

# BRIEFING BRADFORD



8 April 2026

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Ticket sales close  
TOMORROW, 9 April.  
Don't miss out!

**[Age of Wonder:  
Shaping the Future of  
Young People](#)**

Sign-up to the Born in  
Bradford research project.

**[The Lived Experience  
of Community Mental  
Health](#)**

Full report of NHS England's  
2024 survey now available.

## Staying Informed: BreatheHR and Employment Law

Significant [changes to employment law](#) have recently come into effect (on 1, 6 and 7 April). How can your organisation keep up? [BreatheHR](#), the HR system used by Community Action Bradford & District, can help. Charities benefit from a discounted rate, and as well as streamlining day-to-day HR tasks, the system sends useful alerts to flag upcoming legislative changes.

A recent example is the [Fair Work Agency](#) (FWA). Launched in April 2026, the FWA is a new, unified UK enforcement body consolidating existing bodies such as [HMRC's minimum wage team](#) and the [Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority](#). It is responsible for enforcing workers' rights, including minimum wage, holiday pay and sick pay, and has the authority to inspect workplaces, investigate exploitation, and impose penalties on non-compliant employers.

BreatheHR alerted its users to this development automatically, helping organisations stay on top of their responsibilities without having to monitor every change in employment law themselves.

## Key Deadlines: Bradford District Election on 7 May

With the elections approaching quickly, [the key dates](#) are as follows:

- 9 April, 4pm: Deadline for delivery of nomination papers.
- 10 April: Publication of candidates standing in the election.
- 20 April: Deadline for applications to register to vote.
- 21 April, 5pm: Deadline for the applications for postal votes and for changes to postal and proxy votes.
- 28 April, 5pm: Deadline for both new proxy applications and for Voter Authority Certificates and notice of poll publication.
- 29 April: Deadline for appointment of counting and polling agents; applications for emergency proxies can also be made.
- 30 April: Applications for replacement postal votes can be made.
- 7 May, 7am to 10pm: [Polling day](#).
- 8/9 May: Verification and counting of votes.
- 12 June: Deadline for submitting election spending returns.

Your vote is your voice; make it count on 7 May.

## One Day Left to Get Your Ticket! VCSE Big Meet 2026

The [VCSE Big Meet 2026](#) is just two weeks away and **ticket sales close tomorrow**. This essential networking event for voluntary sector leaders is shaping up to be one you will not want to miss. **This issue of Briefing Bradford spotlights James Brown**, Chief Executive Officer of Active Bradford. Having previously worked at Yorkshire Sport Foundation, James brings an outstanding mix of local insight and national systems leadership experience, alongside in-depth knowledge of the Bradford District. He also serves as a Trustee of PSC Support and holds a Master's degree in Executive Leadership.

Joining James is **Carol Peltier**, Chair of Black Health Forum (BHF), Race Equality Network (REN) and the District Women's Health Network (WHN), and of course our keynote speaker, **Debra Allcock Tyler**, CEO of Directory of Social Change and a trusted voice on all things governance. The three speakers will be followed by a Q&A panel featuring leaders of VCSE organisations. **Time is running out!** An inspiring afternoon of expert speakers, a live Q&A with VCSE leaders, and a delicious dinner, all for just £15. **Ticket sales close tomorrow, 9 April.**

[Grab your place before it is too late!](#)



**THE GREAT VICTORIA HOTEL**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
12:45 (13:30 start) until 17:00

Proud to be sponsored by:



## A Network for West Yorkshire's Board Members

Are you a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer or Trustee of a not-for-profit in West Yorkshire?

Governing an organisation is one of the most valuable things you can do for your community. It is also, at times, one of the loneliest. You carry real responsibility, often unpaid, and the challenges you face rarely come with a ready-made support network attached. That is exactly why the [Chairs' and Trustees' Network](#) was created. A network built by the sector, for the sector.

Launched directly in response to requests from Chairs across West Yorkshire, this is a **free, member-led space** for VCSE board members to come together, share experiences, and support one another. If you sit on the board of any not-for-profit organisation in West Yorkshire, you are welcome here. As a member, you will have access to a dedicated WhatsApp group, a mailing list, and regular meetings. Crucially, the **agenda is yours to shape**. Whether the priorities are governance development, trustee recruitment, equity and inclusion, or simply talking through the challenges you are facing right now, the network exists to meet your needs.

Coming up at the next network meeting on **21 April, 4pm to 5.30pm**, specialist charity insurance broker [Access Insurance](#) will be joining to offer practical guidance tailored specifically to voluntary and not-for-profit organisations. Part of the [Benefact Group](#), Access Insurance works with over 18,000 charities and voluntary organisations across the UK, providing bespoke cover that protects organisations, trustees, volunteers, and the activities they deliver. For many smaller organisations, understanding what insurance you actually need, and what you are currently missing, can feel daunting. This is a straightforward, no-pressure opportunity to get clarity from people who genuinely understand the sector.

**Meetings are always online. Membership is free.** The network is new and it needs people like you. If you are ready to stop navigating governance alone, [complete the membership form](#) today and become part of something being built from the ground up.

## Weekly Food Waste Collections Coming to Bradford in September

[Bradford Council](#) is making changes to its waste management policies, including the introduction of weekly food waste collections from September 2026. A [report](#) setting out the details goes to the Council's Executive Committee on Tuesday 14 April 2026. The changes are driven by new national legislation, including the [Simpler Recycling reform](#) and [Extended Producer Responsibility](#) legislation, which require local authorities to increase recycling rates. National targets include a 65 per cent household recycling rate by 2035 and a 50 per cent reduction in household waste by 2042.

All households will receive an external 27-litre food waste bin and a five-litre kitchen caddy. These can be used for uneaten food and plate scrapings, out-of-date food (minus packaging), tea bags, coffee grounds, pet food, peelings, eggshells and raw or cooked meat or fish including bones. Further information will be shared with households closer to the launch.

The updated policy also covers existing alternate weekly collections for general and recycling waste, the opt-in paid-for garden waste service and guidance on admissions to Household Waste Recycling Centres. Larger bins may be provided for households of seven or more people and houses of multiple occupation (HMOs). Richard Galthen, Head of Fleet and Waste at Bradford Council, said the policies would help reduce waste, improve recycling rates and create a more sustainable district. He added that more information on the food waste collections would be provided once everything is in place.

Bradford Council collects and receives over 200,000 tonnes of waste per year.

*Additional documents:* [Bradford Council Domestic Waste & Recycling Policy 2026/27](#) and [Household Waste Recycling Centre \(HWRC\) Policy 2026-27](#)

## Sovereign Health Care Community Programme

[Sovereign Health Care](#) is inviting applications from organisations that work to improve health and wellbeing, with a strong focus on charitable activity that benefits communities in **Bradford and West Yorkshire**. [The fund](#) supports projects led by registered charities, voluntary groups and community organisations that deliver work with clear charitable purpose.

Priority is given to initiatives addressing conditions including heart disease, chest and lung disease, various cancers, stroke and diabetes. Grants typically **range from £1,000 to £10,000** and can support project costs, core costs and capital items. Sovereign Health Care runs six funding cycles each year, with panel meetings in January, March, **May, July, September** and **November**. Applications are accepted year-round and considered at the next available panel meeting.

## The Giving Machine Community Grants

[TheGivingMachine](#) awards eight unrestricted grants of £250 every quarter to small UK-based charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations with an annual turnover of under £1 million. Recipients are chosen at random, so there is no competitive process. The application for the [Community Grants](#) is simple: a few sentences on what your organisation does, what you would spend £250 on, and the difference it would make. No lengthy forms, and the only reporting requirement is a brief note once the money has been spent.

To be eligible, your organisation must be UK-registered, hold a bank account in its registered name, and have an annual income of under £1 million.

**The current round closes on 30 April** so it is well worth a look if your organisation could use a flexible, no-strings-attached grant.

## England Athletics Club Improvement Fund

England Athletics runs a [Club Improvement Fund](#) offering grants of **up to £500** to affiliated clubs facing barriers to growth and development. The fund is open to all England Athletics affiliated clubs, with priority given to those that have not received funding in the past 12 months.

Projects should aim to make clubs safer, more sustainable and more welcoming. [England Athletics](#) is particularly interested in funding work around recruiting and training new volunteers, developing existing ones, increasing junior retention, improving how clubs engage with new members, or supporting the transition to the new age group categories.

If your club is working to recruit more members, keep the ones it has, or become a stronger part of its local community, this fund is worth exploring. **Applications are open until the end of April**, with the funding panel meeting in May to make its decisions. A straightforward opportunity to secure practical support for improvements that can make a real difference to club life.

## The Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation

The [Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation](#) has been supporting registered charities across the UK since February 2000, distributing donations funded by an annual payment from [Skipton Building Society](#). Its decisions, however, are made entirely independently by a board of eight trustees. The Foundation focuses on helping people experiencing hardship to access stable housing and improve their financial wellbeing. Where there is a good fit, it will consider core costs, project costs and small capital contributions, from staff salaries to daily essentials for people moving into a permanent home or equipment for financial and digital skills sessions. **Grants of up to £5,000** are available to UK registered charities.

**Applications are open now for the July meeting**, with the December round accepting submissions from 1 September.

## Funding and support:

Visit us for more funding [opportunities](#) and [support](#).

## **Bradford District and Craven Mind: Service Coordinator KidsTime**

Hours: 37

Salary: £27,407 - £30,876

Closing date: 8 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **St Christopher's Community Centre: Food & Hospitality - Project Lead**

Hours: 28 over 4 days

Salary: £27,694 - £30,510 pro rata

Closing date: 12 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Active Bradford : Finance And Governance Manager**

Hours: 17.5-20

Salary: £47,877 pro rata

Closing date: 13 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **The Bridge Project: Navigator, Bridge-Ways**

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £30,760

Closing date: 13 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Kirklees Council - Community Plus: Community Connector**

Hours: 37

Salary: £32,061 - £33,699

Closing date: 16 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Create Strength Group: Recovery Group Worker**

Hours: 21.5

Salary: £24,890 - £27,323

Closing date: 17 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Bradford District and Craven Mind: Service Manager – Hope and Light**

Hours: 37

Salary: £32,240 - £39,865

Closing date: 17 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Step 2 Young People's Health: Education Services Facilitator**

Hours: 35

Salary: £27,694 - £31,022

Closing date: 23 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Cancer Support Yorkshire: Finance Manager**

Hours: 15

Salary: £16,586 based on £41,465 FTE

Closing date: 26 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Family Action: Best Start in Life and Family Hubs Engagement Worker**

Hours: 37

Salary: 28,884 - 31,698

Closing date: 26 April 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **The Jo Cox Foundation : Community Action Worker**

Hours: 14 (2 days) or job share 7 (1 day)

Salary: £28,000 pro rata (£11,200 for 2 days or £5,600 for one day)

Closing date: 5 May 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)

## **Friends of Bradford's Becks: Voluntary Chair of Friends of Bradford's Becks**

Hours: 1-2 per week

Salary: Voluntary

Closing date: 30 July 2026

Details: [snicket.org](https://snicket.org)



Get seen by the right talent,  
without the premium price tag!



# Training and Events

Getting Started – Measure your Impact

**When?** Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Leaders' Network

**When?** Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 14:00 to 16:00

**Where?** BTM, 11-12 Eldon Place, BD1 3AZ

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Manage a Project

**When?** Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 to 12:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Chairs' and Trustees Network

**When?** Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 16:00 to 17:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Community Action's VCSE Big Meet 2026!

**When?** Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12:45 to 17:00

**Where?** Great Victoria Hotel, Bridge Street

[Book your spot](#)

**Ticket sales end tomorrow 9<sup>th</sup> April!**

Getting Started – Promote your Group

**When?** Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Business Planning with Social Model Business Canvas

**When?** Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 12:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - Protect your Data

**When?** Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - Safeguarding

**When?** Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – DIY Fundraising

**When?** Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 18:00 to 19:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Manage Volunteers

**When?** Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Time Management

**When?** Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 12:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

## Community Sector Outreach

The Outreach programme is busier than ever, and your group could be next to benefit. Drop in for free one-to-one advice on governance, volunteering, safeguarding, funding, payroll, networking and more. No question too big or too small.

Book a 15-minute slot, stack a few together if you need more time, or simply turn up on the day if a Development Officer is free. Booking ahead is the safest bet to secure your spot, but the door is always open.

This is a free service, so use it! The more groups that get involved, the stronger the case for keeping it going. If your organisation could benefit even a little, do not wait.

Check our [events page](#) for newly added dates and locations and [book your spot via Eventbrite](#), though drop-ins are also welcome.

- [Queensbury Library, 9 April, 15:00 to 17:00](#)
- [Bolling Hall Library, 16 April, 10:00 to 12:00](#)
- [Online, 21 April, 16:00 to 18:00](#)
- [Wibsey Library, 28 April, 10:00 to 12:00](#)
- [Keighley Library, 7 May, 10:00 to 12:00](#)
- [Manningham Library, 12 May, 10:00 to 12:00](#)
- [Online, 28 May, 16:00 to 18:00](#)
- [ShIPLEY Library, 4 June, 10:00 to 12:00](#)

## Take the next step:

Head to our [events calendar](#) Follow up on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Email: [info@cabad.org.uk](mailto:info@cabad.org.uk)

# Calendar of events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		8 <a href="#">CBMDC Councillor nomination deadline</a>	9	10 <a href="#">Trailblazer Fund Deadline</a>
13	14	15	16  <a href="#">Community Outreach</a> <a href="#">Bolling Hall</a> 	17 <a href="#">Co-op Foundation: Green Opportunities Fund Deadline</a>
20	21  <a href="#">Community Outreach</a> <a href="#">Online</a>  <a href="#">CHAIRS' AND TRUSTEES NETWORK</a>	22	23  <a href="#">Last day to book Your ticket tomorrow 9 April</a>	24
27	28  <a href="#">Community Outreach</a> <a href="#">Wibsey</a>	29	30 <a href="#">England Athletics: Club Improvement Fund Deadline</a> <a href="#">The Giving Machine: Community Grants Deadline</a>	1
4	5	6	7  <a href="#">Community Outreach</a> <a href="#">Keighley</a>	8

# Community Action Bradford & District Resources

Community Action Bradford & District offers a wide range of services to help voluntary and community organisations across the district to thrive. From start-ups to established groups, practical support, guidance and tools are on hand to help them make a real difference in people's lives.

## Chairs' and Trustees Network:

The Chairs' and Trustee Network provides a supportive space for chairs, vice-chairs and trustees from voluntary, community and social enterprise groups across West Yorkshire to connect, share peer support and exchange information about their governance roles. As a member-led network, participants collectively shape its terms of reference and scope. [Membership is free](#) and open to board members of not-for-profit organisations in West Yorkshire.



## Leaders' Network:

The Leaders Network brings together voluntary, community and social enterprise sector leaders across Bradford to connect, share knowledge and collectively shape the sector. The Network is open to leaders at all levels, from chief executives to those leading teams, projects or their own development. Membership is free and open to anyone leading within a not-for-profit organisation in Bradford. To join, visit the [Leaders' Network](#) page.



## Getting Started

### Getting Started Training:

Community Action Bradford & District delivers 90-minute training courses for trustees, staff and volunteers from voluntary and community sector organisations in Bradford district. The courses cover essential topics for effective organisational management. Sessions are available both online and in person, ranging from brief [Getting Started](#) introduction and refresher courses to comprehensive [half-day courses](#) and [full-day training](#) for more in-depth learning. Visit the [training page](#) to view available courses, some of which are free if eligible.



Bradford Community Payroll & Accounts

### Payroll Solution:

[Bradford Community Payroll and Accounts \(BCPA\)](#) offers a comprehensive range of payroll and accounts services tailored to voluntary and community groups and other organisations. From PAYE advice to day-to-day administration, BCPA takes on the paperwork so that organisations can focus on delivering vital services to their communities. A dedicated service is also available for Direct Payment users, covering additional needs such as insurance and invoice payments, ensuring everything is taken care of in one place. Eligible grassroots organisations can benefit from the [EasyStart Payroll](#) offer. The package includes three months of free payroll services, a suite of Getting Started Courses and additional Development Officer support. To find out more, please email [payroll@bradfordcpa.co.uk](mailto:payroll@bradfordcpa.co.uk) or call 01274 787800.

*Do what you do best. BCPA takes care of the rest.*

### Organisation Support:

Development Officers are here to help your community group get off the ground, or to operate effectively once up and running. They are dedicated, passionate and experienced. Whether a registered charity or an individual, a sports club or a faith group, a campaign or a community clean-up, no project is too big or too small. You do not need to be part of an existing community group, and you do not need to be a paid member of staff, we also work with local residents, volunteers and trustees. Get in touch to find out more: [info@cabad.org.uk](mailto:info@cabad.org.uk)

## 2026 Charity Digital Skills Report Survey

Your input can help shape the [2026 Charity Digital Skills Report](#), by [Zoe Amar](#) and [Nissa Ramsay](#), with support from their partners and sponsors. It is a powerful tool for influencing support and funding for UK non-profits. If you work, volunteer, or consult for a UK-based non-profit, charity, or social enterprise, and have some familiarity with your organisation's digital activity, this survey is for you.

It takes around 25 minutes to complete and can be done as a team exercise, with no technical knowledge required. **The deadline is 5pm on Monday 20 April.** The survey explores how organisations are embracing digital tools, technology and AI, including the skills, strategy, leadership, funding and investment needed to use them effectively. It is also a useful opportunity for your organisation to reflect on digital progress, identify barriers, and discover ways to move forward.

**And there are prizes on offer.** Registered charities that complete the survey and opt in can enter a prize draw to win one of **five grants of £300** in unrestricted funding, administered as a donation by [Zoe Amar Digital](#). All respondents can **also enter to win one of ten free places** on a [Media Trust Communications Course](#), covering practical topics such as AI for charity marketers, email marketing, SEO, WhatsApp communities and more.

## Your Neonatal Journey Matters: Have Your Say with Bradford District and Craven

[Bradford District and Craven Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership \(MNVP\)](#) would like to hear from you via a survey. The MNVP is a group of parents and professionals working together to help shape maternity and neonatal services at [Bradford Royal Infirmary](#) and [Airedale General Hospital](#). Listening to families and making sure their experiences lead to real change is at the heart of what the partnership does. If your baby spent time on a Neonatal Unit, your thoughts and ideas matter. The team is currently exploring the best ways to bring neonatal families together. They want to know what would work for you, what kind of events you would enjoy, what venues would feel right, and how you would like these spaces to look and feel. The [survey](#) is quick and easy to complete. Every response will help build something that truly reflects what families need.

## Age of Wonder: Shaping the Future of Young People

[Age of Wonder](#) is part of [Born in Bradford \(BiB\)](#), a seven-year research project following teenagers as they move through adolescence into adulthood. Working in partnership with schools, sixth forms and colleges, it aims to build a detailed picture of what it is like to grow up in Bradford today.

Young people **aged 16 to 18** are invited to sign up to the [BiB Online Hub](#), a research portal giving them ownership of their involvement in the study. Participants can also access skills workshops, careers fairs and other opportunities to help strengthen their CV ahead of university or employment.

All information shared is confidential. Signing up earns a £20 voucher, rising to £30 for those who take part in all activities. Ready to shape your future? Sign up today.

## One Adoption Agency: Become a Youth Voice Champion for West Yorkshire!

If you are a young person **aged between 13 and 21**, live in West Yorkshire, and **have been adopted**, [One Adoption](#) would like to hear from you. Your voice, your ideas and your experiences can help shape change for yourself and others in similar situations. Getting involved means you can influence real decisions, boost your CV, take part in activities, and meet others who have shared the experience of adoption. Refreshments are provided and activities are suitable for all ages. For more information or to get involved, contact Donna Shaaban, Youth Development Worker for West Yorkshire: Tel: 07891 274441 Email: [donna.shaaban@oneadoptionwy.leeds.gov.uk](mailto:donna.shaaban@oneadoptionwy.leeds.gov.uk)

## Community Energy Ambassadors Free Training

Energy bills remain more than £500 per year above pre-crisis levels, energy debt has hit a record £4.4 billion, and further price rises could be on the way. For anyone working or volunteering in communities across Yorkshire, the North East or Cumbria, now is the time to get equipped.

The [Community Energy Ambassadors](#) project, now in its seventh year, offers free, CPD-certified training to help you support clients and neighbours with their energy costs. Across three 1.5-hour sessions on Zoom, you will cover energy prices and tariffs, household support schemes, smart meters, energy efficiency, the new Warm Homes Plan and much more.

As well as the training itself, you will get access to a resource portal, a monthly newsletter and regular online update events throughout the year.

Funded by the [Yorkshire Energy Doctor](#) and [Northern Gas](#), the course is completely free to anyone working or living in the region.

The next course runs on **13, 20 and 27 April**, from 1.30pm to 3.00pm each session.

[Reserve your place for April](#) or browse future dates.

## West Yorkshire Enhance Programme: Two Modules Accepting Registrations

Are you looking to strengthen your skills for integrated system working, whilst expanding your network across health and care? Colleagues working across the Bradford District and Craven health and care system are invited to register for two upcoming modules on the [NHS England Enhancing Generalist Skills \(Enhance\) Programme](#) in West Yorkshire.

[System Working \(3 June to 22 July 2026\)](#): Build your understanding of how health and care systems operate and develop the skills to work collaboratively across organisational boundaries. This module covers systems thinking, leadership and influencing across networks to improve outcomes for the populations you serve. Applications open until 15 May.

[Environmental Sustainability \(12 August to 7 October 2026\)](#) Explore the connection between planetary and human health and learn how to embed sustainable practices within health and care. You will develop approaches to reducing environmental impact whilst maximising health outcomes and grow as an advocate for sustainable healthcare. Applications open until 26 July.

Both modules offer a blend of in-person sessions, self-directed learning, and interactive opportunities, bringing together a diverse group of colleagues from across the health and care system.

Places are limited so [register early to secure your place](#).

## Three Free Mental Health and Wellbeing Courses Now Open for Enrolment

Thanks to government funding, three popular [WeFindAnyLearner](#) online courses are currently available at no cost. The self-led course spots are filling up quickly, so it is worth [registering your interest](#) sooner rather than later. To be eligible, you must be at least 19 years old by 31 August 2025, reside in England, and not be currently enrolled in an apprenticeship programme.

- [Counselling Skills Level 2](#): An introduction to the core skills used in counselling and other helping roles, covering effective communication, ethical frameworks and the theory behind good practice.
- [Mental Health First Aid Level 2](#): Learn to recognise the signs of mental ill health, respond appropriately and signpost people to the right support. A practical course for anyone who wants to feel more confident supporting others in everyday settings.
- [Understanding Autism Level 2](#): Gain a solid understanding of autism, including its impact on communication and sensory processing, associated conditions and relevant legal frameworks.

## Understanding Genetics in Your Community

The Genetics in Communities Service at [Bevan Healthcare](#) aims to ensure that everyone can benefit from advances in genetics. Genes act as instructions, telling cells how to grow and function. With over 20,000 genes in the human body, most work together in harmony. Because genes are inherited from parents and passed down through generations, family members often share similar traits and health patterns.

One area surrounded by considerable confusion is cousin marriage and its potential link to disabilities in children. If you have concerns, or a family member is affected by a genetic condition, the service is there to help replace myths with genuine understanding. Support on offer includes one-to-one family guidance, myth-busting conversations, community outreach sessions and professional training for health and social care workers.

For frontline professionals, a **free four-hour interactive training session**, "Cousin Marriage and Genetic Disorders in Diverse Communities", facilitated by Dr Aamra Darr, is available to health, social care and voluntary sector staff, including GPs, midwives, health visitors, social workers, SEND school staff, youth workers and social prescribers. The training simplifies the medical facts and equips professionals with accurate information to communicate effectively with individuals and families. Topics covered include genetic risk, infant mortality, informed choice, equity in service delivery and working with diversity in multi-ethnic communities.

For enquiries or to book a training session: email [tamina.tariq2@bradford.nhs.uk](mailto:tamina.tariq2@bradford.nhs.uk) or call 07547 348 262.

## The Lived Experience of Community Mental Health

Published in February 2026, this report from NHS England takes an in-depth look at the real-life experiences of people using community mental health services across the country, drawing on findings from the Community Mental Health Survey 2024.

Rather than relying on statistics alone, the report explores how people feel about access to services, communication with staff, and the quality of treatment and support they receive. Its findings make clear that factors such as waiting times, continuity of care and personalised support have a significant bearing on whether people have a positive experience overall.

The analysis draws on written responses from 14,619 patients aged 16 and over who received treatment for a mental health condition between 1 April and 31 May 2024, making it one of the most substantial pieces of qualitative evidence available on how community mental health services are experienced by the people who use them.

By centring the voices of service users, the report offers compelling evidence of where changes could make the greatest difference, and where community mental health services have the most to gain from meaningful improvement. The [report](#) can be found in full on the [NHS website](#).

## Another Year of Funding

Confirmation has come through that the [Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership](#) website has secured funding for the next 12 months. This means you can continue sharing the website and related resources with confidence. Nothing is going anywhere in the near future. This includes the Women's Health Hub ([betterhealthwomen.co.uk](http://betterhealthwomen.co.uk)) and the [Help For You and Baby](#) information pages.



Thank you to each and every one of our loyal subscribers – we hope you enjoy the read each fortnight!

## Be in the next issue!

Send an email to [briefingbradford@cabad.org.uk](mailto:briefingbradford@cabad.org.uk) with as much detail as possible to have it in a future issue.

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