



**Notes of the meeting of the Forum held on Thursday, 25 August, 2011
at Whetley Hill Resource Centre, Bradford BD8 8NL**

Present:

Cath Stevenson (Chair)	Susie Farrar
Paul Anderson	Julie Farrell
Stephen Bailey	Linda Hanson
Lee Bottomley	Yvonne Harper-Whittle
Gill Bowskill	Beth Innes
John Boyle	Nusrat Naheed
John Cooper	Linda Owers
Janet Cuff	Brian Rushforth
Paul Deary	Iain
Michael Helliwell	Sandy
	Emmerson Walgrove

In attendance: Kath Beer, Phil Cutler - BACC
Emma Shah, Julie Thompson - BSL Interpreters

Apologies: Sheila Alcock, Kevin Baldwin, Sue Crowe, Titch Kavanagh,
Kath Wooler

- 1. Welcome and introductions:** Cath Stevenson welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.
- 2. Notes of the Meeting of the Forum held on 16 June, 2011** were read out and agreed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising from the notes:**
 - a) Disabled People Taking Control of the Agenda follow-up:** Following further discussions the steering group members were seeking legal advice

about the apparent disparity in cuts to services, particularly on the difference between those funded by the local authority and those funded by the NHS.

It was noted that the letter to BACC saying funding for the Forum was to cease from 1 April. 2011 had been withdrawn and confirmation received that it would be funded until March, 2013. The funding figure had been reduced, however, by 30% so members agreed they should continue to lobby against this. This would result in material reductions for the Forum, such as pressure on room bookings and practical support for meetings. This was at a time when the Forum was growing and developing so costs stood to increase rather than decrease.

b) Car parks emergency telephone provision and hearing impaired people - Paul Radcliffe, from Bradford Council had been in telephone contact with Kath Beer and seemed to understand the points raised with him about text messaging facilities from emergency telephones. Susie said he had made contact with her but felt his response was unsatisfactory. He said people could text from the telephones, so she was going to test the service out. Kath said the signs needed to be altered to make it clear a texting facility was available. Kath agreed to make contact with Paul again.

4. **Changes to delivery of healthcare - GP Commissioning** - Kath Beer had received an e-mail from Dr Haddad agreeing to attend the next meeting of the Forum provided he was still the GP representative on the GP Commissioning Executive. Cath Stevenson asked Kath to follow this up.
5. **Development of Health and Well-being Board - Representation of disabled people** - The proposed structure was being discussed at the next meeting of the Health and Well-being Partnership Board and it was agreed to keep members informed of these important changes.
6. **'We Can Do' Event - 20 July - Feedback** - A written report would be available soon and copies would be sent with the next mailing to members.

Feedback on the event was extremely positive. People had found it very enjoyable and many new links were made.

- 7. 'Independence, Inclusion and Support' - Physical Disabilities and Sensory Needs Strategy Consultation** - Comments from the BACC meeting on 6 July had been forwarded to Phil Howell at Bradford Council. Members from Whetley Hill Resource Centre commented they had been unhappy with the consultation process. Individual interviews with service users were continuing.

It was noted there would be discussion about the future of Whetley Hill Resource Centre at the Social Care Scrutiny Committee to be held at 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 6 September in the Committee Room at City Hall. Members of the Strategic Disability Partnership were urging disabled people to attend.

8. Campaigns: Benefits, cuts, national campaigns

a) National Campaigns - It was noted there were a number of huge petitions online nationally at the moment, including the one about ATOS Health Care, managers of the Work Capability Assessment process for eligibility for Employment Support Allowance.

b) Meeting with local MPs - Paul Anderson said he would like the Forum to invite local MPs to a structured event to inform them about concerns of local disabled people and allow questions to be asked on both sides. There was a lot of support for this suggestion and Cath Stevenson said the Committee would discuss it and go ahead and organise an event.

- 9. Bradford Council - Waste Collections Exemption and Assistance Policy** - the Council is reviewing this service. A letter and form is being sent to properties where this service is in place and unless people complete and return the form the service will cease. A copy of the form was available for anyone wishing to view it. Linda Hanson asked if audio

versions were being circulated. Kath Beer agreed to find out what arrangements are being put in place for people with visual impairment.

10. Extra disabled parking spaces - The Council was proposing creating additional 'blue badge' parking spaces in Bradford. A paper listing existing spaces and proposed new ones was circulated. It was not known from what date these spaces may become available and people were urged to be cautious and make sure the spaces had been officially allocated before parking in the new places. Kath Beer had requested further information from the Council

9. Any Other Business -

a) Deaf Forum - Susie Farrar reported that a new 'Deaf Forum' had met for the first time on 22 July. Members congratulated her and wished the Forum well.

b) Bradford Alhambra Theatre Group (BTAG) - Jill Grant gave an update on BTAG and said the theatre had agreed to remove two rows of seats to improve and increase the spaces for wheelchair users. Also, there had been some discussion on increasing the number of audio described performances as well as increasing those where BSL was provided.

c) Easier Access Event - Friday, 2 September, 2011 at Tong School - A number of members and organisations were involved and members were looking forward to a successful event.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE FORUM -

**Thursday, 20 October, 2011 and Thursday, 1 December, 2011
in Rowntree 1 at the Carlisle Business Centre.**