different rooms / areas, as acoustics-wise was difficult to hear / be heard

Well looked after by the staff

I found the discussion groups difficult as the noise of nearby groups made it very hard to hear what other people were saying. I'd recommend better individual spaces for the discussion groups so that other noise didn't impact.

Well organised

Good marketplace

Bit too long

Maybe more time to network

2 workshops in hall – competed for volume

Bad workshop plan – poorly managed

Comments about the venue

Coffee / tea facilities messy, difficult to access and not available on time

Staff members in the venue very loud when trying to listen to conference as they cleared away lunch dishes

It was very cold!

Hall freezing, not enough coffee at reception

Coffee / tea collection area (1 sided!), twice as quick if 2 sided / accessible table, or split tea from coffee

It was very cold, due to the air conditioning. Heaters were brought out later on, but it was uncomfortable

Could have done with more water on the tables

A good lunch

Cold room – hard to concentrate

	Good / Yes		Satisfactory / Partially		Poor / No		Total responses
Please rate the conference overall	29	83%	4	11%	2	6%	35
Did you find the presentations interesting and informative?	20	56%	14	39%	2	5%	36
How would you rate the marketplace?	27	75%	9	25%		0%	36
Did you find the workshops useful and interesting?	22	61%	12	33%	2	6%	36
Did you have an opportunity to contribute to the discussions?	25	69%	10	28%	1	3%	36

	Good / Yes		Satisfactory / Partially		Poor / No		Total responses
Did the conference meet your expectations?	19	54%	14	40%	2	6%	35

Summarise the day in one word	
Informative	5
Interesting	4
Excellent	2
Engaging	2
Inspiring	2
Good effort	1
Overpowering	1
Worthwhile	1
Okay	1
Chilling	1
Uninspiring	1
Disappointing	1
Food for thought	1
Energising	1
Broad	1
Positive	1
Hopeful	1
Optimistic	1

Workshop Facilitator Briefs

The Compact

The Compact hasn't been reviewed at a national level for a number of years now. It was scheduled for 2017 but has been delayed by Brexit policy work. However, there remains a desire nationally to keep the Compact from senior civil servants and ministers. They hope to plan in a review once the Brexit timeline is agreed. This will include reviewing the wording and the categories of the Compact so this workshop will focus on for discussing the Compact in Bradford & District and how we would like to see it implemented in the future, rather than the specific content.

1. Brief table introductions
2. Nominate a note-taker to record key points only
3. Participants take 10 minutes to familiarise themselves with the Compact document
4. Discussion: Do you think the partnership of the Compact is wide enough?

Given how we are now working in partnership with other partners that aren't signatories, do you think these should be included in the future? Specifically, we mean GP practices, the private sector, fire service. Whilst the NHS are signed up by the CCGs do we need to now work with acute trusts and community providers more explicitly?

What benefits of including these new partners in the Compact can you see?

Are there any issues of involving the new partners that you are worried about?

Do you think we need to add any 'Bradford specific' parts to the Compact (this has been done in other parts of the country)?

If did, what would they be?

5. Support with the Compact

Who do you think should sign any refreshed Compact on behalf of the VCS in Bradford & District?

Does your organisation need training to understand the Compact and how to use it effectively?

Are you willing to participate in a review of the content of the Compact once the national review has been completed? How do you want to do this – survey? Focus groups? Via Forum structure.

6. Any questions?

Voluntary Sector Support Needs

Opening words for the group (one person to do this for all tables if possible)

The council have recently appointed a consultant to undertake a review of the range of support services that are funded by both Bradford Council and the CCGs in order to ensure that moving forward the very best support package is offered to VCS organisations in the district.

As part of the preparatory work for the consultant we have been running an online survey to see what needs are out there within the district's VCS organisations. The survey is still open until Friday if you want to do a personal response.

The purpose of this workshop is to understand how people have responded to the survey so far and discuss views on what support your organisation requires moving forward. This is an information gathering exercise rather than a workshop to come to any conclusions. All comments will be recorded and shared anonymously with the consultant to support the responses given online.

You will also be asked at the end of the workshop to sign up if you want to be part of the sessions the consultant will be holding in the near future.

Step 1

Ask if people have interests in particular topic areas for the following:

1. Support for your group or organisation (covering starting up a group, running a group, funding and commissioning/contracting)
2. People: volunteering, staff employment
3. Voice and Influence: Forums and leadership
4. Anything else: ideas for support that we might not have thought of

and if so to move into clusters with those who have the same interests. If people want to discuss two topics, then set it up so they can change after a period of time. If no particular interest is shown, leave them as mixed tables

Identify the table facilitator for each table; they have the survey results in their facilitator packs.

Table facilitators

This workshop is NOT an arena to disparage current delivery. It needs to be forward facing and for people to engage with what they would like moving forward and not provide their opinions about current delivery. If you are asked when this opportunity will be afforded, then take their details and pass it onto the consultant who will contact them.

If people sat round the table do not understand what services are currently commissioned then you are able to talk briefly about the main council contract covering the Assembly (Forums etc.), Young Lives Bradford, VOSOs, training, WYCAS support, Volunteering (Bradford and Keighley) and that the Bradford VCS Alliance is also set up to support the sector to deliver CCG outcomes.

Hand out the survey results (five sets so they can work in pairs) and keep one set for yourself. Your job is to take the people through each question that they have indicated an interest in and ask them how they feel about the current responses in terms of the graphs – do they agree/not agree. Ask them why for every response. Go through the written comments and ask views on these and for further views. All answers need to be recorded – please do this on A4 paper as all comments will be handed directly to the consultant for them to make sense of; remember we are not coming to conclusions in the workshop.

If the group are rotating tables keep an eye on the clock and give the group a 5-minute warning.

Rotate and repeat again. For each new set of people, take a new set of notes and mark them so you know they are separate responses.

At the end of the workshop ask those on your table if they want to be involved in any future work on this with the consultant. If yes, then ask them to provide their details on the sheet supplied with this. Also let the people know that there are a couple of laptops and an iPad available to allow them to do the full survey online whilst at the event. Signpost them to Paul Stephens or Soo Nevison if it is not clear where the laptops are situated.

Each facilitator should find the following attached to this brief:

- 10 sheets of lined A4 paper
- A sheet to take group details if they want to continue to be engaged (use the same sheet for morning and afternoon sessions)
- Survey results for all questions by question; SIX sets one for you as the facilitator and five for the table which mean sharing in pairs. You need to collect these in at the end of the workshop and ask people not to write on them directly.

At the end of the session

- Make sure that everyone who wants to sign up for further involvement has done so
- Signpost to the laptops
- Collect the survey sheets in (either to use again or to return to Janet)

Workshop Feedback

The Compact

Facilitator: Janet Ford

Who should be in?	Principles	Who should not be included?
Patient Network	Advocacy and representation	Overarching orgs, but ways of feeding in
District Care Trust	Equality and Diversity	
Teaching Hospitals	Governance	
Airedale	CQC	
Bradford & Acute Providers	Ofsted	
GP Partnerships	Accreditation standard for VCS	
Care Alliance (All GP Surgeries)	Kitemark	
AWC Alliance, AWC Patient Network	CQC for voluntary sector	
Change to AWC and Bradford	Assurance - Matrix - outcome / kitemark or equivalent	
I C System	Service users on board	
Interfaith - Youth/multipath	On recruitment / general decision making	
Faith Voice - Bishops office, C of E	Mutual commitment to safeguarding	
Education - community school / linking schools	Model policies - set of principles - groups to sign up	
VCS Alliance	Support to small groups to conform: policies for example	
	North Yorkshire & Craven	
	Strategic Partnership Agreement, Health & Care BD & Craven	
	Public Sector	
	- awareness that VCS work differently	
	- Faith sector	
	- flexibility	
	- e:mails	
	- volunteers / shift working, VCS	
	- volunteers / recognising unpaid	
	Service users - difficulties, autism, tiny steps	
	minority groups - understanding	
	Direction to Travel	
	- All one system, compact to align - be mindful	
	Community Housing Provider	
	Security - Police West & North Yorkshire Police	
	Ambulance Trust	
	Fire Service	
	Partnership working	

Who should be in?	Principles	Who should not be included?
	Reduce silo working / causes duplication	
	Clearly defined structures - all partners	
Clear accountability:		
- dispute resolution (3) - needs work		
- joint leadership - take responsibility		
- 3 months decommission		
Longer contracts ideal 3 years / 12 months contract is wasting money		
We all own this		
Use universities to develop research & methodology		

Facilitator: Soo Nevison

Action: Implemented / monitored
With NOT at / supportive
Engage VCS / Public sector
- Wider than CCG
- LA / Youth
Better first
Meaningful
We need a review now (regardless of Central Government)
Review is bottom up
Accountability
Membership needs to be wider
Small business
VCS - ? Signs
Police & Fire
LA
3 x CCG's
3 x FT
GP's
Education
Housing
Job Centre +

Facilitator: Kathryn Jones

GP's - Businesses
- Paramedics
- Sheltered Housing
- Care Homes

Bradford Care Alliance
- potential rep partnership
Patients represented
- public patient panels
- shaping services
- People's Board
Not just strategic reps
Ensure review includes 'people'
- bottom up
- Yorkshire cancer patients forum
Fire & Rescue Service
Universities / FE
More than rhetoric - needs £ behind it
Locality provision reflected
Review
- use existing structures
- ensure public engagement
Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Bradford Hospitals Trust
Ensure voices are heard by rep groups
Pitfalls
- inclusion, time, resources, communications
- must be given a purpose
- consistently needed - messages, consortiums small and local
Procurement / local
Strong Principles to judge each other against
- Keep it simple - esp. if lots people signing
- Flexibility to change
Mechanism for sticking to Compact
- L monitoring (outcomes)
- L social audit
- Mirror "system change"
- sanctions - HWB Board and more VCS / Local reps
Agreeing outcomes in first instance
Mutual understanding & trust - single brand
- NHS Plan influence
Outcomes take time to achieve - can take years