

**Notes of the meeting of the Forum held on Thursday,  
16 June, 2011 at the Carlisle Business Centre, BRADFORD**

**Present:** Cath Stevenson (Chair) Terry Dobson  
Paul Anderson Rita Exley  
Stephen Bailey Abdul Khaaliz  
Lee Bottomley Michael Hiles  
John Boyle Nusrat Naheed  
John Cooper Linda Owers  
Susan Crowe Tayeeb Rashid  
Paul Deary Emmerson Walgrove

**In attendance:** Kath Beer - Bradford Alliance on Community Care  
Karen Seabrook BSL Interpreter  
Craig Brown BSL Interpreter

**Apologies:** Kevin Baldwin, Gill Bowskill, Alice Brown, John Brown, Phil Cutler,  
Janet Cuff, Linda Hanson, Anne Kay, Geoff Watson

**1. Welcome and introductions:** Cath Stevenson welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

**2. Notes of the Meeting of the Forum held on 28 April, 2011:**  
Emmerson read out the notes of the meeting held on 28 April, 2011 which had been circulated previously. These were agreed as a correct record.

**3. Matters arising from the notes:**

**a) Disabled People Taking Control of the Agenda Event January, 2011 follow-up:** Members of the steering group had sent a joint letter to the commissioners at Bradford Council and Bradford and Airedale NHS expressing serious concerns about substantial reductions in budgets

within existing contracts for a number of local organisations working with disabled people. Sue Crowe read out a response from Ali Jan Haider, Deputy Director of Partnership Sectors, Bradford and Airedale NHS. Contact and BACC had not received a copy of the letter yet. In the letter he set out their case for the reductions and said the task group which meets to review the quarterly submissions of all PDSN contracts had contributed to the decision making process. He said the decisions were implemented "in a way which minimised any direct adverse impact on the lives of disabled people".

Members were dismayed about the news and gave their support to the steering group members pursuing the discussions. They felt there seemed to be a disproportionate reduction in services supporting disabled people. Sue and Paul said they would liaise with other members of the steering group on future action.

It was reported also that BACC had received a letter indicating that funding for the Forum has been reduced from 1 October, 2011 and would cease from 1 April, 2011. BACC were due to discuss this at a meeting with commissioners. (This was retracted, subsequently.)

**b) Car parks emergency telephone provision and hearing impaired people** - Kath Beer had followed-up the query and evidence from Susie Farrar with Paul Radcliffe at the Council and was awaiting a response. Kath was asked to contact him again.

**4. Changes to delivery of healthcare - GP Commissioning** - Members had agreed previously they would like some more information and discussion on the changes to the NHS. As promised, Susie Farrar had been in contact with Windhill Green Medical Centre and Dr Richard Haddad had agreed to attend a future meeting of the Forum to discuss the proposed changes. Kath Beer was asked to continue to liaise with Elaine Bates, Practice Manager.

**5. Celebration of Disability Event - 20 July** - Preparations were underway for the Forum's special celebration event funded by Grassroots. A provisional booking had been made to hold the event in the newly refurbished main function room at the Carlisle Business Centre, (now known as the Carlisle Suite). Members agreed they would like to hold the event at the Carlisle Business Centre. Kath Beer explained that the hope was the event would be inspirational and positive with disabled people sharing what they do that they are proud of and enjoy. Members were encouraged to participate. A planning group meeting had been held on 16 May but only four people had been able to attend. However, people were expressing interest in talking at the event and it was agreed a lot of the arrangements may have to be finalised by telephone or e-mail if people were too busy to attend extra meetings. Members were asked to contact Kath if they wanted to contribute to the meeting.

**6. Development Health and Well-being Board - Representation of disabled people.** Members of the Strategic Disability Partnership had written to Moira Wilson, Director of Adult Services expressing concern about representation of disabled people on the Health and Well-being Board. An e-mail response had been received giving reassurance that the Healthwatch representative will not be the only representative from the voluntary and community sector.

**7. Campaigns: Benefits, cuts, national campaigns**

a) Local cuts to disability organisations and services - members reiterated their concerns and it was agreed the Forum should record it fully supports the actions of the Taking Control of the Agenda steering group.

b) Future of Whetley Hill resource Centre - Representatives from Whetley Hill Resource Centre said that people attending the centre are extremely angry and upset at the prospect of the Centre closing and at the manner in which they originally found out that the Centre may close. All service users at the Centre had received individual letters now. The

Director of Adult Services, Moira Wilson and senior colleagues were attending a meeting of the Whetley Hill Service Users Group on Monday, 20 June at 1.30 pm at the Centre. Some members of the Forum were attending to show their support for the people at Whetley Hill. Cath Wooler had appeared in newspaper and radio interviews and a service user had appeared on the BBC Look North programme. A petition had been organised and this was due to be presented at City Hall on 24 June.

**8. 'Independence, Inclusion and Support' - Physical Disabilities and Sensory Needs Strategy Consultation** - a new joint strategy had been published by the Council and Bradford and Airedale NHS for consultation. A meeting was to be held on Wednesday, 6 July at the Carlisle Business Centre. Cath Stevenson said it was an important meeting and flyers were circulated and members urged to attend and told to contact Bradford Alliance on Community Care to book a place.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Easier Access Event 2 September, 2011 at Tong School - Booking Forms were circulated and an information stand had been booked for the Forum.  
RADAR MP Dialogue Scheme - Paul reminded everyone about the RADAR Scheme which encouraged people to contact their MPs about issues which were of concern to them. He felt it could be useful to the Forum and that it needed to take note of national issues, such as changes to benefits as well.

Carers' Week - A programme of events for Carers' Week 2011 was circulated.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE FORUM** - It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Forum on **Thursday, 25 August, 2011** from **10.30 am to 12.30 pm at Whetley Hill Resource Centre**. This is a **change of date** the original date had been set for 1 September but the committee recommended avoiding the Bank Holiday week and did not want the date to be too close to the Easier Access Event.