



News...

More opportunities to come together, support each other and raise the issues that most affect your life

As well as our Independent Living and Hidden Impairments' groups, Bristol Disability Equality Forum will be launching **four new groups** in September 2018!

The groups – one each in South, Central, North and East Bristol – are part of a project called Make Change Happen and will meet once a month. They will be open to all Disabled people, and older people with impairments, who are living on a low income.

If you would be interested in being involved, as a group member or as a volunteer, please contact Rachael on **01179 140528** or at **bristoldef@gmail.com**

Bristol City Council ordered to reverse cuts to SEND budget

Three Mums who took Bristol City Council (BCC) to High Court over £5m cuts to its 2018-19 Special Educational needs and disabilities (SEND) budget have won their landmark case.

The high court ordered the council to reverse the cuts, with Judge Barry QC telling BCC that the cuts were unlawful and there was no need for the reduction.

SEND budgets are facing pressure across the country. There are already legal challenges pending against **planned cuts in Hackney and Surrey**. You can find out more about the Bristol case and what it might mean for SEND cuts in other areas **here**.



Consultation on the 20mph speed limit on roads in Bristol - Closes 31 Aug 2018

The Council is consulting on whether to keep, increase, or reduce the number of Bristol's roads that have a 20mph speed limit.

Some of our members have told us that cars going at speed on Bristol's roads make many of them feel unsafe on our streets and prevent those who need a little extra time to cross the road from being able to do so.

We therefore encourage you to have your say on this and hope you will want to keep and increase the number of roads with a 20mph speed limit.

To read an evaluation of the 20mph speed limit in Bristol click here:

To take part in the consultation click: <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/city-development/20mph-limits-review/>



Have your say on adult social care

Have your say on the future of adult social care – respond to the Local Government Association's (LGA's) survey.

The LGA has produced their own green paper and would like your views on it.

To complete the consultation, please read the LGA's green paper and then submit your views via the online form, which is available at: <https://futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk/the-green-paper/have-your-say/>

If you prefer to submit via email, please send your response to: socialcareconversation@local.gov.uk

The **deadline is 26 September 2018**

More information is available at: <https://futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk/>

Benefit Sanctions

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Select Committee has heard that the way the DWP reports the number of sanctions applied for Universal Credit (UC), Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) hides the true figures. It does this by only including the number of unsuccessful appeals. This means that every time a sanction decision is overturned at appeal, it no longer appears in the number of sanctions applied.

The figure for the total number of ESA sanctions was as much as 57% higher than the figures DWP made public, according a committee in parliament.

The figures also show that, in February 2018, 1,108 UC claimants were still able to be sanctioned even when they were moved into the "Working Enough" or "No Work-Related Requirement" group – usually because they are medically not fit for either work or to look for work.

So, if you are on UC and in one of these groups, make sure you are not sanctioned. If you are, appeal straight away and contact your local advice centre about it.

Bristol Direct Payments Account – your choice

If you get a Direct Payment, Bristol City Council (BCC) is making a change that affects you.

BCC has set up a pre-paid card system - called a Bristol Direct Payments Account. Until now payment has been to your own bank account which is under your control. Under the new system BCC will run the account on your behalf using Prepaid Financial Services based in Ireland, and give you a 'debit card' to pay for goods and services they agree with.

Prepaid cards for direct payments are not mandatory – you have the right to choose which payment method suits you best.

For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/2MgQ5qU>

Articles by our members...

Inaccessible Rail Travel

Disabled comedian Tanyalee Davis has criticised Great Western Railway on social media after she was denied a disabled space for her mobility scooter. Since then, many more Disabled people have come forward to speak about their experiences

BDEF Advisor Sarah Howard has written a short piece about the inaccessibility of rail travel, which you can read here: <https://bit.ly/2nx8xfU>

The Right Trousers: developing the tech for robot-assisted trousers

BDEF Co-chair, Suaad Walker, recently attended The Right Trousers event at UWE's Future Space in their Robotics Lab. The event centred on a research project into robotic trousers to help those with impaired mobility.

You can read Suaads' feedback on the event here: <https://bit.ly/2MI81qy>

'Special Assistance' at Airports – How Disabled Am I?

Recently, Tanni Grey-Thompson commented that lots of people seemed to be using the special assistance service at airports who 'didn't really need it'.

You can read a response from a Disability activist and BDEF member, Juley Howard, here: <https://bit.ly/2nzGD2Y>

Do you want to write for this e-bulletin?

Are there changes being made in Bristol that you think others should know about? Do you have any news or views that other members may like to hear about? If so, please get in touch via email, phone or post with your ideas.

Post: **Bristol Disability Equality Forum**, St Pauls Learning Centre, 94 Grosvenor Rd, Bristol, BS2 8XJ

Email: bristoldef@gmail.com Tel: **0117 914 0528**

Dates for the diary...

Inclusion Southmead

Tuesday 14th August 2018

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Greenway Centre, Southmead, Bristol, BS10 5PY

Inclusion Southmead is a group of Disabled and non-Disabled residents aiming to make Southmead more inclusive for all.

If you would like to join us at our next meeting contact:

mike.bristoldef@gmail.com or call **0117 914 0528**



Hidden Impairments Access Group

Tuesday 14th August 2018

3.30pm – 5.30pm

Room LT3, St Pauls Learning Centre,
Bristol, BS2 8XJ



This meeting is open to all people who live with a hidden impairment, disability or a long-term health condition that affects their daily life but is "hidden". If you find it hard to identify as a Disabled person because you don't "look" Disabled, then please come along, or get in touch.

You can register your free place by:

Emailing us at bristoldef@gmail.com

By phoning us on **0117 914 0528**

Or book at: <https://bit.ly/2vo4aav>