



News

Bristol's Wheelchair Voucher System is going to change

The NHS has decided to bring in Personal Budgets for people who currently qualify for a wheelchair voucher.

They are planning it now but it won't be introduced for a little while. It is bound to include some cut in funding but, at the moment, we don't know how much. But, as soon as we know, we will update you.

Please note, this won't affect anyone who has, or has used, a wheelchair voucher so don't worry.

Disabled people and Refugees

In the past few years two Disabled Refugees in Bristol have been murdered in hate crimes. In both cases their deaths could have been avoided if the statutory services had reacted to reports of abuse in the way they should have.

We feel it's time our two communities understood each other better and came together to make sure this appalling situation doesn't happen again.

That's why we are working with Bristol Refugee Rights, Disabled activist and researcher Rebecca Yeo, the families of those killed and other activists and groups across Bristol. We are working together to do a number of things but particularly to put on an event in the Spring. The event will bring Disabled people and Refugees together to discuss the issues we face, how we can support each other and, especially importantly, how we can make sure the police, council and NHS don't let this happen again.

Check our social media for updates over the next few weeks.

Calls for report into police tasing of autistic man to be published

Local Bristol MP, Kerry McCarthy is calling for the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to release details of an investigation into an incident involving the tasing of an autistic man by the police on 12th August 2015.

Avon and Somerset Police were called to a house in response to a 999 call that said an “intoxicated” man had broken a window and was “terrorising other clients”. The man from Bristol was charged with assaulting a police officer but the case was dropped after his mother provided CCTV footage contradicting the police officer’s claims that the man pushed him over.

An investigation was carried out by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and a report said the arrest and use of the Taser were reasonable. However, the report was never released and the incident has raised serious concerns about the use of the Taser and the way police officers handle incidents involving people with invisible disabilities.

The Police say they have taken measures to address the issues around the appropriate treatment of those with invisible disabilities. Further training covering “autism spectrum conditions and other non-visible disabilities” has been introduced for all officers. However, there are calls for the Police to take responsibility for wrong actions and to discipline their officers accordingly.

Blue Badge criteria expanded to include hidden disabilities

People with hidden disabilities could soon have greater access to blue badges under new plans from Transport Minister Jesse Norman.

The proposals would help remove barriers for those with invisible illnesses and mental health impairments.

You can give your views on the proposed changes by taking part in the Department for Transport’s online consultation:

<http://bit.ly/2GqVdBa>

Dates for the Diary

WECIL indoor archery session

Date: 21st February 2018

Time: 1.30pm – 3.00pm

At: The Park Local Opportunity Centre, Bristol, BS4 1DQ

Archery Sessions for all abilities led by experienced instructors.

For more information, call WECIL Peer Support on: **0117 947 9942** or email: **peersupport@wecil.co.uk**

Creative workshop and tour of Accentuate's History of Place exhibition

Date: Friday 23rd February

Time: exhibition tour 2pm – 5pm, creative workshop 2.45pm – 4.30pm

At: MShed, Princes Wharf, Wapping Rd, Bristol BS1 4RN

Accentuate's MShed exhibition about the Guild of the Brave Poor Things shows how Disabled people advocated for themselves and survived in a changing society from the late Victorian period in to the 1980s – and how that compares with the current situation.

This month you can join them to explore the Brave Poor Things exhibition and take part in a creative response workshop. There will be a tour of the exhibition, where you will have a chance to think about the themes and ideas it highlights. There will also be a workshop for creative responses and craft, led by artists and participants involved in the History of Place project.

Meet at MShed reception at 2pm.

To book a place, please get in touch with Grace:

grace.swordy@accentuateuk.org. Please let her know if you have any access needs.

BBC See Hear Weekend 2018

Date: Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February

At: Watershed, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5TX

The BBC and their See Hear programme invite you to celebrate all things related to sign language and the Deaf community in film and television in this packed weekend of screenings and workshops.

Tickets for all events are **FREE** and can be booked in advance. (Please note that you have to pick up your ticket on the day at least 20 minutes before advertised start times).

All screenings are subtitled, and feature sign language. All presentations and discussion sessions will include live speech to text transcription and a sign language interpreter. All the cinemas are fitted with induction loop systems and are wheelchair accessible.

This weekend is for everyone, so take a look at what's on and book your tickets at:

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/whatson/season/429/bbc-see-hear-weekend-2018>

Hidden Impairments Access Group

Date: Thursday 27th February

Time: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

At: St Pauls Learning Centre, room LT3

The Forum works hard to improve access and services for all Disabled people whatever our impairments or long-term health conditions.

At the Hidden Impairments Access Group meeting we can share information and look for practical ways that we can improve access to services, employment opportunities etc. for people with hidden impairments.

You can register either by phone 0117 914 0528, through Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/2E9U7gB> or else just turn up on the day.

Photography exhibition at the Arnolfini

Date: Thursday 27th February 2018

Time: 6.30pm – 9.00pm

At: The Light Studio, Arnolfini, Bristol, BS1 4QA

Join the Eating Disorders Health integration Team (EDHIT) at the Arnolfini to view photography created by people with an experience of an eating disorder and to help improve the support available for everyone affected by eating disorders.

The themes for the exhibition are 'what makes me smile' and 'what recovery means to me'. Photos can be submitted by people with an eating disorder, their family, friends, supporters and the health care professionals who work with them.

There will also be an update on the work of EDHIT, inviting everyone to contribute to the future work of the team.

For more information, to submit your own photography to be displayed in the exhibition and to register your place visit the Eventbrite page:

<http://bit.ly/2sGbz6Z>

Do You Want to Write for This e-bulletin?

Are there changes being made where you live that you think others should know about? Do you have any news or views that other members may like to hear about? This is your e-bulletin so please get in touch with us by email, phone or post with your ideas.

Bristol Disability Equality Forum

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