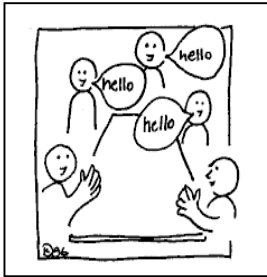


**Disabled People's Forum Steering
Group Meeting Notes 28th February 2008
At the Cellar Project**



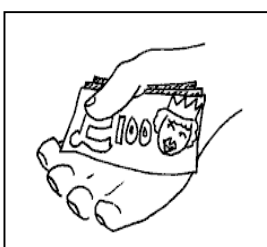
Present: Jenny Collins (Bradford RSI Group), Jagtar Bahra (Keighley and Craven People First), Jill Grant (Access Action), Paul Anderson (Contact Peer Support),

Dennis Boland (Ataxia Support Group), Neal Heard (BACC), Yvonne Slater (BACC & Minutes), Gill Bowskill (Bradford Access Action), Kath Stevens (WHAT) and Sam Tidswell (Bradford people First).

Apologies: Asif Hussain from Bradnet

Introductions: took place

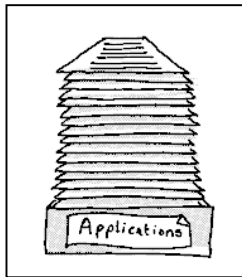
Matters arising from last meeting:



Jenny informed the group that WHAT has received 3 months funding but the future of WHAT

looks uncertain. The group shared information about funding.

Lots of groups are waiting to hear from Health Net (Primary Care Trust; part of the National Health Service).



Gill spoke about how frustrating it was to have to 'jump through hoops' to get funding.

Neal explained the position that groups are in and the process of getting funding from the PCT 's extra pot of money (over £1,000,000 for the area).

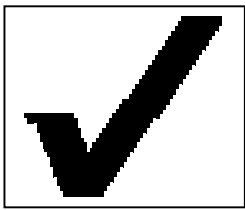
Another source of funding is from the SHIP (Strategic Health improvement Partnership). A lot of voluntary groups get money from them.

This used to be 3 years of funding but in recent years this has changed to having to reapply every year.

Everyone agreed that getting funding was very complicated and took a lot of time; stopping people getting on with doing their important work.

Feedback from Creating a Stronger Voice (Involving Disabled People) Event: January 17th 2008 held at Carlisle Business Centre:

About 80 people attended which was great. Neal gave feedback. Paul explained that the notes from this day have been typed up and put together. But they are still very long and need to be narrowed down. He felt that disabled people should have a big say in doing this.

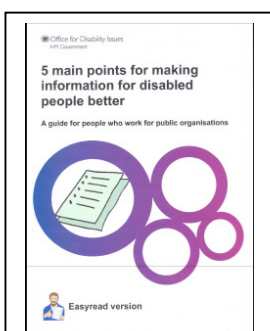


Everyone agreed this was a good idea. Neal offered to speak to Neville and Janet (from the Disabled people's Strategic Partnership) about this and how it can be arranged.

A date has been set for the 17th July 2008 for a further Event to report on what progress has been made, based on the concerns of everyone who came to the Creating A Stronger Voice Event.

Paul told the group about the next Involving Disabled People's Action group meeting; to be held at Temple Row Centre in Keighley on 5th March, from 2 - 4pm.

Accessible information:

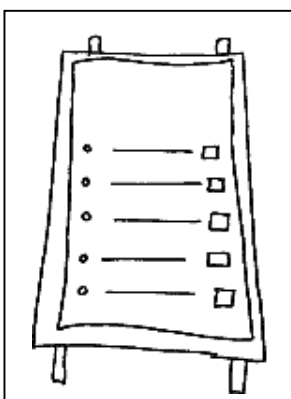


Members of the group said they would be interested in learning how to use **easy read**. Perhaps a training workshop could be arranged?

Paul spoke about a workshop that was held on the 14th February 10am - 2pm.

This produced a pack about basic sign language and easy read. Neal explained about easy read: a bank of pictures and photos to represent ideas/make writing easier to understand. The workshop was very useful because it was skill based and very practical. It will be repeated on the 18th March for Councillors.

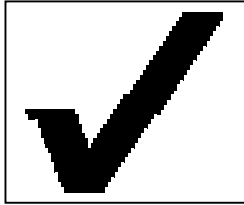
Neal spoke about the 5 principles for producing better information for disabled people. There is a petition being collected about this. We need as many signatures as possible. *The final deadline is for the 18th March.* Petitions should be returned to BACC, Unit 69, Carlisle Business Centre, 60 Carlisle Rd, BD8 8BD. This petition will be presented to Councillors by Paul Anderson from Contact.



Equalities Forum:

This is a group run by Bradford Council.

Issues that are taken to the Disability Hub can then be fed into the Equalities Forum.



It was agreed that the last 2 issues (funding and accessible information) be taken to this group's next meeting. Neal to feed back. Paul asked for the Disability Equalities Scheme to be raised as an issue.

This is a scheme which legally should have been adopted by the Council by 2006! It should have made better progress than it has. It is STILL in draft form. This issue has been raised at the Equalities Forum 6 months ago but nothing further has been communicated. Also the group noted that the Council website is poorly organised and hard to follow.

Funding for the Disabled People's Forum (this group):

Funding was due to run out on the 31st March. Neal said that we have been told that some funding will be available to support the Forum

until June (called 'seed money'). But it does look likely that the Building Communities Board will carry on funding after June.

We then discussed the original targets for the Forum: to seek independence, e.g. employ a disabled worker. Neal explained that no funding applications have been developed but that the group has until June to try to do this. Neal told the group that he has made some progress with the Constitution.

Members of the group expressed a need for continuity in the support offered by BACC.

A discussion followed about the progress that the Forum has made within the limits of a lack of funding. Much has been achieved through goodwill and voluntary contribution by members of this group.



It was agreed by the group that the focus of the next meeting of the Forum would be the direction of this group after June 2008.

AOB (Any Other Business); Blue badge Scheme:

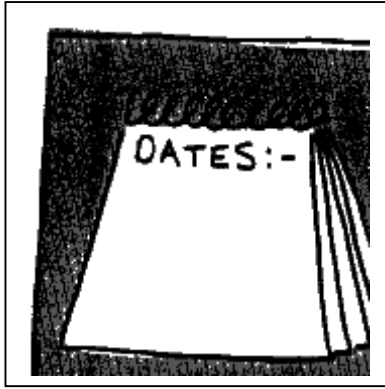


It was agreed that the information and form should be publicised by the Forum via the website. The recent Government 'options' are all more expensive than at present.

The group discussed how the website could be used for promoting awareness of current events/current campaigns such as the Blue Badge consultation and the petition about accessible information.


The website itself needs to be made more accessible so that members of the Forum can update it themselves.

Finally it was suggested that 2 versions of minutes from this meeting could be made available: a shortened version (such as minutes in a jiffy- similar to those from the Strategic Disability Partnership) as well as minutes that are longer and fuller. Members of the Forum offered to consult with their groups about this idea.



**Next meeting: Thursday 3RD
April 10am - 12am**

**At Keighley and Craven People
First. Meeting room on the 2nd
Floor, Springfield Mills,
Oakworth Rd, Keighley, BD21**

1SL.  01535 607222

There is a parking area **ROUND THE SIDE TO
THE LEFT** of the mill. Sam Tidswell from
Keighley and Craven People First, and Nisa Almas
from BACC will be there on hand to welcome
people and help with accessibility: there is a
suitable lift to the 2nd floor.