

Bristol Disability Equality Forum E-Bulletin October 2019



Hello October!

The summer is well and truly behind us now but, as we approach the cooler months, the Forum isn't slowing down! We've been very busy with grant applications, reports on grants we have and going to events to help us use crowdfunding to make more of our ideas a reality.



The end of summer also saw us saying goodbye to Mike, our Making Change Happen (MCH) Project worker. Mike's been involved with the Forum for around 7 years, starting as a trustee, then going from Administrator, to Southmead Development worker, to MCH worker.

"It's been a real pleasure getting to know and learn from everyone at the MCH groups. The MCH members are really keen to keep it going, I hope it does. We need real, genuine change in Bristol. This can happen but only when Disabled people's knowledge and experience is acknowledged, valued and becomes a part of everything in our City"

We'll miss his passion and commitment to disability rights – as will all those he worked with. Best wishes for the future Mike!

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [BDEF Website](#)

Trustee's Needed

Fancy getting a bit more involved in the Forum? We are looking for new trustees (management committee members) to help us grow the Forum.

This is an exciting time to become a trustee as we are moving into a new phase with lots of opportunity to re-think what we do, how we do it and to develop new work.

We welcome applications from all people who identify as a Disabled person, but are particularly keen to recruit people with an interest or experience in one (or more) of the following:

- Fundraising
- Marketing
- HR
- Recruiting new members
- Online blogging or vlogging
- Computer maintenance

Our Trustees usually meet for three hours every 6-8 weeks, in St Pauls Learning Centre in Bristol, plus they attend other events and Forum working groups or projects. How much of this they do is up to each person.

So, if you are interested in becoming a Forum trustee we would love to hear from you!

Please contact us by email bristoldef@gmail.com or call the office on 0117 914 0528

For Sale - eMove5-LC office chair for Disabled person

The Forum is still looking to sell an office chair which has been collecting dust for a rather long time. It is in great condition, with battery charger and instruction manual as pictured - although the battery may need replacing.

Weight of chair - 95kg

Size – 66cm wide x 82cm long

Height - (adjustable) between 110cm-141cm



Price - £300 ONO. Collection only (from our office at St Pauls Learning Centre)

Interested? Then email bristoldef@gmail.com

Disabled young person's network in Bristol - Update

A few weeks ago our Admin Worker tweeted to ask if other people were interested in starting a social network to link up and plan social events for Disabled young people who find it difficult to access Bristol's social scene. She hasn't had much feedback yet so, if you are a young person, do let her know what you think and, if you aren't, please share this information with any Disabled young people you know.

Some of our other members have said they would also like a social network too. Is that something you'd like too? If so, let us know what you think, any ideas you have and any other, suggestions e.g.

- What the age range should be,
- Which accessible venues and activities you can recommend,
- Whether you would volunteer to help promote the network and keep it up-to-date?

Interested? Email bristoldef@gmail.com with your ideas.

Disabled and Older People Making Change Happen in Bristol

Well, we can't quite believe it but the Making Change Happen project is already one year old! So it's a good time to think about how well it's been going, and how it could be improved. It would be great to get some feedback on what's going well, what isn't

and what's missing. We'd also like to hear from the people who haven't gone along to any of the groups – what you want that they groups aren't providing, and/or what might have put you off joining. You can do this by text, email, telephone, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. We only need is a



**Making
Change
Happen**



funded through

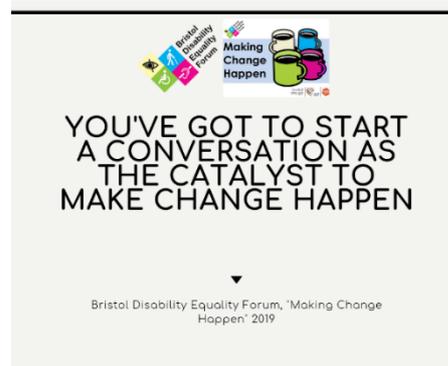


sentence or two about your experience of the MCH project – or why it didn't appeal to you.

To remind you, the MCH project offers you the chance to meet other Disabled people in your part of Bristol, for a coffee/tea and chat, to share information and discuss the main disability issues in your local community – including issues that affect every community in Bristol.

Here are some of the most recent points raised at meetings in September:

Plus, a quote that was created by the Lockleaze group.



- Making Change Happen meetings are really beneficial to the Disabled community in Bristol.
- The education system is failing young Disabled Children by not meeting needs as stated on EHCP.
- Disabled people aren't correctly informed on how to best care for their mobility aids.
- Road works and maintenance jobs don't consider accessibility for Disabled people, making it very dangerous and difficult for Disabled people to travel around the city independently.

Our next four meet-ups are:

Friday 18th October at 11:00am – 1:00pm The Hub, Lockleaze BS7 9FB

Friday 25th October at 10:30 – 12:30pm Gatehouse Centre Café BS13 9JN

Thurs 7th November at 11:30 – 13:30pm Beehive Centre, Stretford Road BS5 7AW

Monday 11th November at 11:00 – 13:00pm Glens Café, St Pauls Learning Centre BS2 8XJ

To find out more, call: **0117 914 0528** or email: **bristoldef@gmail.com**

Disabled Film Maker? – Grab this Opportunity Quick!

Bristol Based Media Company Taylor Kerek are collaborating with ScreenSkills and Bristol Film Office facilitate and deliver two one-day courses at The MShed in Oct: one on Social Media Marketing For Filmmakers & the second an Introduction into Leadership.



They particularly want people who are underrepresented in film to apply and are keen for more Disabled people involved.

The courses are incredibly cheap at just £25! So, this really is an opportunity you would not want to miss.

Interested?

visit <http://taylorkerek.co.uk/training/film-industry-training/> for more information and [application forms](#).



Pavement Parking report

Last month, The Houses of Common's released their Pavement Parking report. Overall, it was in favour of having a nationwide ban on pavement parking, although they did fail to mention that it is already illegal to park over dropped kerbs!

It is, unfortunately, not easy to keep Bristol's narrow roads clear for emergency service vehicle and accessible transport to get through, without parking on the pavement, but we must find a way. On this issue, Disabled people find themselves caught by an inaccessible infrastructure and drivers who don't care who they inconvenience, doubling the difficulty of finding a solution that works for everyone in Bristol.

However, the report does consider these problems and suggests solutions, including:

" ... a ban on pavement parking across England [with some exceptions] and an awareness campaign about the negative impacts of pavement parking."

Read the report here (click the link).

👍 <https://publications.parliament.uk/.../.../cmtrans/1982/1982.pdf>

Stop Making People Travel So Far for Assessments – Campaign by Claudette Dorey

A journalist from the BBC has been in touch saying,

"I have emailed the new Secretary of State today to ask for a follow up meeting that was promised earlier this year to discuss how we can fix this

problem. I have again expressed my concerns about the above issue and am putting pressure on all concerned.

It would be helpful if you would kindly share the petition again with friends, family, colleagues – and take the above survey if you've been personally affected."

In particular, he wants to hear from people who have been forced to travel a long distance for an assessment, only to get there and find out the assessor has called in sick, meaning their appointment has been cancelled. If you've been made to travel long distances for assessments when it's difficult for you, and would be interested to speak to a journalist, please let the 38 Degrees team know by filling out a survey. If so, press the Ctrl button and click here.

Paralympian Sophie Christiansen CBE says Improve Accessibility on the UK's Railway Networks now

"Close your eyes and pretend you couldn't get off a train. The doors are closing, no one is around to help you and you fear you'll end up being taken miles from home. Currently this happens to Disabled passengers every single day, with 1 in 10 assistance requests not working.

She thinks the Government should include reducing the number of times Disabled passengers book assistance and don't get it as a condition for being able to run a train line. She also says the Government and the train companies should fund more investment in level access & automatic ramps.

MerseyRail are soon to achieve level access - this is the standard that the whole of the UK should reach. Disabled people have to right to be confident in public transport.

If you agree, sign her petition [here](#).

Keep up to Date with Sophie on her social media, to follow the progress of the petition and to follow her as she prepares for Tokyo 2020!



Sophie Christiansen CBE, taken by [Amanda Jane Smith Photography](#)

[Sophie's Gold Club](#)

[Sophie's Twitter](#)

[Sophie's Instagram](#)

[Sophie's Facebook](#)

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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