



## News...

### Making Change Happen on the Babbers Show

Mike Steel and Suaad Walker from the Forum appeared on the Babbers Show earlier this month to talk about our peer support project, Making Change Happen.



For the past few months, The Forum have been going out into different areas of Bristol to get Disabled and older residents together to talk about some of the issues going on in their area. The idea is to create a friendly and relaxed environment in which people who feel isolated and left out can talk about the barriers they face, share information and work together to make change happen in their area of Bristol.

You can find out more about the project by listening to the show here: <https://bit.ly/2C2Ruu8> (Suaad and Mike are on from around 58:15).

We have some meetups coming up in April, details are in the 'dates for the Diary' section of this e-bulletin.

### Do you have any questions for the Bristol Transport Board?

Forum Trustee, Sarah Howard, will be meeting with the Bristol Transport Board soon. If you have any questions or access issues you would like to raise at the meeting, please let Sarah know by email [sarah.howard@brandontrust.org](mailto:sarah.howard@brandontrust.org) or call the office **0117 914 0528**.

## Shape Open 2019: Submissions Open

The Open is Shape's annual exhibition of artwork by Disabled and non-Disabled artists created in response to a disability-centred theme. It is held in high-profile, artist-led spaces and Shape's own pop-up galleries. This year the Open will be hosted by Nunnery Gallery, at Bow Arts.

Any artist can apply to Shape's call for submissions and exhibitors a panel of arts industry judges will decide whose work is put in the exhibition.

Submissions deadline: **12 noon, Monday 15 April 2019**

For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2U8ZvZD>

## Justice for Jody Whiting petition

Jody Whiting took her own life in 2017 when her disability benefit payments were stopped because she missed a capability assessment. An independent inquiry into her death found that the DWP failed 5 times to follow their own safeguarding rules in the weeks leading up to her suicide.

A petition has been launched which calls for an independent inquiry to investigate DWP failings in relation to benefit claimant deaths and to make the safety of all claimants a priority.

You can sign the petition [here](#).

## Adult social care “at breaking point” say charities and organisations

Age UK, Care England and Alzheimer's Society are among the 15 organisations urging the Government to invest in adult social care services.

The joint letter warns that “adult social care is at breaking point” and that increases in costs and decreases in funding has meant that it has become more and more difficult to offer people the high quality care they need to be independent and live the lives they want to lead.

You can read the letter here <https://bit.ly/2HTjdkK>

## Dates for the Diary

### Disabled and older people making change happen in Bristol

Making Change Happen is the Forum's new peer support project. It is run by and for Disabled people, older people and people living with mental or physical health difficulties.

We are holding some drop-ins across Bristol in April. Please join us to meet new people, have a say about the issues that matter to you and talk about how to make change happen in your area of Bristol.

**Central & West Bristol:** Wednesday 24 April, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at [The Watershed Café](#), (Harbourside)

**North Bristol:** Thursday 25 April, 11.30 am - 1.30 pm, at Henbury and [Brentry Community Centre](#) (Machin Road, off Crow Lane on the 76 bus route).

**South Bristol:** Friday 26 April 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at [The Gatehouse Centre Café](#).

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



### Access All Poetry

**Thursday 11 April, 19:30 – 21:30, Spike Island Café**

Come along and celebrate D/deaf and disabled poetry in a relaxed and fully accessible atmosphere. In a BSL-interpreted event three poets will present poems and then take part in a lively discussion about accessibility in poetry.

You can book your free place [here](#).

## Music Jam

**Tuesday 16 April, 11:30 – 13:00, Trinity Centre**

Come and have a jam in Trinity's band rehearsal room. They have drums, keyboards, guitars and more to try out and a facilitator so come and have some fun with other Disabled musicians and buddy musicians!

This is part of WECIL's peer support project and open to any Disabled adult in Bristol. The activities are free and transport can be provided.

For more information, call **0117 947 9943** or email **peersupport@wecil.co.uk**

## Volunteers needed!

The Forum is looking for volunteers to work with us. We have lots of roles available but we also welcome your ideas about what you could do.

We would also like to hear member's ideas about what we should be focusing on and what is most important to Disabled people in Bristol.



**If you have time to spare, please contact us!**

## 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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