

## **'Disabled will be badly hit by cuts'**

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### **Forum is planning a rally to highlight how disabled people and families will lose out**

By [Kathie Griffiths](#)

People with disabilities, their families and friends are being encouraged to join a mass rally in Bradford city centre against Government cuts.

Bradford & District Disabled People's Forum is organising the protest as part of the Hardest Hit campaign.

Their supporters will be taking to the city to protest at reductions to disability benefits and services that they fear will leave disabled people without vital support. Similar protests will be held in other towns and cities across the UK on Saturday, October 22.

Emmerson Walgrove, deputy chairman of BDPF, said he wanted the people of Bradford to send a clear message to the Government to halt making cuts to essential services to disabled people.

And he urged it to ensure changes to Disability Living Allowance do not make disabled people worse off.

The BDPF as part of a campaign is also demanding the Government makes sure that the Employment and Support Allowance system works by improving the assessment process.

"They must make sure disabled people who are unable to work get the support they need as long as they need it and make sure the welfare system supports people with the additional costs of living with disability," said Mr Walgrove.

One Bradford woman, who did not want to be named, said she would be joining the rally in Bradford. She was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2007. She is

worried that if her Disability Living Allowance is cut she will not be able to keep her own home.

She said: "I rely on Disability Living Allowance; if my DLA is cut then I won't be able to hold onto my home. Some of my DLA goes towards paying the shortfall in my rent and if I can't pay them my home will be at risk."

Experts say disabled people and their families will be £9 billion worse off and are the hardest hit by the Government cuts. The rally will start at 11am on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Bridge Street and Tyrrel Street by City Hall.

Anyone unable to go to the event can protest by going online at:  
<http://thehardesthit.wordpress.com/protest-online/>

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