

Reflections on the past 18 months

Soo Nevison – CEO Community Action and District
Kim Shutler – Chair VCS Assembly



What were they up to in those meetings?

- Navigating the national picture/decisions
- Local emergency planning and 'Command structures' – influence
- Leadership and influence
- Putting organisations and sectors aside for the people we all serve
- Managing situations of life or death in constantly changing circumstances
- Establishing new infrastructure eg. volunteering, food banks and befriending
- Bringing together people who don't normally come together....
- Cutting through the red tape
- Championing seldom heard voices
- Being the glue....

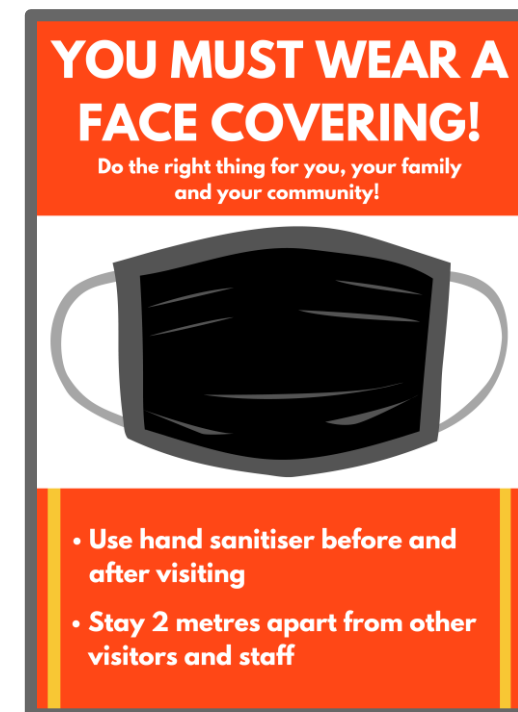


Communications

- Leading the work to establish a whole new infrastructure for creative communications
- Over £1.5 million was distributed through anchor organisations and small grants

Locality based as well as targeted around BAME and disabilities.

- REN Covid helpline and videos
- Community insight reports eg via Engaging People & range of VCS orgs
- Close working on comms with Faith organisations via Council for Mosques and Well Springs
- BTM work around plain English, British Sign Language and translation of key messages
- Daily Briefing email

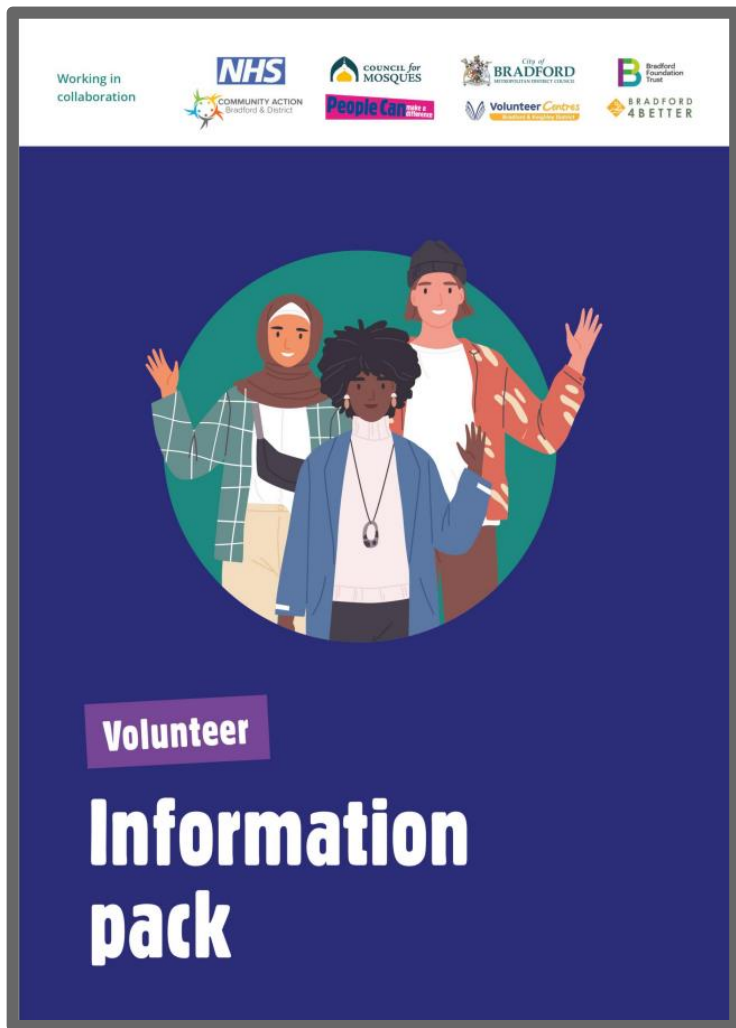


Supporting our sector

- VCS Resilience Survey
- Working with external funders – Give Bradford, Lloyds, Power to Change etc
- Inward Investment Programme
- Payment upfront of CCG and BMDC contracts and ‘rolled over contracts’
- #NeverMoreNeeded – national lobbying
- Influence within programmes to shift funding into the VCS eg. work of the Mental Health Provider Forum



A few examples



A few examples...

Coronavirus: **real** people, **real** experiences



Zahra was young, fit and healthy. She thought she would be okay, she wasn't.

Weeks on from getting Coronavirus, she still struggles to catch her breath.

Don't think it can't happen to you, because as Zahra knows, it can.

Protect yourself, your family and your community

HANDS **FACE** **SPACE**




COMMUNITY ACTION
Bradford & District
Making a Positive Change

City of BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NO CHILD COLD

21,000 CHILDREN IN BRADFORD DISTRICT ARE AFFECTED BY FUEL POVERTY.

Local businesses and individuals can donate to make sure no child is cold this winter.



COVID

Advice and support in our District

We're #StillHereToHelp



COMMUNITY ACTION
Bradford & District

City of BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NHS



What have we learnt?

- Speedy operations and decision making does not lend itself to consultation ☹️
- It is impossible to represent our whole sector but we can champion and fight for it!
- There is great strength in working across our usual boundaries
- We have shown the agility and creativity of our sector at it's best
- We all form a valuable part of the jigsaw – strength in diversity
- Challenges of trust

BUT...

- We need to retain the learning
- Partnership working is never easy... especially when people feel under threat
- We need to harness the power of our data and insight to influence better
- Sustainable funding is a huge challenge
- Act as One offers new opportunities that we must grasp!

