

Bristol Disability Equality Forum

E-Bulletin January 2020



News

New Decade, New Opportunities

Happy New Year to our membership and supporters! We hope that the start of this new decade is optimistic for you all.

We, at the Forum are very much looking forward to continue our work and running our upcoming projects 'Forging our Future' and continuing with the 'Making Change Happen' meet ups.

If you have any suggestions of things that the Forum could do which you believe would be of benefit to the Disability community in Bristol – please feel free to contact us with your ideas.

You can keep up to date with us on our social media which are linked below:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[BDEF Website](#)

New Making Change Happen worker

The first new development of 2020 at the Forum was that a new member of staff, called Dan, joined us. Dan started on 2nd January and his first task was to run the MCH group he used to be a member of!

Dan is the new MCH Project Development Worker, now that Mike has left the Forum, and has lots of ideas about how to make more people aware of the project. We're looking forward to working with him and the extra energy he will bring to the project.

Good news and not so good news

We were delighted to see that the final draft of the revised Local Plan included a statement that 10% of all new housing must be wheelchair accessible.

We have been working on this for some time so we were feeling really great at the news. But, sadly, it didn't last that long as, in December, we found out that the Local Plan can't be enforced until the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) has written a new Joint Strategic Plan - a document outlining where enough new housing and businesses needed to meet the demands of increasing numbers of people living in our area. This is because the one they drew up a few years ago was rejected by the Government, and so was their revised plan.

What has this to do with the Bristol Local Plan? Well, the way things work means the Council can't enforce a Local Plan without this regional plan. So, given that most large developers see accessible homes as reducing their profits, they are very unlikely to willingly meet the target for accessible housing, and they can't be made to.

Trustee's Places Available

We are still looking for some trustees – perfect for anyone who is looking for a new endeavour this year.



**Looking for
Trustees**

The Forum have exciting opportunities in the pipeline, as well as tailoring our current work and innovating fresh opportunities within the city.

We welcome applications from all people who identify as Deaf or Disabled, who live, work or study in the wider Bristol area and are particularly keen to recruit people with an interest or experience in one (or more) of the following:

- Fundraising
- Marketing
- HR
- Book-keeping
- Recruiting new members
- Online campaigning.

However, this is

will also need to occasionally be available to ~~for~~ attend other meetings, events or specific work/projects.

We are able to to be flexible in enabling you to be involved e.g. by offering the option of communicating over skype in meetings, if you are unable to be physically present, and by meeting most access needs We also pay expenses for those on low incomes.

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

Volunteers needed for Accessible walking group

We were delighted to get a small grant to set up an accessible walking group. Now we are looking



for several volunteers to lead these accessible walking groups in the Bristol area.

We will provide you with Walk Leader training, pay any reasonable expenses e.g. if you need a wheelchair accessible taxi to volunteer, and support you to deliver the walks.

Each walk will need 2 walk leaders, so you won't be on your own. This means we need to recruit at least four, and ideally 6-8 volunteers for the project.

Volunteers will need to:

- Enjoy walking;
- Be reliable;
- Have good interpersonal skills.

If this opportunity sounds good for you, please contact our Admin and Communications worker, Winnie.

Disabled and Older People Making Change Happen in Bristol

Some of you will have already met our new Development worker Dan, who will be running the MCH meet ups from now on.

Before we finished for Christmas, we held a get-together for MCH members from all four groups to gather their views on the project, to if they had any ideas for improving what we offer them. We also told them the good news that we now had a small amount of money to help explore some ideas to reduce isolation, if they have any. As quite a few of the MCH members couldn't be there, we would like to gather their thoughts too, so in the coming weeks some of you will be sent a survey from us.



**Making
Change
Happen**



funded through  South West  people's health forum

One of things we'd like to know is whether they would prefer us to merge the groups so that instead of four we have two; -if they would rather meet twice a month but little further from their home, or once a month a little closer to their home; and whether they would like to invite people to attend their group to advise them on things like benefits. Some felt they would rather meet very locally, even if the parking was bad, rather than meet a bit farther away but with good parking. Some

suggested MCH members could car-share so that parking spaces is less of an issue. Other interesting ideas were suggested, like writing up group discussions on issues they face and submitting them to relevant decision-makers, start a regular podcast, and advertising the groups more widely e.g. at the Reablement Centre out near Cribbs Causeway, which lots of people from all over Bristol attend.

So, do let us know what you would most like from the project – either by responding to the survey we will be sending out or just getting in contact with us. The email address for our new project worker, Dan, is: mch.bristoldef@gmail.com, or you can call the office and speak to Winnie.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 24th January at 11:00am – 1:00pm The Hub, Lockleaze BS7 9FB

Friday 31st January at 10:30 – 12:30pm Gatehouse Centre Café BS13 9JN

To find out more please get in touch:

Call: Tel. 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 batteries may need replacing.

The chair is suitable for the larger person, as well as the lighter person.

Chair dimensions - width 660mm x length 820mm
Height (is adjustable) between 1100mm-1410mm

£300 ONO and for collection only (From our office at St Pauls Learning Centre)



Interested? then please email bristoldef@gmail.com for enquiries

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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