



BACC Open Meeting "Working Together" to tackle health inequalities 29th April 2009 Summary

Introduction

The day provided an opportunity for sharing information on how people and organisations are working together to promote involvement and enable people to participate to help improve services.



The event was attended by a total of 104 people

Feedback from attendees was very positive: "found the event very useful made lots of contacts" "The workshops provided the opportunity for different views to be heard" "Should have had a further discussion after dinner for anyone who wanted to

take part" "it was a very interesting day" "More time for more workshops"

The morning session comprised short presentations on:

Why & what do the NHS commission from the Voluntary and Community Sector?

by Naz Shah, Partnership Programmes Commissioning Manager, Bradford and Airedale NHS

Naz provided an over view of developments in relationship between the local NHS and voluntary sector. She included information on the numbers of organisations with whom they held contracts and indicated the scale and variety of the contracts and the monetary values.



Health Improvement and the arts - a partnership between Artworks and Kala Sangam by Emma Baylin from Artworks. Emma spoke about the work of two local arts projects and how they were working together.

Artworks employs a variety of practical and enjoyable art activities to encourage and enable people to participate and Kala Sangam is a dance based project which works to bring people together through South Asian and Collaborative arts.

Disability and Public Health a view from Paul Anderson, Chair of Bradford Disabled People's Forum. Paul gave a personal insight in to inclusion of disabled people.

He recognised improvements had been made but felt there were many areas where there was a long way to go. He highlighted accessible information and access to employment as two key areas for continued improvement.

Patient Experience & Bradford LINKs - Dave Ross Patient Experience Manager, Bradford and Airedale NHS and Melvyn Newton, Bradford LINK (Local Involvement Network)

Dave gave a brief description of the work of Bradford and Airedale NHS. He explained his role was to help ensure that people's views on the local NHS were heard and included to help make improvements to services. He talked about the importance of the NHS including patients in service design and delivery. He invited people to join the afternoon workshop on the work of the local NHS and the LINK.

Lunch break and badge-making workshop



Attendees enjoyed lunch and the opportunity to network. Young people from the Keyhouse Project in Keighley ran a badge-making workshop, which was much appreciated. Many participants were sporting brightly coloured and in some cases whacky badges by the afternoon session!

After lunch people had the opportunity to work in smaller discussion groups to learn more about each other's ways of working and share ideas. The four discussion groups were:

'Down to Earth' Workshop

This workshop, led by Yvonne Slater, BACC's PATH (Pro-active Approach to Health) Project Development Worker, was to raise awareness and promote the development of The Down To Earth allotment project. The workshop consisted of a presentation followed by discussion which focused on the challenges in the development of allotments for excluded groups, as well as the health benefits for clients.

Yvonne was supported by Homekey worker Ian Fallon and workers from Bradford Community Environment Project, Keyhouse and the Salvation



Army along with clients who take part in the project.

The workshop attracted a group of both interested service users and also a variety of workers from a range of supported housing organisations working with homeless people as well as someone working on an allotment project for

carers.

Service User Involvement in Supported Housing



This group, led by Neal Herd from BACC and Ian Summerskill from Horton Housing, included presentations on the benefits of service user involvement generally and in particular about what was happening in supported housing services.

Two service users shared their personal stories on how they became involved and why getting involved has made a difference to them.

Patient Experience and the role of Bradford LINK led by Dave Ross Patient Experience Manager, Bradford and Airedale NHS and Melvyn Newton, Bradford LINK (Local Involvement Network)

Dave and Melvyn set the scene and talked about what service user involvement was and the benefits. They described how the LINK and Bradford and Airedale NHS were working together to ensure that matters and issues from the LINK were addressed and considered by the NHS. The group went on to talk about what needs to be improved and were given the opportunity to raise areas of concern.

Arts and Health Improvement with deaf and disabled people - Artworks Facilitated by Rosie Spencer

This was a very enjoyable, active and participatory session demonstrating how the arts may be used to enable and encourage participation.



Members were invited to work in groups of 3, identify 3 daily activities each and then think of a way to mime each activity.

The groups of three were then asked to put their mimes in to different sequences. By the end of the session each group performed a mime sequence to music to the whole group. Everyone was able to join in the session.

Summing-up

Feedback forms indicated people found it had been an excellent opportunity to share ideas and methods of work and network and exchange contact details.

Thanks

BACC extends thanks to all who attended, presenters, facilitators, stallholders and BACC volunteers.