

BRIEFING BRADFORD



21 October 2026

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A New Chapter for Accessible Information and Inclusion in Bradford District & Craven

[Equality Together](#) and [BTM](#) are delighted to announce a new strategic partnership designed to strengthen the information, support and opportunities available to people facing disabling barriers across Bradford District & Craven. As part of this new chapter, BTM will leave its long-standing base at Eldon Place and relocate to Manningham Mills Community Hub. The move represents much more than a change of address, bringing together two organisations with a shared commitment to equality, accessibility, independence and inclusion.

The partnership will combine BTM's specialist expertise in accessible information with Equality Together's wide range of services, including welfare advice, advocacy, alternatives to respite, co-production, independent living, voice, community health and social care services. Working together, the organisations will create stronger pathways to information, advice, support and community opportunities.

What this means for people:

Access: Clearer, more accessible routes to information and support.

Inclusion: A stronger shared focus on removing disabling barriers and enabling participation.

Choice: Better information to help people understand their options and make informed decisions.

Local Impact: A community-based presence serving people across Bradford District & Craven.

Connection: Closer links between community, health, social care and information services.

Partnership: Shared expertise and collaboration to improve outcomes for people across the district.

Trustees from both organisations said: "This partnership marks an important step forward. By bringing Equality Together and BTM together at Manningham Mills Community Hub, we will combine our strengths and make accessible information, advice, support and opportunities for people facing disabling barriers easier to access and better connected."

For more information contact enquiry@equalitytogether.org.uk

Bradford Phab Club Named National HAF Provider of the Year

[Bradford Phab Club](#) has been named **National HAF Provider of the Year** at the National HAF Awards 2026 in London. Presented by the Department for Education, the awards recognise outstanding organisations, schools, providers and volunteers delivering the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme across England.

The award recognises the charity's inclusive **Summer Multi-Activity Sports Camps**, which bring together children and young people with and without disabilities. The camps provide food, activities and support during the school holidays, helping ensure children and families can access enriching opportunities throughout the year.

"This thoroughly deserved recognition celebrates Bradford Phab Club's Summer Multi-Activity Sports Camps, delivered every year for children and young people across Bradford. But this award is about so much more than a title. It belongs to the whole Phab family, especially the amazing volunteers who give their time, energy and commitment to making the holiday programmes such a positive experience for children and families." said Akbar Khan, Chair of Bradford Phab Club.

The Bradford-based charity raises its own funds to provide activities and opportunities for people with disabilities and additional needs. For many members, it provides a vital opportunity to socialise, while carers and parents can join activities or take some respite. Open to people from all walks of life, the club focuses on building confidence, independence and self-esteem while creating opportunities for friendship, inclusion and fun.

Directory of Social Change Announces Closure After 50 Years

The [Directory of Social Change \(DSC\)](#) has announced it is closing after more than 50 years of supporting charities and community groups, having appointed an insolvency practitioner to manage the process.

In a statement, DSC thanked its staff, authors, trainers, partners, funders, volunteers and trustees, recognising their contribution to charities through guidance, training, conferences and its Funds Online funding database.

The organisation said increasing financial pressures had made its position unsustainable. It cited tighter sector budgets, rising supplier and National Insurance costs, increased competition, changes in how people access learning and information, the growth of AI and challenges in securing funding for charity infrastructure organisations.

DSC said the closure will result in 25 job losses and warned that the loss of an independent source of affordable guidance, training and funding information would be particularly challenging for smaller charities.

During the closure process, Funds Online will remain available to existing subscribers and books and digital downloads can still be purchased through the DSC website. No new course or event bookings can be made, and those with existing bookings will be contacted directly. DSC said staff email accounts are no longer being monitored, and enquiries should be directed to cs@dsc.org.uk.

In its final message, DSC thanked everyone who had used or supported its services over the years, saying it hoped its work had helped organisations make a difference in their communities.

It is impossible not to reflect on how fortunate Bradford District's VCSE sector was to welcome Debra Allcock Tyler, DSC's long-serving Chief Executive, as a keynote speaker at Community Action's 2026 Big Meet. Her insight, honesty and unwavering commitment to charities and community organisations reflected the values that DSC championed for more than 50 years. She is a familiar and respected voice across the sector, and her contribution to the Big Meet is now all the more appreciated.



Visit our [Community Action Funding Finder](#) to see more funding opportunities

Local Community Support Grants

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council is inviting applications for its [Local Community Support Grants Programme](#) which will run from 1 April 2027 until 31 March 2029. The programme will support local organisations to deliver activities that help people stay independent, connected and active in their communities. Grants are available for projects supporting older people, people with learning disabilities, neurodivergent people and communities of interest, including unpaid carers, people with mental health needs, physical or sensory impairments, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ people, those experiencing homelessness and people affected by domestic abuse. The **deadline for applications is 5pm on 20 November**. Find out more on the [Bradford Council website](#).

Together 4 Health Community Partnership Small Grants 2026/27

T4H Community Partnership is currently running its small grants programme for 2026/27. Grants of between **£2000 - £4000** are available to groups and individuals delivering projects that support one or more of the partnership's priority areas. These include improving outcomes for people with COPD and other respiratory conditions, tackling obesity and pre-diabetes through healthy lifestyle initiatives, enhancing mental wellbeing, and increasing health awareness, education and self-advocacy. Applicants must be based in, or deliver services within, communities served by T4H GP practices. The **application deadline is 20 November**. Read the [T4H - Small Grants Information Pack Oct 26](#) for full details or contact seankjohnson@outlook.com for more information.

Quadrant Community Partnership Small Grants 2026/27

Quadrant Community Partnership is currently running its small grants programme for 2026/27. Grants of **up to £2,500** are available for groups or individuals delivering projects that support one or more of the partnership's priority areas. These include supporting carers, improving the mental wellbeing of children and young people, particularly those who are neurodiverse, supporting people in recovery from substance misuse, and reducing loneliness and isolation.

Applicants must be based, or deliver services within, communities served by Quadrant GP practices. The **application deadline is 27 November**. Read the [Quadrant - Small Grants Information Pack Oct 26](#) for full details or contact seankjohnson@outlook.com for more information.

Bradford East Community Chest and Area Committee Funding

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council offers small grants of **£500** to voluntary and community groups based in Bradford East that provide services benefiting local communities. [The Community Chest and Area Committee Funding](#) is intended to assist local voluntary and community groups with community-based leisure, social or cultural activities which benefit the community and where the activity could not go ahead without financial assistance. The **deadline to apply is 31 October**.

Marshall and Viggars Charitable Trust

Grants ranging between **£250 and £750** are available to charitable organisations based in or working across Yorkshire and the Humber. [The Marshall and Viggars Charitable Trust](#) supports projects relating to physical or mental disability, medical care, relief and welfare, medical research, and the care, relief or protection of animals. Trustees typically meet in February and August to consider applications.

The Jo Cox Foundation: Yorkshire Programme Manager

Hours: 28

Salary: £40,000 per annum, pro-rated

Closing date: 26 October 2026

Details: snicket.org

Education Alliance for Life Chances: Bookkeeper

Hours: Variable

Salary: To be confirmed

Closing date: 31 October 2026

Details: snicket.org

Bradford VCS Alliance: Data Insight and Learning Manager

Hours: 35

Salary: £42,000

Closing date: 1 November 2026

Details: snicket.org

SNOOP / Tadpoles Nursery: Play Support Worker

Hours: 30

Salary: £20,358

Closing date: 6 November 2026

Details: snicket.org

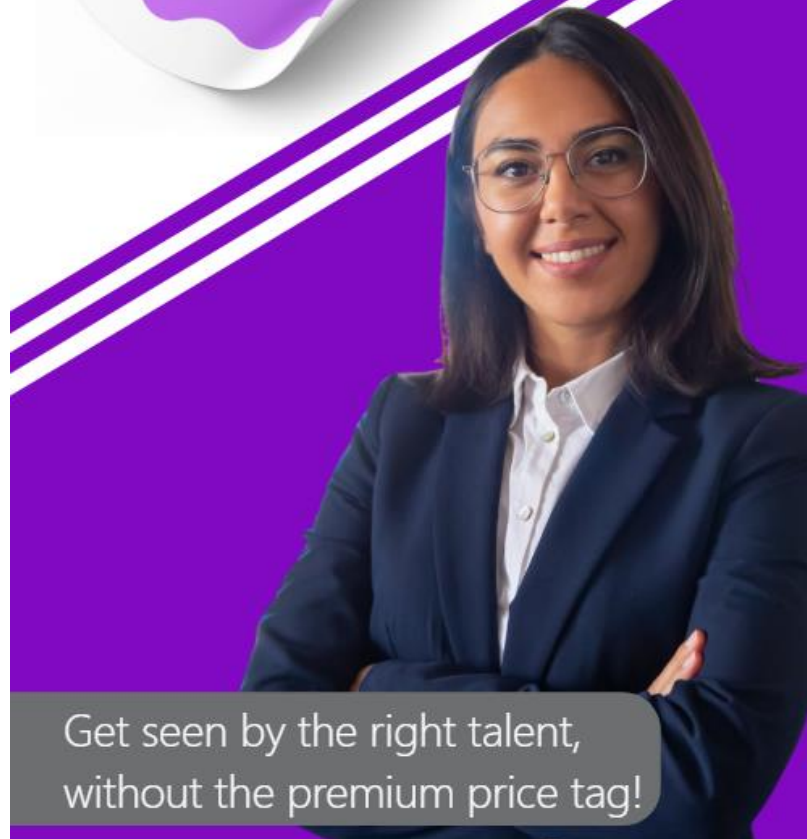
SNOOP / Tadpoles Nursery: Adults Support Worker

Hours: 37

Salary: £25,108

Closing date: 6 November 2026

Details: snicket.org



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

SNOOP / Tadpoles Nursery: Floating Play Support Worker

Hours: 37

Salary: £25,108

Closing date: 6 November 2026

Details: snicket.org

Bradford Trident: Home Energy Adviser

Hours: 14

Salary: £28,000 (pro rata)

Closing date: 9 November 2026

Details: snicket.org



Community Outreach

When? Thursday October 22nd, 15.30 to 18.50

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Leader's Network: feat. Councillor Place

When? Tuesday October 27th, 11.00 to 14.00

Where? Bradford City Hall

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Social Media

When? Monday November 2nd, 10.30 to 12.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Time Management

When? Tuesday November 10th, 10.30 to 12.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Role and Responsibilities of Trustees

When? Wednesday November 11th, 17.30 to 19.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Getting Started – Safeguarding

When? Monday November 16th, 13.30 to 15.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Community Outreach

When? Thursday November 19th, 10.00 to 12.00

Where? Manningham Library

[Book your spot](#)

Duties and Responsibilities of a Safeguarding Lead

When? Wednesday November 25th, 12.30 to 15.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Community Outreach

When? Thursday November 26th, 15.30 to 18.50

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Beginners' Guide to fundraising

When? Thursday December 3rd, 12.30 to 15.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

IDOX how to use the Community Action Funding Finder for Bradford district

When? Tuesday December 8th, 10.00 to 11.00

Where? Online

[Book your spot](#)

Leader's Network

When? Wednesday December 9th, 10.00 to 12.30

Where? Cardigan House BD16 2TA

[Book your spot](#)

The Big Meet 2027

Returning in **September 2027**, the Big Meet is the annual event that brings together the people who make this sector what it is: Chairs, Trustees, leaders and passionate VCSE colleagues who understand that we are stronger together.

If you'd like to be kept in the loop as a possible attendee, [fill out this form](#) and we'll share details with you as they are confirmed.

Big Advice Day

Returning in **June 2027**, the Big Advice day is designed specifically for VCSE organisations that want to learn, grow and connect, this will be a day not to be missed.

If you'd like to be kept in the loop as a possible attendee or stallholder, [fill out this form](#) and we'll share details with you as they are confirmed.

View our [Event calendar](#) or contact us info@cabad.org.uk for more information.



VCSE Social Value Forum: The Great North

The Great North covers the North East, the North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber. It stretches from Northumberland to Cheshire and from Cumbria to the east coast. Almost 16 million people live here, more than a quarter of England's population, and it is home to one of the country's strongest voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors.

Public contracts increasingly carry social value obligations. The organisations that make those commitments a reality are charities, social enterprises, community groups and schools. Yet they are rarely in the room when local priorities are set, commitments are written or impact is judged.

It is time to talk about the role of VCSE organisations and schools in procurement-related social value, policy cycles and strategic decision-making, rather than expecting them to deliver on decisions they had no say in.

Most regional analysis stops at local authority district level, relying on narrow datasets and limited public perception data. Most sector consultation stops at asking organisations what resources they need for existing projects, with social value criteria applied in hindsight.

On 24 November, [Whatimpact](#) is bringing the evidence and the decision-makers together to address that challenge. The **free online** event runs from 9.30am to 2.30pm and includes a one-hour lunch break.

The event is open to organisations across the North East, North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber. It will explore the role of VCSE organisations, schools, colleges and universities in procurement-related social value, policy and strategic decision-making.

Attendees can gain local insight, hear from regional decision-makers and join the discussion on how communities can shape social value from the outset, rather than simply delivering on decisions that have already been made. Visit the [event website to view the full agenda](#) and [register your place](#).

Every Move Counts Partnership Event Returns This November

Partners from across Bradford District will come together this November for the next [Every Move Counts partnership event](#), hosted by [Active Bradford](#). The event builds on the district's shared commitment to creating a more active, healthier and connected Bradford District.

Shaped by feedback from partners, this year's event will focus on themes from the **Every Move Counts** strategy, with a particular emphasis on **children and young people**. It will provide an opportunity to reconnect, share learning and strengthen partnerships across the district.

The strategy sets out a shared ambition to make it easier for everyone to be active. Discussions will explore progress across priority areas including sport and active recreation, health and social care, workplaces, green spaces, active travel and the built environment.

Underpinning the strategy are four key principles: tackling inequalities, taking an evidence-led approach, embracing diversity and inclusion, and supporting long-term behaviour change. Attendees will hear about progress to date, learn from successful projects and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

The event takes place on **18 November** at **Victoria Hall (BD21 3JN)** from **10am to 2.30pm**. Participants will have the opportunity to network with partners from across sectors, share ideas and contribute to the next phase of delivering a more active Bradford District. [Complete the registration form](#) to secure your spot.

Step Up to the Mic: Free Radio Course for Women

[BCB Radio](#) is looking for women who want to learn new skills, build confidence and have fun making radio together. Its free 12-week **Step Up to the Mic** course begins on **28 October** and runs on Wednesday mornings. The course is aimed at women who are not currently in paid work and would like to build confidence, develop new skills and try something a bit different. It is also open to women managing physical or mental health challenges. Participants will have the opportunity to meet new people, learn how radio programmes are created and produced, and gain hands-on experience of making radio. No previous experience is needed, just a willingness to give it a go.

To find out more, email mary.dowson@bcbradio.co.uk or call BCB on 01274 771677.

West Yorkshire Financial Exploitation & Abuse Team

The [West Yorkshire Financial Exploitation & Abuse Team \(WYFEAT\)](#) is a multi-disciplinary team based within [West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service](#). Its role is to help protect people from financial abuse, scams and fraud by providing advice, support, safeguarding and training. The team works closely with local authorities and police partners across West Yorkshire to investigate reports of financial exploitation. WYFEAT also provides training for organisations, helping staff and volunteers recognise the signs of financial exploitation and respond appropriately.

The WYFEAT website provides information and resources on:

- [Financial Abuse](#)
- [Case Studies](#)
- [Cold Calling Control Zone](#)
- [WYFEAT Training](#)
- [Rogue Traders & Cold calling](#)
- [Typical Indicators of Financial Abuse](#)
- [Scams Prevention & Advice](#)
- [Resources – DSC Video & Newsletter](#)

Whether you are concerned about yourself, a family member, a client or someone you support, these resources can help you recognise the signs of financial abuse, understand common scams and access advice and support.

Foundations for Futures

Foundations for Futures from [Brathay Trust](#) offers free wellbeing and pre-employment support for 16 to 30-year-olds who are not currently in employment. The programme helps young people build confidence and self-belief, develop resilience and coping strategies, improve motivation, independence and communication skills, manage anxiety and stress, explore future goals and aspirations, and prepare for employment, education, training or volunteering.

Support includes one-to-one personalised sessions, interactive group workshops and a Next Steps Fair showcasing local services and opportunities. The team works with each young person to understand their strengths, ambitions and any barriers they may be facing. Together, they develop a personalised support plan tailored to individual needs and goals. Participants can then access ongoing wellbeing support and practical guidance to help them take their next steps with confidence.

To get started, [fill out the project referral form](#) to make a referral for yourself or someone you support. You will be contacted within 3 working days, and your initial session will take place within 10 working days. Questions ? Contact Youthteam@brathay.org.uk

Common/Wealth: 29% Festival 2026

[Common/Wealth's 29% Festival](#) is a free annual celebration of live performance, music, dance, art and workshops, showcasing the creativity and talent of Bradford's young people and young artists. Bradford is one of the youngest cities in Europe, with 29% of its population aged under 20. Launched in 2024, the festival is the only dedicated youth festival in Yorkshire created by and for young people, attracting more than 400 teenagers to last year's event.

Taking place on **7 November from 2.00pm** at Bradford Arts Centre, this year's festival will feature more than 50 young rappers, musicians, actors and poets, alongside a programme of activities curated by Common/Wealth's youth board. Visitors can enjoy games rooms, music-making workshops, exhibitions, interactive visual arts and craft activities, as well as dedicated chill-out and social spaces. The event offers young people an opportunity to explore their creativity, try something new and connect with others in a welcoming environment.

Young people are encouraged to attend with friends, siblings and cousins. Parents and carers who prefer not to leave their children unattended can make use of a dedicated adults' space, where they can enjoy a cuppa while young people take part in activities supervised by Common/Wealth's DBS-checked staff. View the [full programme](#) and [book your tickets](#) online.

A Good Night's Sleep for All Children

[Zarach](#) is a charity dedicated to ending child bed poverty, helping children get the good night's sleep they need to learn, grow and thrive at school.

Around 900,000 children across the UK are affected by bed poverty. Without a suitable bed of their own, many children struggle to get the rest they need, which can affect their wellbeing, school attendance and ability to learn.

Many families are facing increasing financial pressures and difficult choices. As a result, some children are sleeping on floors, sofas or on beds that are no longer suitable. No child should have to start the day tired because they do not have a safe and comfortable place to sleep.

Working with local schools and communities, Zarach provides practical support to children and families in need. Support can include a bed frame, mattress, pillows, duvet, bed linen and pyjamas, helping to create a comfortable sleep environment and giving children the best possible chance to succeed at school.

If you think a child or family could benefit from this support, speak with the pastoral team at the child's school, who can make a referral to Zarach. People interested in supporting the charity can donate £150 to fund a complete bed bundle for a child, helping ensure more children have a safe place to sleep and wake up ready to learn.

Find out more at www.zarach.org.

Free Mental Health and Wellbeing Training from Living Well Academy

My [Living Well Academy](#) is offering a range of free mental health and wellbeing training opportunities for residents, employees and volunteers across Bradford district. The courses are designed to help people recognise the signs of poor mental health, support others with confidence and develop practical skills to promote wellbeing in their communities and workplaces.

Courses include:

[Adult Mental Health Aware](#): 9 November, 10.30am to 2.30pm, face to face, venue Bradford city centre

[Recharging Your Batteries](#): 12 November, 10am to 11am, online.

[Adult Mental Health First Aider](#): 4 mandatory online sessions, 16, 18, 24 and 26 November, 10am to 2pm.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Visit [the website](#) to view upcoming courses and booking information.

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.

Resource Hub A-Z:

Every community group, charity and voluntary organisation faces questions along the way. From setting up and governance to funding, safeguarding, marketing and recruiting volunteers, it can sometimes be difficult to know where to start.

That's why we've created our [Resource Hub A-Z](#): a practical, easy-to-use library of information, guidance, templates, training opportunities and trusted external resources designed to support community organisations across Bradford district.

Whether you're taking your first steps towards starting a new community group, registering as a charity, recruiting staff or volunteers, applying for funding, reviewing policies or strengthening governance, the Resource Hub brings together the information you need in one place.

The hub covers a wide range of topics including charity registration, constitutions and governing documents, GDPR and data protection, cyber security, safeguarding, health and safety, finance, fundraising, impact measurement and trustee responsibilities. Resources are organised alphabetically, making it easy to find information on specific topics and access practical guidance when you need it.

Alongside guides and downloadable resources, the hub links to training, networking opportunities and outreach events delivered by Community Action Bradford & District. Many Getting Started courses are free for smaller organisations and cover key areas such as fundraising, volunteer management, social media, impact measurement and data protection.

Organisations can also access information to support fundraising, including guidance on preparing applications, identifying suitable funders and demonstrating impact. The hub signposts users to the Community Action Funding Finder, helping organisations discover grants and funding opportunities that match their aims and activities.

As organisations grow and develop, the Resource Hub can help with reviewing policies, recruiting staff, strengthening governance, measuring impact and exploring new ways of working. Resources are regularly updated to reflect changes in legislation, funding programmes and sector best practice, ensuring local organisations have access to current and reliable information.

Whatever stage your organisation is at, the Resource Hub A-Z offers a straightforward starting point for practical support, trusted advice and opportunities to learn and develop.



VCSE System Lead Drop-In Sessions

Following feedback from VCSE organisations earlier this year, regular online drop-in sessions with Sam Keighley, VCSE Lead for the Bradford District and Craven Health and Care System, are now taking place. These informal sessions offer an opportunity to ask questions, share updates from your organisation and discuss the challenges and pressures facing the sector. Sam will also provide updates from across the Health and Care System and highlight developments that may affect VCSE organisations.

The sessions are designed to be a two-way conversation, with a particular focus on hearing directly from organisations about the issues, barriers and opportunities they encounter in their day-to-day work.

Drop-ins will be held monthly at varying times to make them accessible to as many people as possible.

The next session takes place online on **26 October, 3.30pm to 4.30pm**. Organisations are encouraged to [register](#) and take the opportunity to connect directly with their VCSE System Lead.

Changes to ICB Footprints Involving Craven

The [NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board](#) has announced changes to its organisational footprint affecting Craven, marking an important development for health and care partners across the region. The change reflects ongoing efforts to align health and care services with local communities and ensure arrangements remain effective following wider NHS and local government boundary changes. For voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations working across Bradford District and Craven, the announcement may influence how services are planned, commissioned and delivered alongside health and care partners. Strong collaboration between the NHS, local authorities and the VCSE sector remains central to addressing health inequalities and improving outcomes for local people. More information is available in the [full update from NHS West Yorkshire ICB](#).

Transforming Primary Care Podcast

Primary care services across the region are introducing new approaches to help patients access support more quickly and efficiently, while also easing some of the demands on staff teams. The [Transforming Primary Care Podcast](#) lets you hear from GPs, practice managers and community pharmacists as they share why these changes are being adopted, how they are being rolled out for staff and patients, and the positive impact they are having in local communities.

There are currently six podcast series available, exploring a broad range of topics including primary care transformation, health inequalities, urgent respiratory care, neighbourhood health implementation sites, mental health, dental reform and community pharmacy services, with many more subjects covered across the podcasts. Find all episodes and start listening on the [NHS England website](#).

Young Lives Forum to Recruit New Sector Advocates

The Young Lives Forum is launching a new round of recruitment for Families and Young People VCSE Sector Advocates. Remuneration of £40 per hour is provided, for up to one day a month.

Recruitment will be open to members of the Young Lives Network, with an [information event on 3rd November 2026](#), followed by an expression of interest period and a participatory voting event on 10th December.

Organisations working with children, young people and families are encouraged to join the Network to ensure they can take part in future opportunities. If you would like to join the Young Lives Forum or find out more about the VCSE Sector Advocate role, please contact Charlotte Fortune, Sector Voice Lead, at charlotte@thevcsalliance.org.uk.



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