BRIEFING BRADFORD



18 November 2026

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MUST READ

VCSE Contract Uplifts Survey:

Help Shape Bradford's Future: Have Your Say on the Council's 2027/28 Budget Proposals

Let's Talk This Winter: Healthy Minds Winter Communications Toolkit

District News

VCSE Contract Uplifts Survey:

Bradford Council's Adults and Community Services Department has asked Activation contract partners (VCS Alliance, Community Action Bradford & District, Participate Projects and CNet) to provide insight to contribute to the decisions about financial uplifts in 2027/2028. This relates to contracts for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector. This survey has been developed by the Activation contract partners in response to this request.

We can only do this well if we receive insight directly from you as delivery organisations, we want to hear about the opportunities, challenges and cost pressures currently affecting you.

Although we haven't been asked for this by other Council departments, we will ensure that it is shared appropriately to inform decisions across all Council departments and the Integrated Care Board.

The deadline is **Wednesday 25th November at 23:59** so quick engagement is appreciated!

Complete the survey. For queries about the survey, please email eleonora@thevcsalliance.org.uk.



Youth Work Conference:

You are invited to the Bradford Youth Work Autumn Conference 2026 – *Building Bridges: Why Community Cohesion Matters to Youth Work.*

The conference takes place on Monday 30th November from 17:00 to 21:00 at Oasis Academy, Lister Park, Bradford.

In a city rich in cultures, heritage and lived experiences, youth and community work has an important role to play in creating connection, understanding and a sense of belonging.

This informal practitioner-focused conference will bring together colleagues from across Bradford's statutory and voluntary, youth and community sector to share experiences, explore ideas and celebrate the contribution of youth work in strengthening communities.

The conference will include open remarks, a keynote exploring community cohesion, division, identity and belonging, a practitioner panel and plenty of networking! There will also be a call to action, a commitment to undertake exchange visits to strengthen connections. Book your place via Eventbrite.

Bradford Lions Club Seeks VCSE Partners for Winter Support Project

Bradford Lions Club is looking to work with VCSE organisations across Bradford District to support people experiencing homelessness or hardship during the winter months.

The club is keen to connect with organisations already working with vulnerable communities to better understand current needs and identify where practical support can make the greatest difference. This could include providing warm clothing, new socks and underwear, sleeping bags and other essential winter items.

In addition to donations, Bradford Lions Club is interested in exploring partnership opportunities such as fundraising initiatives, collection drives and volunteer support.

If your organisation would like to get involved or discuss how you can help support local people this winter, please contact Radia at dia39156@gmail.com for more details.

Help Shape Bradford's Future: Have Your Say on the Council's 2027/28 Budget Proposals

Bradford Council is inviting residents, community organisations, businesses and partners to have their say on proposals to deliver around £50 million of savings as part of the 2027/28 budget.

The voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector plays a vital role in supporting communities across the district and has valuable insight into how local people may be affected by changes to services. Feedback from organisations, staff, volunteers, trustees and service users will help councillors better understand the potential impact of the proposals before final decisions are made. The experiences and perspectives of those working directly with communities can provide important evidence about local needs, challenges and opportunities.

As part of its commitment to a fair and transparent budget-setting process, the Council is carrying out a public consultation alongside Equality Impact Assessments to identify any disproportionate impacts on specific groups and consider how these might be mitigated. The consultation process is intended to ensure that a broad range of voices are heard and considered before the budget is finalised.

We encourage organisations across the sector to:

- Review the budget proposals and supporting information.
- Share details of the consultation through your networks and communication channels.
- Encourage staff, volunteers, trustees, members and service users to take part.
- Highlight any potential impacts, risks or opportunities from a community perspective.

These are challenging decisions, but the consultation provides an important opportunity for the sector and local communities to influence how savings are delivered and ensure that the voices of those most affected are heard. By taking part, organisations and residents can help shape the conversation around future service delivery and support informed decision-making.

Further information and details on how to take part can be found on the Council's budget consultation webpages. Please share this opportunity widely across your networks and encourage participation from the communities you support.

LEADERS' NETWORK
Bradford & District

The Council will be attending our Leaders' Network event on **9 December** to discuss the budget proposals and hear directly from the VCSE sector. This will provide an opportunity for sector leaders and organisations to gain further insight into the proposals, ask questions and share their views on the potential impact on local communities. If you would like the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and ensure that the voices of the communities you support are represented, we encourage you to join us .

The Leaders' Network brings together VCSE leaders from across the district to share insights, discuss common challenges, shape the sector and support one another in their organisational and leadership roles. It provides a valuable space for collaboration, learning and relationship-building between organisations of all sizes. Meetings take place every eight weeks, alternating between online and face-to-face formats, with a range of venues and times to make participation as accessible as possible.

Interested in getting involved? **Joining** the Network is **free and easy**. Simply complete the online form to become part of the network.

Funding

Visit our Community Action Funding Finder to see more funding opportunities

Maurice and Hilda Laing Trust (MHLCT): Warm Spaces Fund

The MHLCT Warm Spaces Fund is offering grants to churches running a 'warm space' within a church-owned or run building in one of the top 10% of deprived areas in England. Grants of £1,000 are available to help cover the costs of operating warm spaces during the winter months. The application deadline is 27 November.

Royal Society: Partnership Grants

The Royal Society partnership grants programme supports collaborative projects between UK schools and STEM partners from academia or industry. The grants are designed to increase the appeal of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to children and young people aged 5 to 18.

Schools can apply for grants of up to £3,000 to support investigative projects, with additional funding available for STEM partner travel and teacher cover where required.

The application deadline is 30 November for projects starting from May 2027 onwards.

Watson Buckle Community Fund

The Watson Buckle Community Fund provides a share of a £2,000 funding pot to local groups and projects that make a positive difference in their communities.

The fund supports initiatives that help local people, promote positive community activities and would benefit from additional funding to develop or sustain their work. Priority is given to projects that support communities in and around the Bradford and Bingley area.

The application deadline is 30 November.

W.G. Edwards Charitable Foundation

The WG Edwards Charitable Foundation provides grants of up to £1,500 to organisations working to improve the quality of life of people aged 65 and over in the UK.

Funding is available under two themes:

Health and Welfare: supporting projects such as refurbishing residential care housing, completing building projects, or providing equipment and furniture that enhance care and quality of life.

Community and Innovation: supporting activities and initiatives for older people, including exercise classes, lunch clubs, horticultural therapy, day trips and technology-based projects. The application deadline is 4 December.

Big Give: Double the Difference

Big Give has announced three upcoming match funding campaigns, giving charities the opportunity to double public donations and raise additional funds for their work.

Earth Raise 2027 (22-29 April 2027) supporting charities tackling environmental challenges and protecting the planet. Match funding of £1,000 to £10,000 is available. Applications close at 5pm on 15th January.

Champions for Children by The Childhood Trust 2027 (1-15 June 2027) provides unrestricted funding to charities working to reduce the impact of poverty on children across London. Match funding of £2,000-£5,000 is available. Applications close at 5pm on 22 January.

Small Charity Week 2027 (21-28 June 2027) helps small charities raise unrestricted income while showcasing their impact. Match funding of £500-£10,000 is available. Applications close at 5pm on 13 January.

VCSE Jobs

Baildon Town Council: Community Engagement Officer
Hours: 37.5
Salary: £28,183 (pro rata)
Closing date: 18 November 2026
Details: snicket.org

Education Alliance for Life Chances Deputy Director
Hours: 37
Salary: £45,000 - £60,000
Closing date: 19 November 2026
Details: snicket.org

Staying Put: Domestic Abuse Helpline Worker
Hours: 37.5
Salary: £27,554
Closing date: 20 November 2026
Details: snicket.org

Carers' Resource: Specialist Carer Navigator (Palliative Care and Discharge Planning)
Hours: 30
Salary: £21,891
Closing date: 22nd November 2026
Details: snicket.org

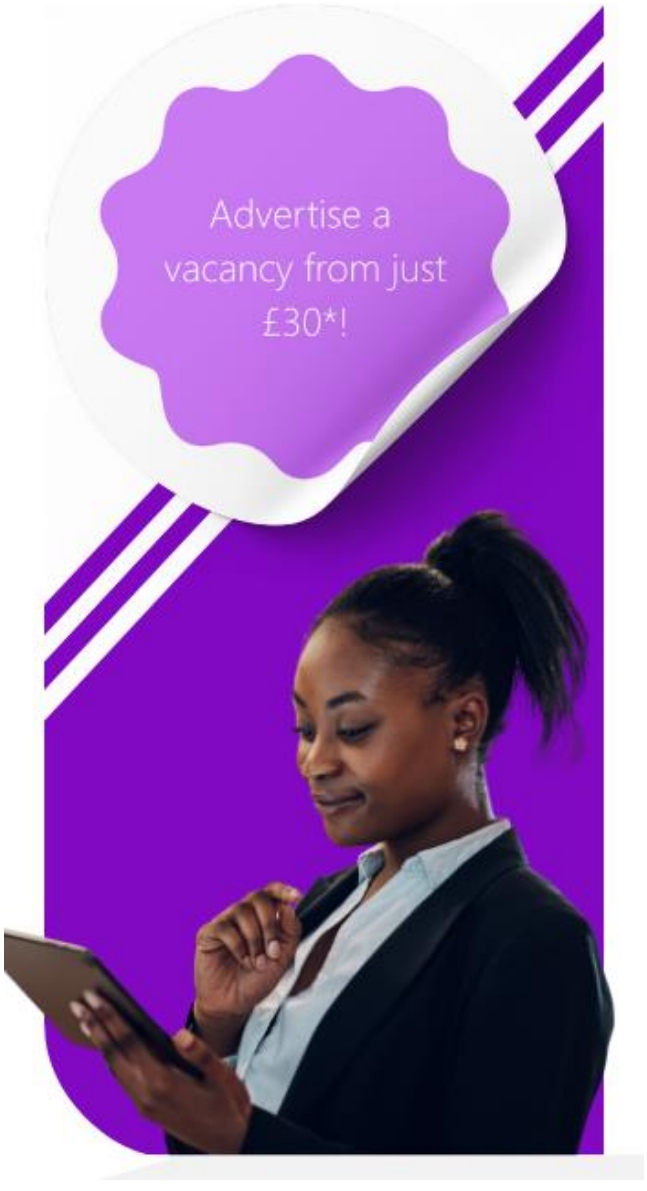
Bradford Rape Crisis & SASS: Helpline Service Coordinator
Hours: 21
Salary: £33,000 pro rata
Closing date: 30th November 2026
Details: snicket.org

Equality Together: Welfare & Debt Advice Worker
Hours: 35
Salary: £26,390
Closing date: 4 December 2026
Details: snicket.org

Family Action: Youth in Mind Connect Early Years Practitioner
Hours: 22.2
Salary: £15,132.60 - £16,668.00 Pro Rata
Closing date: 4 December 2026
Details: snicket.org

SNICKET
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Training and Events

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: Council budget and social
When? Wednesday December 9th, 10.00 to 13.30
Where? Cardigan House BD16 2TA
Book your spot

Getting Started – Manage volunteers
When? Wednesday December 9th, 13.30 to 15.00
Where? Online
Book your spot

Getting Started – Measure your impact
When? Thursday December 10th, 13.30 to 15.00
Where? Online
Book your spot

Community Outreach
When? Thursday December 10th, 15.30 to 18.50
Where? Online
Book your spot

Community Outreach
When? Thursday December 17th, 10.00 to 12.00
Where? Eccleshill Library
Book your spot

Fundraising for Salaries
When? Tuesday January 12th, 10.00 to 12.30
Where? Online
Book your spot

Chairs and Trustees Network
Fundraising for Salaries
When? Tuesday January 12th, 16.00 to 17.30
Where? Online
Book your spot

Big Advice Day

Returning on **Tuesday 22nd 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.

Taking place at Bradford City Hall.

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.

The Big Meet 2027

Returning on **Thursday 23rd September 2027** at Fountains Church, 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 once confirmed.

View our Event calendar or contact us info@cabad.org.uk for more information.

Resources and Opportunities

Building a More Trauma-Informed Bradford Workforce

Resilient Bradford is helping professionals across Bradford District develop a greater understanding of adversity, trauma and resilience through a programme of free training funded by Public Health Bradford and delivered by Bradford Trident's Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR) Workforce Development Project.

Since 2022, more than **2,350 professionals** from over **400 organisations** have taken part in training across sectors including education, health, housing, social care, and the voluntary and community sector.

Training ranges from introductory Trauma-Informed Practice sessions to more advanced Trauma-Skilled Practice learning, with bespoke options available for organisations. Evaluation findings show an average **39% increase in participants' confidence and knowledge**, demonstrating the positive impact of trauma-informed approaches in everyday practice.

Alongside training, Resilient Bradford is developing practical resources to help organisations embed trauma-informed ways of working, including an organisational toolkit and staff wellbeing guide.

Following a renewed contract through to 2028, the programme will continue supporting organisations across the district to create services and workplaces where people feel safe, understood and supported.

Find out more about Resilient Bradford and the training opportunities available.

Introducing Magpie:

Specialising in 'people-powered' social change, our expertise lies in blending *behavioural science, creative communications and community engagement*. We listen to and champion community voices and underrepresented communities to make positive change in the world around us. Everything we do is **powered by people;** from the organisations we collaborate with, to the audiences we aim to reach. We work alongside communities to turn real lived experiences, local wisdom and creativity into lasting **social value.**

To learn more about our wider agency work, visit our website or follow us on LinkedIn.

Introducing our Community Collaborations Manager

Leading our outreach to amplify community voices is our Community Collaborations Manager, Michelle Budd, who is passionate about building trusted, authentic networks across local regions and beyond. Michelle works closely with VCSE organisations, local changemakers, and residents to help co-create campaigns, host community events, and partner on joint funding opportunities, ensuring local voices are heard and championed.

If you would like to connect with Michelle to explore a collaboration, or if you are interested in joining us at one of our Community Leader and networking events, please email her directly.

Sign up for our January and February 2027 Community Leader events to kick off the New Year with a positive boost!

Coffee, Connect & Care: Epilepsy Awareness & Community Leader Networking (January 2027)

Join fellow community leaders, grassroots organisations, faith groups, volunteers and public sector outreach teams for a welcoming networking session focused on building connections and increasing awareness of epilepsy.

Community Leaders Net-WALK-ing in the Dales (24 February 2027, 9am-3.30pm)

Step out of the meeting room and into the Yorkshire Dales for a unique networking experience designed for VCSE staff, community leaders, project managers and wellbeing leads. Coach travel from Central Bradford and refreshments are included.

Resources and Opportunities

Community of Research Event Explores School Safety and Responsible AI

The next Community of Research event will bring together researchers, practitioners, council colleagues and young people to explore two important issues affecting young people and public services.

Taking place on **9 December at Britannia House**, the event will feature two presentations combining research, lived experience and practical learning.

Understanding and Tackling Sexual Harassment in Schools

Dr Elizabeth Nassem from the University of Bradford will present research exploring how pupils understand and experience sexual harassment, how schools respond, and the pupil-led strategies developed to tackle the issue.

Who Audits the Algorithm? Young People's Perspectives on Responsible AI in Local Government

Professor Mark Wong and Cagri Yildirim from the University of Glasgow will share findings from a project involving Bradford Council's Youth Ambassadors, who evaluated Annie, the Council's Adult Social Care chatbot, and developed recommendations for the responsible use of AI in public services.

Attendees will also hear directly from Youth Ambassadors and Adult Social Care colleagues about how the project's findings are helping to shape future practice.

Whether your interests lie in research, education, digital innovation, service improvement or policy, the event offers an opportunity to gain new insights and join the conversation on some of today's most pressing challenges.

Book your place on Evolve. If you do not have access to Evolve, you can attend on the day.

Free Support for Organisations Facing Community Tensions

HOPE not hate, a national organisation working to counter division and build community resilience to the far right, is offering a range of free support for voluntary and community organisations.

This includes practical safety and security guidance for organisations and individuals who may be at risk of far-right hostility or intimidation. These resources are password-protected for security reasons and can be accessed by registering with an email address through the HOPE not hate website.

Organisations can also sign up for HOPE not hate's monthly newsletter, which provides updates, analysis of emerging far-right activity and information about risks facing communities. Subscribers are invited to monthly peer support meetings, bringing together community organisations, campaigners and partners to share experiences and discuss responses to emerging challenges.

In addition, HOPE not hate offers bespoke support for organisations and individuals experiencing threats or working in areas where community tensions are heightened.

Substance Awareness Training Opportunities with Create Strength Group

Create Strength Group is hosting upcoming CASANOA (Cannabis, Spice & Nitrous Oxide Awareness) training sessions on 25 November and 7 December.

This one-day course is designed for frontline professionals, social workers, educators and drug and alcohol workers seeking a deeper understanding of harm reduction, policy and intervention strategies. Topics include substance-related harms and potency, managing intoxication, treatment and recovery pathways, effective interventions, current trends, and developing organisational policies and procedures.

The course costs £150 per person or £1,500 for 12 participants. To book a place or find out more, contact: danae.robotham@createstrengthgroup.org or 07346421131

Community Action Bradford & District

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.

New Course Alert II: Back for Another New Course

You may have spotted a pattern: a new issue of Briefing Bradford and another new course announcement. Community Action Bradford & District is pleased to introduce its new Beginners' Guide to Fundraising, designed for trustees, volunteers and staff who are new to fundraising. The first online session will take place on 3 December, 12.30pm to 3.00pm.

Fundraising can feel daunting when you're new to the role. This half-day course has been designed to help organisations across Bradford district build confidence and develop a practical understanding of the fundraising landscape.

Participants will explore different types of funding, including grants, donations, contracts and loans, and learn about the advantages and limitations of each. The session will also cover what makes a strong grant application, realistic funding timescales and success rates, and how an organisation's legal structure can influence funding opportunities.

Attendees will learn the basics of donation campaigns and Gift Aid, as well as where to find relevant funding opportunities for their organisation.

The course is ideal for trustees, volunteers and staff with little or no fundraising experience who are looking to raise funds for projects, activities or core costs. It is open to charities, community interest companies, faith groups, sports clubs and other not-for-profit organisations with a constitution operating within Bradford district.

While the course is not accredited, all participants will receive a certificate of attendance. More experienced staff may also wish to recommend the course to trustees or colleagues who are new to fundraising, helping to build fundraising knowledge and confidence across their organisation.

- Beginners' Guide to fundraising: 3 December, 12.30pm to 3.00pm (online)
- Beginners' Guide to fundraising: 3 February 2027, 10.00am to 12.30pm (online)
- Beginners' Guide to fundraising: 12 May 2027, 5.00pm to 7.30pm (online)

Health and Care System News

Join the West Yorkshire Creative Health Network

Arts, culture and creativity are helping people across West Yorkshire improve their health and wellbeing, develop new skills, build connections and feel a stronger sense of belonging.

Despite their impact, many creative health activities operate in isolation and can struggle with short-term funding and limited recognition within health and care systems. The newly launched West Yorkshire Creative Health Network aims to change that by bringing together individuals and organisations who believe in the power of creativity to support healthier communities.

The free network will connect people working across culture, health and the VCSE sector, creating opportunities to share learning, build partnerships and champion creative health across the region.

Members can help shape the future of creative health in West Yorkshire, strengthen links between sectors, collaborate with others and stay informed about regional opportunities and developments.

Individuals can join the network to connect with peers and access the latest news and events, while organisations, groups and collectives can create a profile in the regional directory to help partners, referrers and communities discover their work.

To find out more and register, visit the West Yorkshire Creative Health Network registration page.

The West Yorkshire Creative Health System programme is funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and delivered by the National Creative Health Hub.

Let's Talk This Winter: Healthy Minds Winter Communications Toolkit

Hope begins with a conversation. Partners across Bradford District and Craven are being encouraged to help start those conversations by supporting a new winter mental wellbeing campaign and sharing key messages and resources with staff, communities and networks.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the challenges people can face during winter and highlight support available through Healthy Minds, which brings together local mental health and wellbeing services, advice and self-help resources.

The Winter Wellbeing Communications Toolkit has been created to help organisations share positive mental health messages throughout the season. It includes ready-made graphics, social media content, key messages and wellbeing advice, covering four themes: take a moment, make something, move your way and talk to someone. The toolkit also includes resources on bereavement, financial pressures, the festive period and children and young people's mental wellbeing.

Partners are encouraged to share the toolkit through newsletters, websites, social media and community networks. Resources can be used across the winter months and adapted to suit different audiences, helping to raise awareness of available support, encourage conversations about mental wellbeing and promote early access to help.

NHS Excellence Awards 2027 Open for Entries

The NHS Excellence Awards are inviting submissions from organisations, teams and individuals making a positive impact across health and care services.

With awards recognising innovation, collaboration and service improvement across 10 categories, the programme celebrates excellence in patient care, workforce culture, digital transformation and more.

Entry is free and open to eligible NHS, local authority and VCSE organisations, including partnership projects that demonstrate local impact. Submit your entre by 12 noon, on 17 December.



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

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COMMUNITY ACTION
Bradford & District