



## News...

### AGM and Open Forum

Thanks to all who joined us at our AGM in December last year. We looked at all the things the Forum has achieved over the past year, our plans for 2019 and launched our new peer support project, Making Change Happen. Our guest speaker was James White, Interim Head of Transport, WECA. He discussed WECA's Joint Local Transport Plan and how they intend to make transport in the West of England 'accessible for all'.

We also awarded **Paul Sullivan** the 2018 Rowen Jade award, in recognition of his work to improve accessibility to Bristol City Museums and his efforts to ensure the needs of visually impaired people in Bristol are met.

A full report will be available soon, if you would like notes from the event, please contact us at [bristoldef@gmail.com](mailto:bristoldef@gmail.com)

### A call for equal hate crime laws

The government [announced last October](#) that the Law Commission has been asked to review current hate crime legislation, as the commission recommended four years ago in a [heavily criticised report](#), following concerns that it does not offer Disabled and LGBT people equal protection to that given to other protected groups.

**SAY NO  
TO HATE  
CRIME**

The review is likely to include examining the possible extension of aggravated offences – which have higher sentences but currently can only apply to crimes linked to race and religion – to disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity.

## Making Change Happen

This month, we held our first drop-ins for our new peer support project 'Making Change Happen'. This is a two-year peer support project, led by Disabled people and older residents. It is funded by The People's Health Trust Active Communities Programme. The project will set up four new groups across Bristol and each group will meet once a month. The aim is to spread the four monthly meet-ups so that, in one area or another, there is a meet up almost every week.

The groups are open to anyone who identifies as Disabled or is an elder with impairments and considers themselves to be on a low income. What each group does will be decided by its members – we want you to decide what it is that as Disabled or older residents, you need and want. So, if this sounds like something you might be interested in and you have some ideas about what you would like the groups to focus on, please do get in touch.

## The Forum needs your support!

The People's Health Lottery (PHL) funding is the only grant we have since the Council stopped funding us, and that PHL money only pays for our new peer support project, Making Change Happen. This means we still need to find funding of around £40,000 if we are to keep working to improve the voice, influence and inclusion of all Deaf and Disabled people in the city. So, we need your support.



That support could be:

- Doing a sponsored activity.
- Volunteering with us if you have fundraising experience.
- Using our [websearch](#) and fundraising when you browse or buy online.
- Making a regular donation to us.

Just £1 pw week from every member would raise between £10,000 and £13,000 a year!

## Dates for the Diary

### Chinese New Year: Year of the Pig

**When: 2-3 February**

**Where: Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, BS8 1RL**

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Welcome in the Year of the Pig with spectacular traditional and contemporary performances, stalls, workshops and activities. Stalls throughout the museum will feature elements of Chinese culture, there will be a delicious Chinese inspired menu in the café and beautiful Chinese goods for sale.

The Year of the Pig starts officially on 4 February 2019 and finishes on 24 January 2020. According to the Chinese Zodiac people born in a year of the Pig are diligent, compassionate and generous. People born in this year have yellow, grey, brown and gold as their lucky colours.

For more information, go to: <https://bit.ly/2Wx3yML>

### Making Health Better

**When: Thursday 7 Feb, 10am – 1pm**

**Where: The Hive**

A well-being event for people with learning Disabilities. Join Get the information you need to get better treatment from your doctors and learn about your health rights.

For more information contact Dominic on 0117 961 4372

### Reading Group for Disabled People

**When: Thursday 14 February**

**Where: Bristol Central Library, College Green, BS1 5TL**

Reading group for anyone over the age of 18 who considers themselves disabled (physical, learning or mental health) or has a long-term health condition.

For more details, ring 0117 94779942 or email [peersupport@wecil.co.uk](mailto:peersupport@wecil.co.uk)

## Making Change Happen: South Bristol

**When: Friday 22 February**

**Where: The Café, Gatehouse  
Centre, Hareclive Road, BS13 9JN**

Making Change Happen is The Forum's new peer-support project. It is open to anyone who identifies as Disabled or is an elder with impairments and considers themselves to be on a low income.



Please join us at our South Bristol meet-up to:

- Find out more about the project
- Meet people and share your ideas
- Have your say on the issues that matter to you

Please contact [mike.bristoldef@gmail.com](mailto:mike.bristoldef@gmail.com) for more information or call 0117 914 0528

## 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 us by email, phone or post with your ideas.

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