

# BRIEFING BRADFORD



6 May 2026

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[A successful VCSE Big Meet!](#)

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## A successful VCSE Big Meet!

The VCSE Big Meet 2026 took place on Thursday 23 April. Organised and hosted by Community Action Bradford & District, the event takes place annually to bring people together, make valuable connections, share insight and have important discussions related to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

We had **96 people** join us for the event, the room was packed out with Chairs, Trustees, Leaders and passionate VCSE colleagues. We had **5 fabulous speakers**, between them representing more than **13 vital voluntary sector organisations**. As a reminder, our speakers and panellists were:

- Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive at Directory of Social Change, Trustee of In-Kind Direct, co-Chair of the Soldiering On Awards as well as holding some public sector governance roles.
- Carol Peltier, Co-Founder and Chair of the Black Health Forum, Chair of the Women's Health Network and the first female Chair of the Race Equality Network.
- James Brown, new CEO of Active Bradford and Trustee of PSC Support.
- Kaneez Khan, Faith and Communities Coordinator at Wellsprings Together, and Founder of Primrose Consultancy.
- Javed Khan, CEO of Bradford District Community Empowerment Network (CNet) and Centre Manager at West Bowling Community Advice and Training Centre.

Based on the feedback, we would say the event was a huge success! A selection of comments are included in the [event round-up report](#).

**Next year:** For the last couple of years, we have run the VCSE Big Meet in April. Next year we will bring it later into the year, towards September. Watch out for the save the date!

The reason for this is that we will be planning the return of a very special event. The Bradford Big Advice Day will return in late June for Small Charities Week. This will be a marketplace of voluntary sector support organisations, funders and businesses working in this space, as well as a range of helpful workshops. More details on this soon.

### We have a lot of thanks to offer:

**Thank you** to our guests who made this event possible, who purchased a ticket, who showed up and reminded us exactly why we put this event on. You are what makes this sector great, you are a reminder that we are stronger together. **Thank you** to our speakers and panellists who gave up their time, travelled great distances to be here to share what they know with our guests. Each one of you were brilliant and shared some funny, memorable, heartfelt and insightful stories. We thank you for your openness, honesty and for giving a piece of yourself over to the audience.

**Thank you** to the Great Victoria Hotel, who offered their beautiful venue with competitive pricing, and to Andrew, the chef, for offering a bespoke and inclusive menu.

**Thank you** to our sponsors who really put their money where their mouth is, not just investing in the VCSE sector but putting their all into making it a better place, offering insight and practical solutions.

If you'd like to get in touch with our sponsors, their contact details are below:

- AideCRM: Get in touch with Terry at [terry@pipemediadesign.co.uk](mailto:terry@pipemediadesign.co.uk) or you can arrange a [chat/demo](#).
- Access Insurance: Visit their [website](#) to see what they offer and get your no-obligation insurance quote or call 0333 344 7420 to speak to an adviser.
- Bradford Community Payroll and Accounts: [visit their website](#), or contact them at [payroll@bradfordcpa.co.uk](mailto:payroll@bradfordcpa.co.uk) or 01274 787 800 to receive a quote. If your organisation's annual income is under £100,000 you can get 3 months free payroll and onboarding, quoting EasyStart!

## Thriving and Surviving in Place: An Interrogation of Lives Lived and Stories Told Through Care (Thrive-Care)

This study seeks to explore Bradford as a place that embodies multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities. **The aim** is to explore the underlying caring mechanisms that enable communities to thrive despite differences. **The goal** is to enable community cohesion through the collection and sharing of stories from the different communities that make Bradford what it is, gathered through video and portraiture and presented through an event showcase. **The hope** is to understand how everyday acts help people overcome challenges and feel that they truly belong.

**What is required:** Dr Theresa Onaji-Benson, Assistant Professor in Business Ethics and CSR at the University of Bradford, is seeking access to communities willing to work with the project team. This would involve identifying two individuals who would be willing to be recorded and painted at the end of May.

In mid-July, there will be a free showcase event where the stories collected will be exhibited, with food, drinks and community at its heart. **The wish** is that people living in Bradford, together with the showcased communities, will attend.

**What benefits do the communities stand to gain?** Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their experiences of living in Bradford. Research findings will also be made available to participants. In addition, those who take part in the video recording will receive a digital copy of both the video and their portrait. If you would like to find out more or get involved, please get in touch with Dr Theresa Onaji-Benson: [t.onaji-benson@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:t.onaji-benson@bradford.ac.uk). Interested communities must register their interest as soon as possible, by 14 May at the latest.

## Home Office Community Engagement Fund 2026/27: Applications Open

The Home Office is offering grants totalling £150,000 to grassroots and community organisations through its [Community Engagement Fund \(CEF\)](#). Applications opened on 14 April and close at 4pm on 12 May.

The fund is designed to support short, focused projects that can be completed within the current financial year, rather than longer programmes of work. For 2026/27, the fund's priority continues to centre on communities from the [Windrush generation](#), reflecting the current administration's commitment to this as a high-priority area.

Successful applicants will be expected to work towards one or more of the following goals:

- 1: Raising awareness of the [Windrush Compensation Scheme](#) and the [Windrush Documentation Scheme](#), correcting misinformation, and encouraging eligible people to apply. This applies to communities from both Caribbean and non-Caribbean backgrounds; each project must include at least one in-person event.
- 2: Helping the Home Office better understand why eligible individuals are not applying to these schemes, how to reach a wider audience and what might encourage more people to come forward, particularly those who have not previously applied.
- 3: Improving trust, confidence, and engagement with the Home Office by working directly with grassroots organisations to strengthen relationships and gather community-led insights.

To be eligible, your organisation must have at least two years' experience delivering Windrush-related community engagement within the past three years and must not require funding for new fixed assets such as laptops or phones. Eligible organisation types include registered charities, grassroots organisations, community interest companies, unincorporated charities and community organisations, and consortiums with a qualifying lead organisation. **Full eligibility criteria and application details** are available on [the official government website](#).

## Sheila Coates Foundation

[The Rapid Impact Fund 11 – summer 2026: building inclusive cultures grant](#) funds creative, innovative projects that **support autistic students** and strengthen inclusive school or college culture. Research shows that a positive culture is crucial to the success of young people with SEND, including autism, and the foundation welcomes proposals that link support for autistic individuals or groups with lasting change across a department or whole institution. Applications for the **£5,000 grant** are open to all staff in mainstream secondary schools or colleges **until 13 May (5pm)**, including teachers, teaching assistants, SENCos and leadership staff.

## Persimmon Charitable Foundation

The second round of applications **opens in June**. The [Persimmon Charitable Foundation](#) launched its open application programme in 2025 to enable more charities and community groups to access donations. Up to £300,000 is available for distribution each year, in the form of **six £50,000 donations**. The Foundation focuses on transforming communities, promoting sustainable development, advancing social mobility for young and unemployed people, encouraging active and healthy lifestyles, and helping people overcome barriers such as poverty and disability.

## Big Give: Women and Girls Match Fund

This [match funding programme](#) supports charities working with women and girls. Successful applicants are awarded a ring-fenced sum which is then unlocked by public donations made through [Big Give's](#) online fundraising platform during the campaign. Organisations can apply for match funding between **£500 and £10,000**. The application **deadline is 19 June**.

## The Grocers' Charitable Trust

[The Grocers' Charitable Trust](#) distributes around £1 million yearly to registered charities through one-off grants of up to £5,000. Priority areas include poverty, disability, older people, health, the military, heritage, the arts, the environment and young people. Applications are via the online form only, with an alternative postal route available for those unable to apply online due to an impairment. The **deadline is 1 September**.

## Stagecoach Giving for Good Community Fund

[Stagecoach](#) runs a **monthly** community fund offering one-off grants of **up to £500** to smaller, local charities in the communities it serves. Eligible organisations must be a Charitable Company, CIC, CIO, Constituted Group or Registered Charity working in health and wellbeing, supporting children and young people, addressing loneliness and isolation, or increasing accessibility and opportunity. [Apply via Neighbourly](#).

## The Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust

This Yorkshire-focused trust awards grants to registered charities working in the areas of youth, older people, disability and medical welfare. [The Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust](#) supports educational, community and musical projects that relieve hardship and benefit the less fortunate. Grant amounts are undisclosed. The **deadlines** are the last **Monday in July (27) and October (26)**.

## More Funding and Support

Visit [the Funding and Grants](#) page on the Community Action Bradford & District website for an [introductory guide to fundraising](#), an up-to-date list of funding opportunities and guidance on applying for grants.

## **Staying Put: Young Person's Domestic Abuse Advocate (YPDAA)**

Hours: 30

Salary: £27,554 - £28,735 pro rata

Closing date: 8 May 2026

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

## **Inclusive Volunteering - Bradford & District: Volunteer Development Worker**

Hours: 17.5

Salary: £13,627

Closing date: 8 May 2026

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

## **VCS Alliance : Director of Performance and Assurance**

Hours: 35

Salary: £46,350

Closing date: 10 May 2026

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

## **VCS Alliance : Relationship Manager**

Hours: 35

Salary: £36,050

Closing date: 10 May 2026

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

## **VCS Alliance : Project Support Officer**

Hours: 35

Salary: £24,500

Closing date: 10 May 2026

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

## **VCS Alliance : Bookkeeper**

Hours: 14

Salary: £25,000 -28,000 pro rata

Closing date: 10 May 2026

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

## **Staying Put: Mental Health Advocate (Domestic Abuse)**

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £27,554 - £28,735

Closing date: 14 May 2026

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

## **YMCA Bradford: Keyworker Supporting Families**

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £27,000 - £29,000

Closing date: 18 May 2026

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

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

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £26,228 - £27,323

Closing date: 22 May 2026

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

## **Create Strength Group: Bradford RESET - Caseworker**

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £30,760

Closing date: 22 May 2026

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

## **YMCA Bradford: Keyworker Supporting Families – BRAD44**

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £32,000

Closing date: 26 May 2026

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

## **JAMES: Senior Family Support Worker**

Hours: 37.5

Salary: £32,000

Closing date: 26 May 2026

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

Advertise a  
vacancy from just  
£30\*!

## **Basis Yorkshire: Navigation and Support Worker (Sex Work and Sexual Exploitation)**

Hours: 35

Salary: £30,084

Closing date: 27 May 2026

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

## **Basis Yorkshire: Navigation and Support Worker (DV and Housing)**

Hours: 35

Salary: £30,084

Closing date: 27 May 2026

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

## **Education Alliance for Life Chances: Trustee x 3**

Hours: Variable per week

Salary: Voluntary

Closing date: 29 May 2026

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

## **Keighley Healthy Living: Trustee**

Hours: 1-2 per week

Salary: Voluntary

Closing date: 1 June 2026

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

## **St Christopher's Community Centre: Project Lead - Older & Vulnerable People**

Hours: 25

Salary: £27,694 - £30,510 pro rata

Closing date: 4 June 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)



## Getting Started

Business Planning with Social Model Business Canvas

**When?** Wednesday May 13th, 10:00to 12:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - Protect your Data

**When?** Thursday May 14th, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started -Safeguarding

**When?** Wednesday May 20th, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started –DIY Fundraising

**When?** Tuesday June 2nd, 18:00to 19:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started –Manage Volunteers

**When?** Wednesday June 3rd, 13:30to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Time Management

**When?** Thursday June 11th, 10:00to 12:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Duties and Responsibilities of a Safeguarding Lead

**When?** Tuesday June 23, 10:00 to 12:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - Set up a New Group

**When?** Tuesday June 23, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Manage a Project

**When?** Thursday June 25, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Leader’s Network

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

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Chairs and Trustees Network

**When?** Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 16:00 to 17:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Leader’s Network

**When?** Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 11:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - Safeguarding

**When?** Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 13:30 to 15:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Measure your Impact

**When?** Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 to 12:00

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Duties and Responsibilities of a Safeguarding Lead

**When?** Wednesday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 12:30

**Where?** Online

[Book your spot](#)

Chairs and Trustees Network

**When?** Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 16:00 to 17:30

**Where?** [Online](#)

[Book your spot](#)

### 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
		May 6	7  <a href="#">Keighley Library</a>	8
11	12  <a href="#">Manningham Library</a>	13 <a href="#">Sheila Coates Foundation: Rapid Impact Fund 11</a>  <a href="#">Business Planning with Social Model Business Canvas (online)</a>	14  <a href="#">Getting Started - Protect your Data (online)</a>	15
18	19	20  <a href="#">Getting Started - Safeguarding (online)</a>	21	22
25 	26	27 <a href="#">Barclays Community Sport Fund</a>	28  <a href="#">Online</a>	29
June 1	2  <a href="#">Getting Started - DIY Fundraising (online)</a>	3  <a href="#">Getting Started - Manage Volunteers (online)</a>	4  <a href="#">Shipley</a>	5

# 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 don't need to be part of an existing community group, and you don't 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)

## Opportunities with Common/Wealth for Young People

[Common/Wealth](#) make site-specific theatre events that encompass electronic sound, new writing, visual design and verbatim. Their work is political and contemporary, based in the present day, the here and now. They make work that is relevant and addresses concerns of the times.

Common/Wealth are now opening the door to three exciting opportunities for young people:

**Creative Youth Voice:** Looking for opinionated young people aged 12–20 who are comfortable with public speaking to take part in a Creative Youth Voice project this summer. Participants will contribute to a public outcome exploring how young people form their opinions about the world and their relationship to the media and social media. No experience needed, only big opinions! Casual evening and weekend work over summer, paid at £15 per hour. Contact Saoirse at 07788 266552 or [saoirse@commonwealththeatre.co.uk](mailto:saoirse@commonwealththeatre.co.uk).

**29% Festival Youth Board:** Recruiting young people with an interest in event management or business to join the youth board for their annual youth festival, [29% Festival](#). The role is paid at £15 per hour, with evening work running between June and November. [Deadline to apply](#) is 10am on 25 May.

**29% Festival Commissions:** Looking for young people to apply for commissions to perform at [29% Festival](#) on 7 November. Whether you are a poet, rapper, DJ, dancer, singer, writer, actor or comedian, they want to hear from you. Commissions range from £50 to £500 depending on experience and the ambition of the project, with mentoring provided. [Applications must be submitted](#) by 10am on 15 June.

## Have Your Say: Carer Short Breaks Services

The [Bradford Co-Production Partnership](#) is inviting carers in Bradford District to share their views on what [Bradford Council](#) should be doing to support carers with a short break service. Carers can have their say by joining one of two online focus groups: [14 May, 6pm to 7.30pm](#) or [20 May, 1pm to 2.30pm](#)

Jointly managed by [Equality Together](#) and [BTM \(Bradford Talking Media\)](#) and funded by [Bradford Council's Health and Wellbeing department](#), the partnership puts service users at the heart of designing and delivering local services.

## Our Active Community – Bradford & District: Community Case Study

[Mencap](#) has published a [case study](#) bringing together learning, insight and impact from partners, organisations and people with a learning disability who have engaged with the Our Active Community project in Bradford and District. Shaped by focus groups, interviews and conversations held across the area, the [document](#) reflects the lived experiences of people with a learning disability alongside the views of those delivering and supporting physical activity locally.

Key findings show that while opportunities to be active exist across a range of activities, access is uneven across the district, with transport, cost and support being the biggest barriers, particularly in rural areas and smaller towns. Social connection and familiarity are strong motivators, with people valuing welcoming environments and being active with friends. Staff knowledge and support ratios shape how inclusive activities feel in practice, and while seed funding has helped get activities off the ground, long-term sustainability remains a concern. Community Partners and Connectors play a vital role in linking organisations, sharing lived experience and opening up opportunities.

The case study is intended as a shared learning resource for everyone involved in the Bradford & District partnership, highlighting good practice, gaps in provision and practical next steps for improving access, inclusion and sustainability. To discuss the findings or explore opportunities to collaborate, contact Alex Craddock at [Alex.Craddock@Mencap.org.uk](mailto:Alex.Craddock@Mencap.org.uk).

## Baildon Volunteer Fair 2026

Find out what is happening in your local community at the [Volunteer Fair 2026](#), hosted by Baildon Town Council, with 19 local organisations on hand to share the incredible work they are doing.

Whether you are looking for a cause that aligns with your passions and skills or simply want to find out how you can make a difference, this is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, have meaningful conversations and discover how volunteering could work for you.

**Why volunteer:** Connect with your community, make new friends, learn new skills, gain work experience, boost your physical and mental health and have fun!

Drop in anytime between 10.30am and 12.30pm on 3 June at St John's Church Hall (BD17 6ND). Refreshments provided and all welcome.

## What You Need to Know: Illegal Nicotine Products: Free Webinar

Organised criminal gangs are selling dangerous illegal nicotine products from high street shops across West Yorkshire and beyond. [West Yorkshire Trading Standards](#) (WYTS) is hosting a series of **free 45-minute online** webinars to help those working in health, education, enforcement, the social sector, housing or related fields understand the risks and know what to do.

The sessions, delivered by Kerry Holmes, Illicit Tobacco Education Officer for WYTS, will cover everything from up-to-date research and statistics on vaping and smoking, to recognising illegal products, understanding the health risks, the links to organised criminality and safeguarding concerns, and what you can do to help. All registered participants will receive a Teams link beforehand and slides and a digital resource pack afterwards. [Book your spot](#) for one of the upcoming sessions:

- 24 June: 10.30am to 11.15am
- 24 June: 6.30pm to 7.15pm
- 29 June: 3.45pm to 4.30pm
- 30 June: 6.30pm to 7.15pm

## Free Level 3 Certificate in Understanding Autism – Bradford

[Realise Training](#) is offering a fully funded Level 3 Certificate in [Understanding Autism](#), designed as a CPD and upskilling opportunity for anyone who supports, or wishes to support, people with autism across West Yorkshire. The course covers autism, diagnosis and management, person-centred approaches, behaviour, communication strategies, safeguarding and legislation. It is particularly suited to staff already working with individuals with autism, those looking to progress in education, care, health or community roles, and individuals wanting to build more advanced practical skills.

Sessions run every Thursday and Friday over 17 sessions from 21 May to 17 July, 9.30am to 4.30pm, at Bradford (BD4 0JE).

Contact [Caitlin.Large@realisetraining.com](mailto:Caitlin.Large@realisetraining.com) to book and [visit the course page](#) for age and earnings eligibility requirements.

## Age UK Walking Groups

[Age UK Bradford District](#) runs friendly, gentle walking groups for anyone looking to get moving, enjoy the outdoors and meet new people. Walks are around an hour long, led by a trained walk leader, on carefully selected accessible routes with public transport links and cafes nearby. Whether you are returning to walking after a break, building confidence or simply fancy some company, everyone is welcome. No one gets left behind and the group always walks at a pace that suits everyone.

## Free Living Well Courses on Mental Wellbeing.

[Living Well Academy](#) has free places available on a range of [mental health first aid courses](#), open to anyone who lives or works in the Bradford District. All courses are accredited by MHFA England and run across May to July 2026.

[Mental Health First Aid Refresher](#): 20 May, 10am to 2pm. A half-day online refresher for existing certified Mental Health First Aiders whose renewal date is approaching. Covers core skills and updates knowledge of mental health support. Must be completed within six months of your three-year renewal date.

[Adult Mental Health Aware](#): 4 June, 10.30am to 2.30pm. A four-hour introductory course for anyone wanting a practical grounding in mental health awareness. Participants leave certified Mental Health Aware by MHFA England. (In Bradford city centre, location to be confirmed)

[Adult Mental Health First Aid \(MHFAider\)](#): 21 and 23 July, 9am to 4.30pm. A two-day course leading to full Mental Health First Aider qualification. Suitable for those wanting to take on the Mental Health First Aider role within an organisation that supports Bradford residents. (In central Keighley, location to be confirmed)

## Community Sector Outreach. New dates added. Don't miss out!

Whether you're just starting out or running a small grassroots group, free, expert support is closer than you might think and it's coming to a location near you.

Our Development Officers are out and about every week at libraries across all five constituencies, bringing free one-to-one advice directly to your community. For those who prefer to connect from home, there's also a monthly online session available. All you need to do is sign up.

Now in its 11th week, the programme has already delivered 10 sessions, and the team is ready to help with everything from governance, volunteering and safeguarding to funding, payroll, training and networking. Whether they can help directly or point you in the direction of the right support, no question is too big or too small.

Booking a 15-minute slot is simple, and if you need longer, just book multiple slots back-to-back. Can't plan ahead? Drop in on the day if a Development Officer has availability, though booking in advance guarantees your place.

Keep an eye on the [events page](#) for newly added dates and locations and [book your spot via Eventbrite](#), though drop-ins are also welcome!

- [Keighley Library 7 May, 10am to 12pm](#)
- [Manningham Library 12 May, 10am to 12pm](#)
- [Online 28 May, 4pm to 6pm](#)
- [Shipley Library 4 June, 10am to 12pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Great Horton Library 11 June, 1pm to 3pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Allerton Library \(Café West\) 18 June, 10am to 12pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Online 2 July, 4pm to 6pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Clayton Library 16 July, 12pm to 2pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Woodside Village Centre 21 July, 10am to 12pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Online 11 August, 4pm to 6pm](#)
- **NEW DATE!** [Thornton Library 18 August, 10am to 12pm](#)

## Data Security and Protection Toolkit Webinar with VCSA

By popular demand, a second session has been added to the data security and protection toolkit (DSPT) webinar series, as the first session is now full. The additional online session takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1pm to 2pm.

There will be a short presentation on the DSPT and where to get support in completing it, followed by a Q&A with VCSA's Impact and Insight Manager, who will be on hand to answer questions and offer support. More and more commissioners are now requesting organisations to have a DSPT in order to access funding opportunities. A DSPT is also mandatory for all organisations working with NHS patients' data. If you are commissioned by or get a grant through the Health and Care System in Bradford District and Craven, you must have a DSPT and resubmit it every year! **The 2026 deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> June.** [Do not wait to reserve your place](#), visit the [VCSA website](#) for more information including a free downloadable Information Governance guide, or email [DSPT@thevcsalliance.org.uk](mailto:DSPT@thevcsalliance.org.uk) with any enquiries.

## The NHS Is Changing. Here's What It Means for the Bradford Sector

On 5 May, the [VCS Alliance](#) held two online information sessions to brief the VCSE sector on significant changes currently reshaping the health and care system across Bradford District and Craven.

The sessions, led by Sam Keighley, VCSE System Lead in Bradford District and Craven with the Health and Care System, focused on the emerging Place Provider Partnership (PPP) and what it means for voluntary and community organisations in the area. As Sam put it ahead of the sessions: *"These changes are some of the most dramatic we've seen for decades and there are likely to be implications for how the sector interacts with the new health system, most notably how procurement, contracting and commissioning may change over the medium and long term."*

The local changes sit within a much larger national picture. In March 2025, [NHS England](#) directed all Integrated Care Boards to reduce their running and programme costs by 50%, with NHS trusts similarly asked to cut corporate cost growth. The role of ICBs is being refocused primarily towards strategic commissioning, with a fundamental rebalancing of responsibilities between providers, ICBs and NHS England regional teams.

The scale of restructuring is significant. Across England's 42 ICBs, most have now agreed [clustering](#) arrangements with neighbouring ICBs, and a small number merged on 1 April 2026. The total number of ICBs is expected to reduce from 42 to 26, with further changes likely beyond that ([BMA, 2025](#)).

Bradford District and Craven is not immune to these pressures. The health and care partnership here serves a population of around 650,000 people and is supported by over 5,000 voluntary and community sector organisations. Some VCSE organisations across the area are already reporting increased expenditure of up to £100,000 from April 2025, driven by employer National Insurance contribution increases and rising minimum wage requirements. These are costs that cannot simply be absorbed within existing budgets ([WYHCP](#)).

The VCS Alliance will be taking this work directly into communities, with a roadshow of in-person consultations planned across the Community Partnership Areas in June. Conversations will focus on building better connectivity and accountability across the sector and planning together for the future. For any questions, get in touch with the VCS Alliance at [info@thevcsalliance.org.uk](mailto:info@thevcsalliance.org.uk).



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