

Bristol Disability Equality Forum

E-Bulletin February 2020



News

Things are feeling good this February

We're only one month into 2020 and the Forum is as busy as ever. We've been looking into other ways we can source income to enhance our performance in the work we do as well as meeting with different organisations to see about working together in creating a more accessible city.

Laura will also be going beyond the Severn bridge soon to provide her expertise and knowledge in helping someone get their Access to Work paperwork approved, which will then allow this person to enter work and be able to work comfortably with no barriers.

As you can see we're extremely busy with no signs of slowing down. We really need some new trustees to help with the demand we have. We welcome applications from all people who identify as Deaf or Disabled, who live, work or study in the wider Bristol area and we are able to be flexible in enabling you to be involved e.g. by offering the option of attending meetings virtually (using Skype), if you are unable to be physically present, and by meeting most access needs. We also pay expenses for those on low incomes.

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In and around Temple Meads

Laura was recently asked to sit on the **Temple Quarter Disabled, Carer and Older People Advisory Group**. The aim of this group is to ensure that the new developments are as accessible as they can be. She has said Yes because she knows this is something that is important to our members.

The next meeting of this group is on 5th March and Laura would like to know what improvements you most want to see, by the end of February. This way she can ensure that, when going to these meetings, she is promoting what is most important to you. This will become especially important as it won't be possible to do everything people want done.

If she has feedback from lots of you, she will know what you want prioritised.

Send any feedback you have to bristoldef@gmail.com

Podcasts

As many of you know, last year Winnie and Laura started learning how to record podcasts at Knowle West Media Centre.

While we still have a lot to learn with editing and uploading the podcasts, we would like to know what you would like us to talk about.

Do you have a topic which you would like us to discuss? Or perhaps you wouldn't mind being a part of a podcast and we interview you?

We also have a small video camera to hand so, if you would like to volunteer to make a few, short films (2mins on average) for Forum, please let us know. The best recordings will be uploaded to our social media.

Research – Can you help?

Over the course of this past month we have been approached by companies and students from the South West who are looking for the perspectives of Disabled people on certain topics. Would you be willing to help?

[Fighting for diverse representation and empowerment in sex for Disabled people – the brief.](#)

[Attending Festivals as a Disabled Person – Questionnaire](#)

[Food Strategy from Postcode Films – Anonymous interview with payment for attending.](#)

Update on the Accessible Walking Group

Since the announcement of our small grant to set up an accessible walking group we have been flooded with interest!

The first four volunteers will be starting their training soon and we hope that they will be ready to start leading walks in April – a great way to start the Spring!

We are still looking for volunteers so, if you are interested, please do contact us. We are particularly welcome some Disabled women as most of the volunteers about to start their training are men.

Disabled and Older People Making Change Happen in Bristol

Making Change Happen is having a bit of a makeover with its very own social media pages to keep up to date with the projects.

We are sorry there was a bit of a mix up with Lockleaze last month, and pleased to say that this has now been sorted out. However, despite the mix up, we did have some hard-hitting discussions about how difficult parking in council-owned car parks can be in Bristol and South Glos, and how a lot of our paving and public transport poor accessibility.

So, if you are a Deaf, Disabled or older person and would like to meet other others, have a FREE cuppa, and find out what's going on and what we can do about it, go along to the next Making Change Happen meet up. They're a friendly lot!



All those who attend are really pleased they got involved but, don't just take our word for it, here's what they say,

“Representing and promoting the rights of Disabled people, the voice whom are not represented adequately by the large service providing charities”.

We do like to hear what we get right, as well as what we get wrong, so do let us know.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 3rd at 11:00am-1:00pm St Pauls Learning Centre Café, St Pauls, BS2 8XJ

Thursday 6th February 11:30-1:30pm The Beehive Centre, Stretford Road, BS5

Friday 21st February at 11:00am – 1:00pm The Hub, Lockleaze BS7 9FB

Friday 28th February at 10:30 – 12:30pm Gatehouse Centre Café BS13 9JN

To find out more please get in touch:

Call: Tel. 0117 914 0528 or email: mch.bristoldef@gmail.com

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eMove5-LC motorised office chair for Disabled Person – LAST CHANCE OR IT GOES TO LANDFILL

The motorised chair that we have in our office has yet to be claimed and is sadly collecting dust.

It will need new batteries (which can be easily replaced) but apart from that it is in incredibly good condition and will definitely improve someone's life for years to come. The chair is suitable for the larger person, as well as the lighter person with the Chair dimensions being



width 660mm x length 820mm and adjustable Height dimensions between 1100mm-1410mm.

We are asking for £300 (or nearest offer) which is only a fraction of the price for a brand new model of this chair (a staggering £3,750.00). We are only asking for money because we need to fundraise for our peer support groups and other projects.

While have priced it at £300 ONO, we are open to negotiation. Anyone buying it will need to collect it from our office at St Paul's Learning Centre.

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

Sign the Petition - Just Ask, Don't Grab – Take action on unwanted attention now!

Let's start the decade by getting the harassment of Disabled women and non-binary folk made illegal in Britain as making something illegal is to bring in consequences for perpetrators

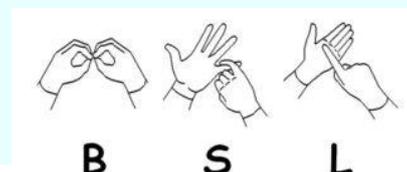
[Read more here.](#)



Sign the Petition – Make it compulsory for all schools and early years to teach basic signing

Sign language opens up brand new opportunities for someone who communicates through it. However, it is a sad reality that not many individuals know sign language, which is a huge barrier for communication and can result in isolation.

Jade Kilduff has organised this petition to the Department of Education asking them to make it compulsory for all schools to teach basic sign



language, so that Deaf people who rely on sign language to communicate aren't excluded from everyday conversations and socialising.

Sign the petition [here](#) and share within your networks.

Travel News: Got plans to visit the seaside in Spring?



GWR will be doing work on the Heart of Wessex line (Weymouth to Bristol) - particularly between Castle Cary and Weymouth over a series of weekends from late Jan – March.

This involves closing the line between Yeovil Pen Mill and Weymouth on certain weekends in January, February and March, as well as from Monday 15 February to Friday 21 February when buses will replace trains.

See: www.gwr.com/Wessex for further details and updates.

Help Tegan compete at to the 2024 Paralympics (#TeamTegan2024)

Representing your country in the Paralympics is a dream for many – let's make it a reality for Bristol's local sportswoman, Tegan!

Tegan Vincent Cooke has drive and determination by the bucket full. In her 18 years she has smashed many of her goals - from making youtube videos, to competing at a national in para-dressage (a type of horse-riding by Disabled people), to being a [TedxBristol](#) promotional speaker and model – there is absolutely nothing that she won't do. Her next challenge is to compete in the Paralympics in 2024.



Tegan competes at a national level for British Dressage and Riding for the Disabled but needs financial help to represent our country at international dressage competitions so she can qualify for TeamGB at the paralympics. She has started a fundraising campaign to help cover what it costs to do this.

Follow her on her journey – and donate, if you can - using:

[Youtube](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Crowdfunder](#)

Bristol Sight Loss Council – Survey and Meet up

If you are a person who is blind or partially-sighted, over 18, and live in Bristol, then the Bristol Sight Loss Councils wants to hear from you. The Sight Loss Council is a group of people who are blind or partially-sighted, who have come together as volunteers to work with decision-takers, policy-makers and service providers in the city, to bring about positive change for people with sight loss. The priorities they focus on are education, employment, health and social care, sport and leisure, technology, and transport.

They want to hear from people who are blind or vision impaired, regarding what issues under each of the priorities you want them to work on in 2020. You can do this through filling in a short survey.

If you ring their dedicated phonenumber, on 020 8996 1937, you can leave a message and someone will call you back to complete the survey over the telephone with you. You can also request a large-print, Braille or audio copy by ringing the dedicated number.

For those with internet access, the survey can be completed using a computer or mobile phone at: 

<https://forms.gle/JN9cFRShG7urmw6f9>

The survey is open from 1st February to 29th February.

There will also be a public meeting on **Wednesday 4th March** from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at the Broadmead Baptist Church in the centre of Bristol. You have to book a place if you'd like to go this event. To book, or if you have any questions or want further information, please contact Alun Davies, the Engagement Manager who supports the Sight Loss Council on **07779 169019**. Alun's email is **alun.davies@pocklington-trust.org.uk**