

## LOCAL GROUP WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH DEPRESSION

Positive Minds is a multi-agency action group within Bradford District which has been working hard for more than two years to help ensure older people with depression are treated fairly and equitably. It seeks to:

- influence policy and service provision
- overcome the stigma of depression
- encourage and support older people to seek help.



The Group has produced an excellent DVD entitled *'Out of the Shadows'* which features older people talking about how they have been affected by and tackled depression in their lives. A BSL version is available—please contact BACC.

Seniors Show The Way have trained Health Champions who will deliver 'DVD showings' to your group. Tel: 01274 321911.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Group please contact: Julie Lintern, Development Manager, Bradford Older People's Alliance, (BOPA) Tel: 01274 395144 or ring Kath Beer at the BACC Office on 01274 481590.

## Future Forum Report Welcome, But Government Should Go Further



National Voices (The voluntary sector organisation that represents the voice of people with a diverse range of health conditions, for more info see [www.nationalvoices.org.uk](http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk)) has welcomed the NHS Future Forum report and urges the government to accept the recommendations and, in some cases, to go further.

This report embodies many of the principles and actions that our members – over 100 health and social care charities - have been calling for on behalf of service users.

Points in the report that National Voices particularly welcomes include:

A focus on the NHS constitution – a landmark statement of rights, signed by National Voices

The importance of integration of care services

The principle that “no decision about me without me” should be hard wired into every part of the system”

Independent members of commissioning consortia would protect against conflicts of interest

A strong Health Watch England, with a Citizen's Panel, would give patients and citizens a strong voice at national level

Areas where more work will be needed by government:

Ensuring the independence and adequate funding of local HealthWatch

Giving patients and patient organisations a stronger role as part of the range of experts in commissioning

Further emphasis on safety, quality and dignity and on learning the lessons from Mid Staffordshire, Winterbourne View and those in the recent Ombudsman's report on care of the elderly.

Addressing some of the big challenges ahead such as the funding of social care.

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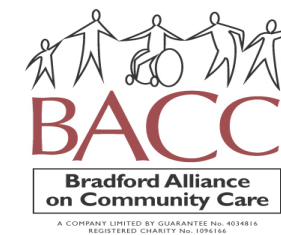
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# BACC Page

The Newsletter of Bradford Alliance on Community Care



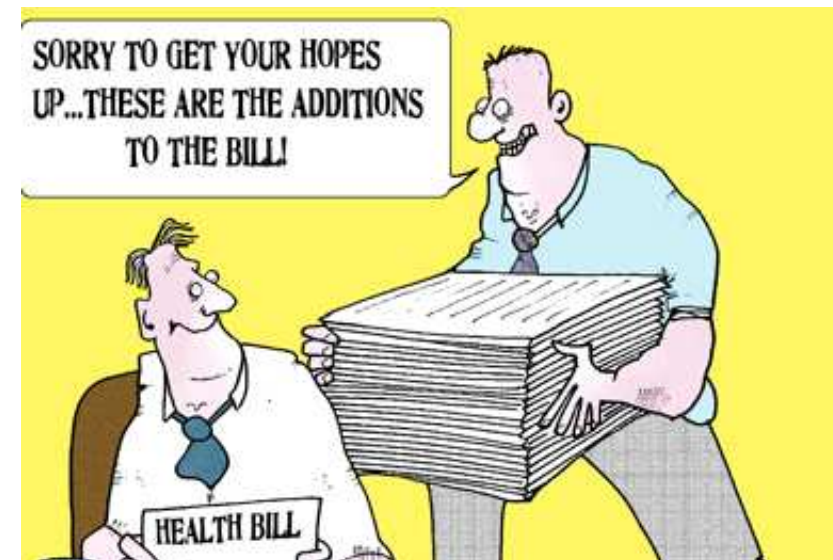
Summer 2011

Bradford District Council

[www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk)



Bradford and Airedale



The GP Record, by Fran Orford [www.francartoons.com](http://www.francartoons.com)

## BACC July Open meeting to discuss commissioning policy for disabled adults

The draft strategic document of Adult Services and Bradford & Airedale NHS, **'Independence, Inclusion and Support'** declares a vision of:

***"Bradford as a district where people with physical and sensory disabilities live, work and participate in their local community."***

***"Where those individuals are recognised as equal and can enjoy the same life opportunities, chances and rights as their non-disabled peers and neighbours."***

***The document goes on to assert—"This vision through ensuring services, facilities; individuals; communities and society are truly inclusive and accessible; not extraordinarily or exceptionally but universally and ordinarily."***

BACC held a discussion on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July on this policy document that will underpin the basis of the service commissioning and associated policies for the district of Bradford in the coming years. This was an opportunity for people who use services & the projects that work with them to comment on the draft strategy through round table discussions, including looking at the commissioning priorities and giving an opportunity to feed in the issues that are most important to them.

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The need for disabled people to comment in the climate of the current spending cuts being made by both NHS and local authority commissioners is obvious. But perhaps the document could have been clearer in declaring that the big objectives to be aspirations not a set of rights or entitlements.

The document is some 42 pages in length and covers the underlying challenges Bradford District faces in addressing the vision statement (on page 1).

How well people understand the terminology used in the document and its implications remains to be seen. For example how the phrase “care -pathway across all long term conditions” is understood by individuals and for that matter, representative, campaigning and lobbying groups is not necessarily the same interpretation as that held by public health policy professionals who wrote the policy.

BACC was convinced in common with many of the leading national charities that how the individual disabled person makes the journey through health, social care or housing support services would be aggravated by the proposals of the first draft of the NHS & Social Care Bill with its emphasis on competition being the central focus.



How and what changes will occur to that Bill remain unclear, as are the affects of these changes on the strategic policy. What will be the impact of changes to access independent advice services on the lives of individuals? How will this fit with the aspirations of the strategic policy?

These and many more questions were debated with policy officers, disabled people and service providers at the event. The opinions will be fed into the final strategy—this stage of the consultation closed on the 15th July. BACC will circulate a report from the meeting with the next edition of BACC Page. The Strategy can be found on line at: [www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/Consultations/physical\\_disability\\_strategy](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/Consultations/physical_disability_strategy)

Comments to email: [commissioningbox@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:commissioningbox@bradford.gov.uk) (please put PDSN Strategy in the subject line). Or telephone 01274 434500.

## Disabled People's Forum responds to Shipley MP's comments on disabled people and employment.



Dear Friends

Equal pay for equal work has been a campaign slogan for many years. Recent statements by a local MP demands we restate the justice of the slogan 'equal pay for equal work.'

Philip Davis MP appeared to imply that a disability means a lesser work value is offered by disabled people to employers.

The evidence of the work BACC and others carried out under the programme "EmployDisability" tells a very different story to the assertions of the MP. The local Adult Services & NHS Bradford & Airedale draft policy "Independence Inclusion & Support" lists as a priority improved opportunity for disabled people to have employment not as second class workers but to ensure that individuals "**are recognised as equal and can enjoy the same life opportunities, chances and rights as their non disabled peers and neighbours**".

Perhaps Mr Davis MP will take time-out to hear the voice of disabled people at either the consultation event on 6<sup>th</sup> July or at the Disabled People's Forum celebration event on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011?

Yours sincerely  
Cath Stevenson  
Chair

Emmerson Walgrove  
Deputy Chair

### TAKING PART IN REVIEWING SERVICES



The Supporting People Service User Involvement Group has just held it's 32nd meeting attended, by over 40 people. The meeting heard about The Bradford District Tenants Federation, an update from the Supporting People team and consultations on safeguarding publicity & what people need in place to fully take part in their community. The 31st meeting featured the launch of the Health & Wellbeing Partnership charter for people to have

a say in health related services. Reps from the group have recently taken part in 'peer reviewing' or inspecting services for homeless people and over the summer will be reviewing mental health services. For more information about the group please contact Neal at BACC. Email [neal@bacc.uk.com](mailto:neal@bacc.uk.com)