

BRIEFING BRADFORD



15 July 2026

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A New Chapter for Early Years Support: Introducing Better Start Better Futures

After ten remarkable years, the Better Start Bradford programme has come to a natural close. Since 2015, it delivered over 20 projects for families with children aged 0 to 4 in Bowling and Barkerend, Bradford Moor and Little Horton, supporting more than 40,000 parents, carers and children.

That decade of learning and impact is now being carried forward under a new name and a bigger ambition: **Better Start Better Futures**. Rather than being limited to three wards, the new programme will help shape early years services across the whole of Bradford.

At the heart of this new chapter is the **CoRE Partnership**, short for **From Conception through Reception Evidence**. It's a group of local parents, carers and grandparents using their own experiences to influence how early years services for children aged 0 to 5 are designed and delivered across the district, from pregnancy right through to starting school.

Calling all parents, carers and grandparents: Better Start Better Futures wants to hear from anyone passionate about giving children the best start in life. Your voice and experience could help shape services for years to come.

Meeting dates: 17th September at Shipley Library and 5th November, venue TBC. Time and travel expenses are reimbursed.

A special invitation to dads and male carers: Dads and male carers are especially encouraged to get involved, helping build a stronger, more inclusive Bradford for children and families.

Get involved: No special experience is needed, just a passion for your community. To find out more or express your interest, contact Sofia via email sofia@thevcsalliance.org.uk or call 07727 378984.

More on the Better Start Bradford legacy and Better Start Better Futures: [Better Start Bradford](#) Ten years of learning helped thousands of Bradford families.

Now it's time to build on that foundation, and we want you to help shape what comes next.

Thrive Care Project: First Documentary

Back in the 6 May edition of Briefing Bradford, we showcased the [Thriving and Surviving in Place: An Interrogation of Lives Lived and Stories Told Through Care \(Thrive-Care\) study](#). This study looked at Bradford as a place shaped by different cultures, ethnicities and religions, exploring how communities cared for one another and thrived despite their differences. Stories were gathered through video and portraiture and shared at an event showcase, with the aim of building community cohesion and showing how everyday acts helped people feel they truly belonged.

The first documentary is now ready to be shown. *Portraits of Bradford: Thriving and surviving in place* is being screened at the University of Bradford, in the Richmond building on **17 July from 5pm to 7pm**. Entrance is **free** but should be [booked on Eventbrite](#).

Join this event live, featuring film and portraiture that share Bradford's real stories of care, resilience, connection and belonging. It explores vibrant Bradford, a city where cultures, faiths and communities meet and flourish, bringing these stories to life through powerful film and portraiture.

Discover how people bridge differences, celebrate shared values and keep communities thriving. Experience the retelling of stories that inspire belonging and reveal the unseen threads that hold Bradford together. Come be part of the story.

Upcoming Deadlines

- 15 July: [The Wildlife Trust: Green Community Grants Programme](#)
- 15 July: [Big Give: Christmas challenge](#)
- 15 July: [Men's Health Community Fund](#)
- 17 July: [Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme](#)
- 20 July: [Royal London: Championing Women and Girls' Rugby Award](#)
- 22 July: [GirlDreameer: RIVET x GirlDreameer Young Women Innovators Challenge](#)
- 24 July: [Historic England: History in the Making](#)
- 27 July: [The Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust:](#)
- 27 July: [One Community: The Crisis Resilience Fund](#)

Barchester's Charitable Foundation

The [Barchester's Charitable Foundation](#) helps small community groups and local charities with activities, outings, equipment and materials for members and service users, with **grants ranging from £100 up to £2,600**. Their funding focus is on connecting or re-connecting people with others in their local community, supporting applications from community health professionals, community groups and registered charities that combat isolation and loneliness and enable older people and adults with disabilities to be active and engaged. **Deadline to apply is 31 July.**

Sport England: The Movement Fund

The [Sport England Movement Fund](#) supports physical activity projects in the community, focusing on people who face barriers to activity and projects designed to help them join in.

You can apply for projects that get more people active, such as setting up new activity sessions or experiences, creating or improving spaces for people to be active in, providing the equipment needed, supporting organisations to build their capacity to help their community be active or responding to emergencies that affect participation in physical activity. There is no deadline to apply. Submissions should be made at least 12 weeks before the start of the activity.

VCS Alliance: Community Partnership ABCD Micro Grant Awards

The [Community Partnership ABCD Micro Grant Awards](#) fund local, asset-based projects that improve health and wellbeing across Bradford and Craven. The grants support activity that builds on existing community strengths, skills and knowledge, rather than focusing only on gaps or problems. Funded projects should ease pressure on statutory health services by improving health through community-led activity, offering early or preventative support and providing alternatives to more formal clinical services. Normally only one grant is awarded per organisation per financial year, to spread funding across different groups and ideas.

Applicants must be based in, or have a proven track record in, the relevant Community Partnership area, and activities must link to at least one of that area's agreed health priorities. Projects should also be suitable for referral by social prescribers or other local NHS services. **Applications for grants up to £2,500 close on 9 August, 11.59pm.**

GSK IMPACT Awards

Run in partnership with the [King's Fund](#), the [GSK IMPACT awards](#) provide funding, training and development opportunities to charities working to improve people's health and wellbeing. The programme is open to registered charities that have been operating for at least three years, work in a health-related field and have an annual income between £150,000 and £3 million. This year marks the awards' 30th anniversary, with funding for winners increased to £50,000. The **deadline** for Stage 1 applications is **5.00pm on 19 August**.

Community Health Programme

The [Community Health programme](#) supports charities tackling health inequalities in their local communities. It is open to registered UK charities that have been operating for at least one year and have an annual income between £20,000 and £150,000.

Up to 10 charities will receive grants of up to £10,000, along with training and development support valued at £5,000. **Applications close at 5.00pm on 10 August.**

Keighley Healthy Living: Training Co-ordinator

Hours: 28

Salary: £28,598 - £31,022 pro rata

Closing date: 15 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

Daizybell Homes: Children's Domestic Abuse Support Worker

Hours: 35

Salary: £32,654 pro rata

Closing date: 17 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

HALE Project: Chief Executive Officer

Hours: 35

Salary: £57,867 - £60,208

Closing date: 19 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

Keighley Healthy Living: Health Coach – Rethinking Pain

Hours: 21 - 28

Salary: £28,598.00 - £31,022.00 pro rata

Closing date: 15 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

Bradford District and Craven Mind: Finance Assistant

Hours: 15-20

Salary: £13.72 to £15.18 per hour

Closing date: 20 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

Bradford District and Craven Mind: Drama Facilitator (KidsTime)

Hours: 6.5 - 7.5

Salary: £14.54 - £16.37 per hour

Closing date: 24 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

VCS Alliance: Data Analyst

Hours: 21

Salary: £28,000 pro rata

Closing date: 26 July 2026

Details: snicket.org

Family Action: Maternity Circle Facilitator

Hours: 22.2

Salary: £25,221.00 pro rata (£15,132 actual)

Closing date: 26 July 2026

Details: 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



Getting Started

Leader's Network

When? Wednesday August 19th, 10.00 to 11.30

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Social Media

When? Monday September 7th, 10.30 to 12.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Safeguarding

When? Tuesday September 8th, 13.30 to 15.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Measure your Impact

When? Tuesday September 15th, 10.30 to 12.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Duties and Responsibilities of a Safeguarding Lead

When? Wednesday Sept. 16th, 10.00 to 12.30

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - Set up a New Group

When? Thursday September 17th, 10.30 to 12.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Manage Volunteers

When? Wednesday Sept. 30th, 13.30 to 15.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started - DIY Fundraising

When? Thursday October 1st, 13.30 to 15.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Protect your Data

When? Thursday October 6th, 10.30 to 12.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Chairs and Trustees Network

When? Tuesday October 13th, 16.00 to 17.30

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Leader's Network

When? Wednesday October 14th, 13.30 to 15.30

Where? TBC

[Book your spot](#)

Community Outreach

Community Sector Outreach

Our Outreach programme offers support directly in your local community. Development Officers are available weekly at libraries across all five constituencies, as well as monthly online, offering free one-to-one advice for new and grassroots groups on governance, volunteering, safeguarding, funding, payroll, networking and much more. Book a 15-minute slot (or multiple slots if you need longer) or pop in on the day if a Development Officer has availability (though booking ahead guarantees your spot). [Book your spot via Eventbrite](#), drop-ins are also welcome!

- [Clayton Library 16 July, 12.30pm to 2.30pm](#)
- [Online 11 August, 4pm to 6pm](#)
- [Woodside Village Centre 21 July, 10am to 12pm](#)
- [Thornton Library 18 August, 10am to 12pm](#)

Take the next step:

Head to our [events calendar](#)

Follow up on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Email: info@cabad.org.uk

Voice and Influence

New Airedale General Hospital

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust is proud to share the [proposed outline design of the new state-of-the-art Airedale General Hospital](#) and would love to hear your views on the plans. The design reflects the Trust's ambition to not just replace the hospital building, but to improve how care is delivered, enhance patient experience, providing a light, bright and accessible building and making it quicker and easier for people to get the care they need. The new hospital is about more than replacing a building. It aims to transform care, improve patient and visitor experience and support effective and efficient care, while meeting local communities' needs. It also aims to maximise green space, make the most of its rural setting, use new technology and innovation, and be sustainable and environmentally friendly. Throughout the planning, the Trust has been listening to your views and has incorporated your suggestions into the plans, including maximising green spaces and views, and making the new hospital easy to access and navigate.

Share your views on the plans by [filling out the survey](#) before **24 July**. [The last two community roadshows](#) are on 17 July, 10am to 2pm at Ilkley town Market and 20 July, 12pm to 5pm at Skipton Morrisons.

Carer's Allowance Call for Evidence

The [Department for Work and Pensions - DWP](#) has launched an [open call for evidence on carer's allowance](#). Unpaid carers make a vital contribution to communities, often balancing caring responsibilities with work and other commitments. Carer's Allowance recognises this, but some carers have faced unexpected overpayments and confusion about the rules. An Independent Review found that mistakes were made by the previous government. Introduced in 1976, Carer's Allowance has not kept pace with modern working patterns. Recent changes include linking the earnings limit to 16 times the hourly National Living Wage.

This Call for Evidence seeks views on how the allowance could be modernised, including through an earnings taper, to ensure the system remains clear, fair and sustainable.

Background: Carer's Allowance supports people in England and Wales who provide at least 35 hours of care a week. It is not means-tested, but claimants must stay within a weekly earnings limit, currently £204.

The **deadline** to have your say is **18 August**.

Can the Power of Theatre, Art and Storytelling Create Social Change?

[Common/Wealth](#) is looking for thinkers, dreamers, makers, builders and co-conspirators to help create art for social change, especially for working-class people.

The Commons is something built together: the space and stories shared, the belief that art is for everyone. Common/Wealth is building a movement from where it stands, starting with The Commons, a community board made up of 12 people, 6 from South Wales and 6 from Bradford, all with different perspectives and from different backgrounds.

Some sessions will take place in person and some online. Members will see a live performance together at least once during this period. Common/Wealth is happy to support access needs and can discuss this with anyone applying.

What you'll do: Members will collaborate with Common/Wealth as critical friends, helping to shape its creative work through personal experience and community networks. They'll take part in training, advocate in Cardiff and Bradford, and represent Common/Wealth at events, conferences and panels.

Who's needed: Anyone passionate about activism and community, from organisers and working-class artists to community leaders, parents and grandparents keen to make a difference and develop new creative skills.

Anyone aged 16 and over can apply, visit [Common/Wealth](#) for all details and how to apply. **Deadline 29 July**.

Free Adult Mental Health Training

Living Well Academy invites anyone who lives or works in the Bradford district and would like to know more about health and wellbeing to sign up for one of two mental health training opportunities. Places are limited and filling-up quickly. Spots will be allocated on a first come first served basis, don't wait too long to sign-up.

[Adult Mental Health Aware](#) 10 September, 10am to 2pm, Online: This practical mental health awareness course is designed to give you an understanding of what mental health is and how to challenge stigma, basic knowledge of some common mental health issues, an introduction to looking after your own mental health and maintaining wellbeing, and confidence to support someone in distress or who may be experiencing a mental health issue, and after full attendance on the course you will receive a certificate.

[Adult Mental Health First Aider](#) 15, 17, 22 and 24 September, 10am to 2pm, online (must attend all four sessions): This online course qualifies you as a Mental Health First Aider, giving you an in-depth understanding of mental health and the factors that can affect wellbeing, practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues, confidence to step in, reassure and support a person in distress, enhanced interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening, and knowledge to help someone recover their health by guiding them to further support, whether that's self-help resources, through their employer, the NHS, or a mix.

Visit [Living Well](#) and [Living Well Academy](#) for all training opportunities.

Y.E.S Bradford

The Youth Education Service (Y.E.S) is available to you and is delivered by Step 2 and trusted partners. It combines specialist expertise in vaping, drugs and alcohol, and gambling education to promote harm reduction, and is aimed at pupils from Year 5 to Year 13.

You can access this support through the following organisations:

[Step 2](#) is a Bradford-based charity specialising in early interventions to support children and young people to lead healthy lives. It offers services to young people, their families and the professionals who work with them.

[The Bridge Project](#) is a Bradford-based charity providing rapid wraparound drug and alcohol support interventions to youth up to 24 years old in Bradford. This support is available at home, in schools or within a community setting.

[Chapter One](#) is a national gambling harm prevention organisation providing information and support for everyone affected by gambling, including training for professionals.

Y.E.S. Bradford – Talk it through. Think it over. Make your move.

Play Connect: Free Early-Years Play Sessions for your Little Ones

The Play Connect series offers free, early-years play sessions for children aged 0 to 5, hosted by Bradford District Libraries and [Family Action](#). The interactive workshops aim to build school readiness, encourage social development through sensory activities and help families connect. Visit [Families and Young Persons Information](#) for programme information, dates, times and locations. Book your spot by contacting team@yimconnect.org.uk.

BDCU: Back to School Loan

[BDCU's Back to School Loan](#) offers a small loan plus a savings incentive for individuals with low credit scores, to help cover uniform, clothing, equipment and more. It's designed to help build a credit profile, improve financial confidence and develop a savings habit. It's open to new and existing members with low credit scores (any previous Back to School Loans with BDCU must be fully repaid first). Funded through the West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Fund, in partnership with Tracey Brabin's office, it's aimed at individuals and families with limited access to affordable credit. Funding is going fast, so please share this with anyone who could benefit before the summer holidays start.

Read to the Beat: Summer Reading Challenge

Get into the rhythm this summer with Bradford Libraries and the [Summer Reading Challenge 2026 Read to the Beat!](#) Children aged 4 to 12 can sign up at any library across the district. The Challenge, reading 6 books, is free to take part in and encourages children to keep reading over the summer holidays, building confidence and a lifelong love of reading. Children can read anything they enjoy and set their own reading goals. Along the way, they'll collect rewards, including an exclusive Storytime magazine, stickers and - after completing the challenge - a certificate and medal (subject to availability).

This year's theme celebrates rhythm, music and storytelling, with a range of fun, free activities taking place in libraries across the district. From lively workshops to creative sessions, there's something for everyone to enjoy. A packed summer of varied activities accompany the challenge, such as dance workshops, rap school, musical story hunts. Don't miss out on the fun, [consult the full list of events](#) and join-in!

Aged 14-19? Interested in Volunteering?

Are you or do you work with young people aged 14 to 19? Applications are open for Summer Reading Challenge Young Ambassadors. Email samantha.mcgee@bradford.gov.uk for an application pack.

5k for 5km!

Can you help [Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Services \(BRC & SASS\)](#) and Daizybell Homes raise £5000?

On **25th July**, BRC and Daizybell Homes are **taking on a 5km** at Lister Park Park Run to raise funds to support their work with women and children in Bradford who have survived sexual and domestic abuse. They'll be walking, jogging and running the 5K to raise funds for women and children in Bradford who need support, safety and a way forward after sexual and domestic abuse.

A 5km run may feel like a small thing, but every step represents something bigger: support, safety and the chance for someone to rebuild their life. It's a reminder that moving forward is possible and that no one has to do it alone.

BRC&SASS provides specialist counselling and support to women and girls in the Bradford district who have experienced sexual violence and rape, at any point in their lives.

Daizybell Homes offers safe and secure housing and support for women and their children escaping domestic abuse. Every donation makes a difference, from £5 covering a therapy session to £50 providing a starter pack for a woman and her children moving into a safer home.

Every pound helps them get closer to their **£5000 target**, [so please give what you can](#).

Free Digital Skills Courses at Bradford Libraries

Looking to improve your digital skills or get more confident online? Bradford Libraries offer free **Learn My Way** courses for adults across the district. These short courses, typically lasting **20 to 40 minutes**, show learners how to use a computer and make the most of the internet. Designed for complete beginners, they provide friendly, practical support in a relaxed environment.

Participants can learn how to send emails, stay safe online, access NHS and government services, shop online, and search for jobs. Courses are available at libraries across Bradford District, including Bradford, Shipley, Bingley and Keighley, allowing learners to build confidence and develop essential digital skills at their own pace. Whether you want to stay connected with family and friends or improve your employment prospects, these free courses are a great place to start. **For more information or to book a place, please visit your local library.**

We have a long history of supporting voluntary and community groups across Bradford district, from brand new community groups to established charities. Many of our services are free for smaller organisations and low cost for larger ones.

As well as this newsletter, we offer [operational support](#), [payroll and accounts](#), [training](#), [marketing and communications support](#) and peer networks for [VCSE Leaders](#) and [Chairs and Trustees](#).

Whether you're just getting started or have been around for years, there's likely something we can help with. Our development officers work directly with groups to tackle day-to-day challenges, while our training programme covers a wide range of topics to help you and your team build skills and confidence. The peer networks are a great way to connect with others in similar roles, share experiences and find practical solutions together. For advice or queries, email info@cabad.org.uk.



Supporting You with Grants and Fundraising

Securing funding can feel like a daunting task, particularly when you are juggling it alongside the day-to-day running of your organisation. That's where Community Action Bradford & District comes in. Our Grants & Fundraising service is designed to take some of that weight off your shoulders, guiding you through every stage of the process, from your very first search for funding opportunities right through to submitting a polished, compelling bid.

It all starts with finding the right opportunities. Through our dedicated [funding page](#), we signpost organisations to a wide range of funding opportunities, databases and resources, helping you cut through the noise and identify the most suitable sources of funding for your organisation.

Once you've found the right opportunity, the next step is building your skills and confidence. We run an open fundraising training programme that any organisation is welcome to join, offering practical, hands-on guidance from people who understand the voluntary and community sector.

The next online [Getting Started – DIY Fundraising](#) course is 1 October, from 1.30pm to 3.00pm.

If you would rather bring that training in-house, we also deliver fundraising sessions at your own premises for £180, or online for £90. Both options cover groups of up to twelve people.

When it comes to the bid itself, we know that a strong application can make all the difference. Our Development Officers provide bid-writing guidance and can review your application across two drafts, helping you refine and strengthen your submission before it is submitted.

For organisations seeking more tailored support, we also offer bespoke advice focused on specific funding opportunities or individual grant applications.

Beyond individual funding bids, we're here to help you think strategically. Our team provides tailored support with fundraising strategy, planning, timelines and coaching, helping your organisation develop a more confident and sustainable approach to fundraising for the long term.

If you would like to receive more information about any of these services, please do not hesitate to get in touch info@cabad.org.uk

Personal Assistant Register

Bradford Council has launched its redeveloped Personal Assistant Register, making it easier for people to find the right support if they receive care through a personal budget or direct payment. The updated online register is more interactive, giving users greater choice and control over how their care is delivered. Personal assistants are employed directly by the person they support and can help with a range of tasks, including personal care, household duties, attending appointments and taking part in social activities. They can also provide valuable emotional support. The register brings together skilled personal assistants in one place, making it easier to find someone who can meet individual needs and fit around different lifestyles.

Cllr Jayne Morgan, Bradford Council's Executive Member for Healthy People, said: "Our Personal Assistant Register brings together dedicated personal assistants, making it easier for people and families to find the right support. It helps individuals live independently with dignity, supported by someone they choose themselves."

If you work with people who use personal assistants, they may not yet be aware of the register. Please help spread the word by sharing this information with them, and if you are looking for a personal assistant or would like to register as one, visit the [personal assistant register](#).

Talking About Men's Health

[The King's Fund](#) recently ran a project looking at how different groups of men think about their health and experience health services. It was commissioned by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#) as part of the [Men's Health Strategy for England](#). Around 100 men from varied backgrounds were interviewed, with a focus on those affected by health inequalities, set out in the [full report](#).

The case for this focus is stark. Men live four years fewer than women on average, are twice as likely to die prematurely from conditions like cardiovascular disease and account for three in four suicides. Deprivation widens this gap further, with men in the most deprived areas dying around 10 years earlier than those in the least deprived.

From the research, six considerations emerged for policymakers and service providers:

1. **Design services around men's lives:** practical factors like timing and location, and psychological factors like how services are framed, both matter.
2. **Talk differently about mental health:** younger and older men often respond to very different language and framing.
3. **Make every contact count:** early negative experiences with health services can put men off seeking help later.
4. **Recognise employment's role in health:** work is often the dominant influence on men's wellbeing, for better or worse.
5. **Build on positive aspects of masculinity:** rather than treating masculinity purely as a barrier, services could engage men through its positive traits.
6. **Address disadvantage across different groups of men:** deprivation shapes access to healthy behaviours and should not be dismissed as personal choice.

The clearest message is one of hope: when services are shaped in partnership with the men they serve, real change becomes possible.

This article is based on a [blog](#) by The King's Fund.



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

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