

Newsletter

Issue number 2 : December 2009

Birmingham Disability Network



The Voice Of Disability In Birmingham

With financial support from



Index

In PDF version click on the link, in Word format version, press Ctrl and left mouse click to move to the selected article:

[Welcome to the BDN Newsletter](#)

[About Birmingham Disability Network](#)

[Equalities consultation will launch at New Year disability celebration](#)

[Eliminating Barriers to Employment - Birmingham Disability Consortium](#)

[Local Development Agency in Birmingham](#)

[Equality & Human Rights Commission funding](#)

[A helping hand for Yardley](#)

[Commissioning & the Third sector](#)

[Job Opportunity - ICT Technician](#)

[ODI invites local authorities to become Right to Control trailblazers](#)

[New Horizons: a shared vision for mental health](#)

[Personalisation - the challenge for the sector](#)

[New equality commissioners appointed](#)

[Fast track to citizenship in 2011](#)

[Direct Payment Regulation](#)

[State of the Voluntary Sector survey](#)

[User Led Organisations Conference - What's in it for us? - 14 January 2010](#)

[Forward: Book about the history of Birmingham Disability Resource Centre](#)

[Hyperlinks to external websites with more news and information](#)

[Contact Birmingham Disability Network](#)

Welcome to the BDN Newsletter

Welcome to the second Newsletter of the Birmingham Disability Network (known as the BDN for short), a Birmingham-wide network of disability organisations launched on Thursday 9th July 2009 at the Muath Trust (the Bordesley Centre) at Camphill. Our aim is to publish these Newsletters on a regular basis and to keep them concise, relevant, informative and accessible to our member organisations. In the future the 4 main sections of the Newsletter will include:

- (1) A useful round-up of the Network's activities and news
- (2) Articles and news from disability organisations who are members of the Network
- (3) Other news, debates and consultations affecting disabled people and disability organisations locally, regionally and nationally
- (4) Other useful information relevant to Birmingham's third sector, such as training, funding, publications, events, policy and infrastructure issues

Please use the Network's contact details at the end of this Newsletter to send us your news, updates and contributions for future Newsletters or email the current editor directly at pmillington@disability.co.uk

[Return to the Index](#)

About Birmingham Disability Network

Birmingham Disability Network (BDN) is being developed to ensure that third sector disability organisations and groups in Birmingham are at the forefront of addressing disadvantage and advancing equality and social inclusion for disabled people in the city of Birmingham. We aim to do this through awareness raising, consultancy, consultation, research, education, strategic networking and training provision.

BDN operates as an independent network representing the views of disabled people and third sector disability organisations and groups in Birmingham. The Network is committed to ending discrimination, exclusion and oppression of disabled people.

The Birmingham Disability Network has been set up with these objectives:

- To operate an independent network representing the views of disabled people and third sector disability organisations and groups in Birmingham.
- To be an independent not-for-profit structure wherein the member organisations and individuals own and control the Network
- To act as a vehicle for the dissemination of views from disabled people and third sector organisations and groups that support and provide services to disabled people in Birmingham
- To act as a consultation forum for statutory providers; ascertaining views from disabled people and disability organisations and acting as a 'critical friend'
- To seek to influence statutory providers on policy and general issues affecting disabled people locally
- To act as a network for Birmingham-based third sector disability organisations and groups, sharing good practice.
- To provide peer group support including capacity building, networking and information exchange to member organisations.
- To work with and be actively involved in any other networks where they exist.

- To access public sector and other funding to support the work of the Network.
- To generate income from appropriate sources including consultation, research, education and training.

Visit the new website of BDN for more information:

<http://www.birminghamdisability.org.uk/>

[Return to the Index](#)

Equalities consultation will launch at New Year disability celebration

Birmingham's annual celebratory event for International Day of Disabled People (IDDP), which normally takes place on or around December 3rd has this year been moved into the New Year to coincide with the launch of a major equalities consultation by Birmingham City Council.

The event taking place at the Muath Trust's Bordesley Centre in Sparkbrook on January 26th will coincide with the official launch of a major consultation process to be carried out by the City Council's Equalities and Diversity Division around the new Equalities Bill coming in to effect in 2011. The consultation process will be taking place between January and March 2010 and the rescheduled IDDP event will comprise one of a number of such consultation events.

The consultation will provide an opportunity to shape the future of public service delivery in Birmingham and ensure that issues affecting disabled people in the city are taken into account and appropriately actioned.

Also for the first time this year, the city's newly formed Birmingham Disability Network will take over the running of the event. The Birmingham Disability Network is a new network of disability organisations from across the city which was launched this autumn with funding from the City Council. One of the organisations leading the development of the new network is the city's user led

Birmingham Disability Resource Centre (BDRC) based at Bierton Road in Yardley.

BDRC's Chief Executive, Louise Simmons, who is also the Chair of the new Birmingham Disability Network, said about the January 26th event:

“International Day of Disabled People presents a symbolic opportunity to celebrate the contribution made to the city by it's disabled citizens. In the past there have been some fantastic annual events where local organisations came together in partnership with the local authority, but in recent years IDDP activities have been organised differently, so the impact may not have been felt as widely”.

“The new Birmingham Disability Network is in a great position to take on the leadership of the citywide IDDP celebrations in future years, but rather than allowing the opportunity to slip away this year, it is great to be able to work with Birmingham City Council on the organisation of the event at the Muath Trust's Bordesley Centre on 26th January. The theme presented by the Equalities Bill consultation will give us all the chance to have an open discussion about disability issues in the city”.

[Return to the Index](#)

Eliminating Barriers to Employment - Birmingham Disability Consortium



Eliminating Barriers To Employment

Birmingham Disability Consortium...whatever it takes

Birmingham Disability Consortium is committed to delivering customised employment support to meet the individual needs and preferences of clients. This also includes meeting client impairment needs.

The Consortium is only too aware that the 'one size fits all' approach to delivering employment and training support to priority client groups, including disabled people, does not work. Our member organisations have had previous experience of supporting disabled people and IB claimants who have been adversely affected by services delivered in this way.

Support Into Employment

The member organisations have formed this Disability Consortium in order to enable them, as third sector organisations delivering services to disabled people (including NEET disabled people) and IB claimants in Birmingham, to deliver this support into employment programmes for disabled people.

Well established and on your door step

All members of the Disability Consortium are well established third sector organisations.

They are either located in or near to the communities they serve and have experience of delivering employment related services to people with disabilities.

BDC Partners:

Have a successful and proven track record in the provision of employment support

Offer ongoing support beyond the initial contracted element

Fully understand the impact that the client's disability or health condition may have on their ability to take on training or employment

Care - for us it's not just about the money

Walk The Talk - we actually employ people with disabilities

Are qualified and experienced in our areas of disability specialism - we are NOT generalists

Will advise, guide and encourage

Are known and trusted by our service users

Birmingham Disability Consortium comprises:

Action For Blind People (Lead Partner)

Specialised areas: Visual impairment - blind or partially sighted people

Action has over 25 years experience of supporting visually impaired (VI) people into work, and supporting employers to support / retain visually impaired employees. They have been delivering employment support activity for VI people specifically across Birmingham since at least 2003, and have successfully delivered a number of employment support contracts in Birmingham and across the West Midlands.

Call us on 0121 200 3930 or email action@bdcsupport.org.uk

Birmingham Disability Resource Centre

Specialised areas: A pan-disability organisation working from a social model of disability

The Birmingham Disability Resource Centre (BDRC) is based in Yardley, and provides a range of independent support services to disabled people, their families and carers in Birmingham. The BDRC also provides a range of services to support voluntary and community sector organisations, employers and businesses which assist them to become more aware of disability equality issues and their responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Call us on 0121 789 7365 or E-mail employ@disability.co.uk

BITA Pathways

Specialised areas: Mental ill health

BITA Pathways is a registered charity with 45 years experience as the largest provider of rehabilitation services to adults with a severe and enduring mental illness. BITA Pathways provides a range of support services which are designed to assist adults experiencing mental ill health in progressing towards open employment and community integration through personal growth and independence, with the focus on skills development.

Call us on 0121 773 1455 or E-mail bita@bdcsupport.org.uk

BID Services

Specialised areas: Deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing

BID Services (previously Birmingham Institute For The Deaf) provides

support to people who are disadvantaged in the workplace due to them being Deaf or having a hearing impairment. Where possible BID employs Deaf people who have experience of the difficulties that can be faced by Deaf people in securing employment. They then use this experience to effectively support individuals into training or employment.

Call us on 0121 246 6100 (Minicom 0121 246 6101) or E-mail bid@bdcsupport.org.uk

Birmingham Rathbone

Specialised areas: People with mild to moderate learning difficulties

Birmingham Rathbone is a local charity whose mission is to enable people with mild to moderate learning difficulties to achieve their full potential. Established in 1985, the charity has worked continuously and successfully to deliver training, further education, supported employment, accommodation and supported housing and care services to around 1000 people a year.

Call us on 0121 684 0202 or E-mail rathbone@bdcsupport.org.uk

Midland Mencap

Specialised areas: People with moderate to severe learning difficulties

Midland Mencap has over 50 years experience of working with children and adults with learning disabilities and addressing their complex needs. In the last 5 years they have won contracts to work with those who are furthest from the labour market, to develop their confidence and skills to enable them to move closer to their aspirations of gaining paid work.

Call us on 0121 442 2944 or email mencap@bdcsupport.org.uk

Visit the BDC Website at <http://www.bdcsupport.org.uk/>

[Return to the Index](#)

Local Development Agency in Birmingham

Birmingham Local Development Agency Network is currently made up of 10 well-established, voluntary organisations, working in partnership to support a diverse range of frontline voluntary and community organisations across the city, supporting community groups within constituencies and across different areas of interest.

Currently the network comprises 10 organisations across Birmingham, between them providing a broad range of support services to a very diverse range of communities.

All of them providing support to local voluntary and community organisations of all shapes and sizes. In general Local Development Agencies offer Information, advice and practical support in such areas as training, organisational development, group set up, funding, networking opportunities and much, much more. With some of the agencies offering city wide specialist support in such areas as Social enterprise (I-SE) disability (BDRC) and training (ENTA CIC)

Your local development agency can offer information, advice and/or practical help about a range of topics including;

- Funding
- Group start-up
- Management structures
- Resilience & risk management
- Achieving quality standards
- Accessing & delivering public sector contracts

Use the information on the LDA website <http://www.birmingham-da.org/> to locate and contact your Local Development Agency and discover not just what they can do for you, but also what you can

do together to help your group or organisation to grow, flourish and achieve your aims.

[Return to the Index](#)

Equality & Human Rights Commission funding

Birmingham Disability Resource Centre has been awarded £40,000 by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. This funding will allow the centre to provide an awareness raising project for eighteen months around the West Midlands. The project will promote wider understanding and awareness of equality and human rights within the 7 metropolitan boroughs of the West Midlands.

An awareness officer will be employed to deliver equality seminars and events at venues around the West Midlands.

[Return to the Index](#)

A helping hand for Yardley

The BEST Network consortium comprising of Birmingham Disability Resource Centre, Cross Match, Cross Over, Tyseley and Greet ERC, Jericho Foundation, Enter Key and Bangladeshi Women Forum has launched the Working Neighbourhood funded Employment programme. The helping hand for Yardley programme will help local unemployed people to return to work.

For further information contact BDRC on 0121 789 7365.

[Return to the Index](#)

Commissioning & the Third sector

BVSC has published a study of the way in which third sector organisations are responding to the challenges and opportunities presented by new commissioning guidelines. Originally

commissioned in 2008 as an internal BVSC document, the report (and its accompanying literature review), is now widely available and provides a range of recommendations to assist third sector providers and public sector commissioners in navigating this increasingly complex territory.

Hard copies are available from BVSC on request

BVSC The Centre For Voluntary Action, 138 Digberth,
Birmingham, B5 6DR

0121 643 4343

[Return to the Index](#)

Job Opportunity - ICT Technician

St. Paul's Community Development Trust is looking for an ICT Technician

Hours: 37.5 hours

Salary Scale: Grade 3 Level 2 (£15,690 – £17,054pa)

Description of Job: To work as part of a small team to maintain ICT equipment in the Trust providing telephone and on-site support to staff in the correct and safe use of ICT equipment. Installation and configuration of hardware and software throughout the departments. Performing routine maintenance for the Trust's ICT equipment and network infrastructure. Experience in installing devices, systems and software is essential along with relevant Level 2 (NVQ or 5 GCSE) qualification and a general education to at least Level 2 – work towards Level 3 (A level).

Closing date: 23rd December 2009

For further details please visit our website:

<http://www.stpaulstrust.org.uk/job-opportunities/current-vacancies/ict-technician/>

It is a condition of employment that the successful candidate obtains a satisfactory CRB Disclosure.

St. Paul's Community Development Trust
Hertford Street Balsall Heath Birmingham B12 8NJ
Telephone 0121 464 4376

Registered in England & Wales No: 1429707 Charity Registrations
No. 508943

<http://www.stpaulstrust.org.uk/>

E-Mail: administration@stpaulstrust.org.uk

[Return to the Index](#)

The following 7 articles are from the website of the Regional Disability Network West Midlands at www.rdn-wm.org.uk

ODI invites local authorities to become Right to Control trailblazers

The government is putting plans in place to give disabled adults more choice and control over the state funding or services they receive. From late 2010, the Right to Control will be tested in around eight local authorities in England.

The right to control scheme is about disabled people having control over services they receive from the local authority.

[Return to the Index](#)

New Horizons: a shared vision for mental health

New Horizons: a shared vision for mental health is a comprehensive initiative that will be delivered by 11 Government departments. It also brings together an alliance of local government, voluntary sector and professionals, as well as local communities and individuals to work towards a society that values mental well-being as much as physical health.

www.newhorizons.dh.gov.uk

 [New Horizons - A shared vision of mental health \(1.31 MB\)](#)

[Return to the Index](#)

Personalisation - the challenge for the sector

The Commission set up by ACEVO to look into personalisation has recommended that the Cabinet Office set up a dedicated unit to help VCS organisations become commission-ready. This report also highlights approaches that should be taken by the public sector to lead changes. A copy of the interim report is available to download from the website link below.

<http://www.acevo.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=1541>

[Return to the Index](#)

New equality commissioners appointed

The Chair of the National Centre for Independent Living has been appointed to the Equality and Human Rights Committee, the government has announced.

Mike Smith was one of the first appointees to the EHRC Disability Committee where he has led on legal matters, including the Equality Bill and social care. He now moves up to become a full commissioner.

Nine other commissioners have been appointed to the EHRC with backgrounds in minority issue strands, including Jean Irvine, a trustee and director of RADAR and Stephen Alambritis who was a commissioner with the Disability Rights Commission.

[Return to the Index](#)

Fast track to citizenship in 2011

A scheme to fast-track citizenship applications from migrants who do voluntary work for charities will be in place by July 2011, the Home Office has pledged.

The Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Act, which was passed in July this year, contains the provision, which is expected to apply only to those who have volunteered with registered charities, rather than with smaller community groups.

The scheme will allow migrants who have been in the UK for five years to gain citizenship within one further year rather than three if they can prove they have been "active citizens" by volunteering.

[Return to the Index](#)

Direct Payment Regulation

The Department of Health are currently holding a live consultation on Direct Payments in Healthcare proposals for regulation and guidance.

You can download the consultation document below

 [direct payments for healthcare consultation document \(291.42 kB\)](#)

[Return to the Index](#)

User Led Organisations Conference - What's in it for us? - 14 January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to our conference "ULO's what's in it for us"?

This will be a topical conference highlighting the relationship between the transformation of social care and the development of ULOs. Key topics of the day will include: ULOs and personalisation:

Consortiums and ULOs; Sustainability and Equality and Diversity. We will have key speakers from across the region and nationally as well as giving you the opportunity to share the experiences of ULOs from the West Midlands.

If you know of other organisations this conference may benefit such as those who have a Service Level Agreement with commissioners in health, local authorities etc., could you please pass this information on. If you would like to attend what we believe will be a very topical and relevant conference then email us on

dhwms.events@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Kind regards

Marcia Richards

Transformation Lead - Department of Health West Midlands

Anthony Walters

West Midlands User Led Organisation Project Manager

Department of Health West Midlands

Government Office for the West Midlands

5 St Philip's Place

Birmingham

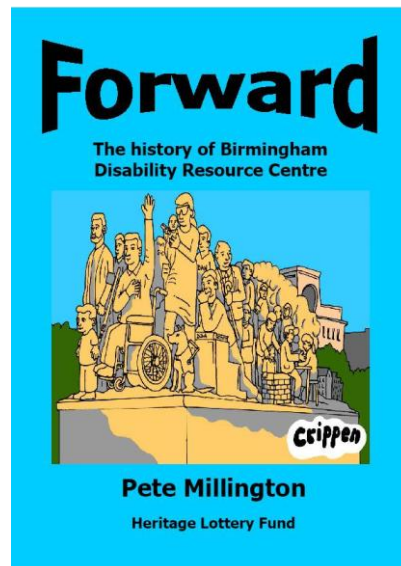
B3 2PW

Email: dhwm.events@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Fax: 0121 352 5312

[Return to the Index](#)

Forward: Book about the history of Birmingham Disability Resource Centre



Draft front cover – preview only

In January 2010 Birmingham Disability Resource will be publishing a new book about the history of the centre and its origins in the

Birmingham Disability Rights Group. The book production has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and celebrates the development of this unique user led centre at Bierton Road which was set up by disabled people in 1992 following a 7 year campaign to attain funding from Birmingham City Council which started in 1985.

The material for the book has come in large part from oral history interviews conducted since October 2008 and various other sources. We have been supported in the collection and transcription of oral history material by a small team of disabled volunteers based at Birmingham Disability Resource Centre. One of the highlights of the project was a training day facilitated by community historian Carl Chinn earlier this year which was attended by volunteers and staff from the centre with additional students coming from two mental health day centres in Birmingham and Solihull.

The book includes chapters covering:

- Disabled People's lives in Britain and the West Midlands from the early 20th century
- The roots of the social model of disability and the disabled people's movement from 1972
- A snapshot of life for disabled people in the late 70s and early 80s
- The forming of Birmingham Disability Rights Group and the campaign for a resource centre
- The work of the centre in the 1990s and the campaign for the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

- Changing services over the past 2 decades and profiles of disabled volunteers and staff members
- The changing politics of the disabled people's movement in Birmingham
- The present and future vision

As well as oral history interviews conducted in the past year, the earlier chapters of the book also draw on interview material collected by BDRG project worker and book author Pete Millington over the past decade, going back to his work as editor of Pinpoint magazine at Disability West Midlands. Amongst this material are sections of an interview carried out with Ken and Maggie Davies, founding members of the Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People in 1981 and collaborators with Vic Finkelstein and others on the development of the social model of disability, the 7 fundamental principles of independent living and the establishment of the organisation UPIAS. Ken Davies very sadly died last year.

The book also contains interviews with, amongst many other people, BDRG founder Bob Williams-Findlay and Sir Albert Bore who helped to attain funding for the BDRG in the early 1990s.

The book will be given away free and will also be produced in audio format on a CD which will be included with the book and also as a larger print PDF document which will be available to download from BDRG's website (<http://www.disability.co.uk/>)

The front cover of the book has been designed by well known cartoonist Crippen, best known for his brilliant and satirical cartoons on disability issues published in newspapers such as Disability Now.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the book when it is published, please email us at Birmingham Disability Resource Centre on pmillington@disability.co.uk and include the subject line History Book Order in the email header.

[Return to the Index](#)

Hyperlinks to external websites with more news and information

[Pathways to social and job inclusion for people with Disabilities](#)

[Ariane de Rothschild Fellows Programme for Social Entrepreneurs](#)

[Birmingham's City of Culture bid launch](#)

[Search for Cultural and Creative Sector's future female leaders](#)

[New scheme to assist city's young entrepreneurs](#)

[Social Entrepreneur in Residence - NHS Birmingham East and North](#)

[Advertisement for a new Chair for Heart of England Foundation Trust](#)

[Art is for all - Focus on Blindness](#)

[Charities urged to take action to beat recession](#)

[Do It Awards](#)

[Success for British and International Deaf Filmmakers at Deaffest 2009](#)

[Flats available at Peter's \(Saltley\) Housing Association](#)

[NHS BEN film event for Chlamydia testing](#)

[Deaf Heritage Project launch 'Hands at work'](#)

[Return to the Index](#)

Contact Birmingham Disability Network

Birmingham Disability Network
c/o Birmingham Disability Resource Centre
Bierton Road

Birmingham Disability Network
December 2009 Newsletter

Yardley
Birmingham B25 8PQ

General email: bdrc@disability.co.uk
Website: www.birminghamdisability.org.uk
Email for Newsletter articles: pmillington@disability.org.uk

Telephone 0121 789 7365
Text phone 0121 789 9230
Fax 0121 785 0104

[Return to the Index](#)