CHAIR’S REPORT 2017/2018
Emmerson Walgrove

1. Introduction
Even though it has been a year of change, the Bradford & District Disabled People’s Forum (BDPF) has continued to ensure that disabled people have a stronger voice where it matters.

Over the years the Forum has been busy involving and engaging its members in the work of the Forum and in 2017 it has continued to do so.

It has been an exciting time for us as Equality Together, who supports the BDPF moved premises to Manningham Mills Community Centre almost one year ago and the Forum held its first event at the new premises.

We also had to say goodbye to Neal Heard earlier this year as he has moved on to pastures new, the members were sorry to see Neal go but we wish him all the best in his new job.

The report includes activities, events and other development the Forum has worked on over the year. It also highlights how things are continuing to move forward and the Forum is going from strength to strength.

I have done two years as being the Chairperson for the Bradford & District Disabled People’s Forum (BDPF) it has been a great opportunity for me to continue to be at the forefront in trying to make things better for disabled people.
2. Members on the committee

The current committee members are:

- Emmerson Walgrove - Chair
- Cath Stevenson - Deputy Chair
- Paul Deary - Secretary
- Alice Brown - Treasurer
- Paul Anderson
- Linda Hanson
- Ann-Marie Bentley
- Nusrat Naheed
- Steve Grisag
- Joyce Anderson

The committee members have continued to be actively involved in campaigning for the rights of disabled people.

3. What Have We been Doing

The Forum has continued its involvement in organising meetings and events. This has been an opportunity for disabled people to continue to get their voices heard and have an influence on how services are planned and delivered.

The Forum has held 5 committee meetings, 1 Partnership Working - Easier Access Healthcare Awards, Joe Cox - Great Get Together, Disability History Month 2017 and a Mental Health Awareness Week - Drop-in.

Easier Access Sovereign Healthcare Awards

The Bradford & District Disabled People’s Forum (BDPF) had the opportunity to work in partnership with the Strategic Disability Partnership to present the Easier Access Sovereign Healthcare Awards on October 3rd 2017 at the City Park in Bradford.

Categories include:

- Best Practice in Employment of disabled people, which went to the project SEARCH based at the BRI
- Best Changing Places in the Bradford District, which went to St John's Church
- Made a Difference Award, which went to Darryl Smith
- Health and Well-being Award, which went to Leylands Medical Centre
- Inclusive Design Award, which went to Mind the Gap
- Disabled Person of the Year Award, which went to Steve Grisag

Photo of the winners with their trophies, the Chair of Bradford & District Disabled Peoples Forum (BDPF), Chief Executive of Sovereign Healthcare, Chair and Deputy Chair of Strategic Disability Partnership (SDP)

Disability History Month 2017 – Disability & Art
This was held on December 7th 2017 and attended by approximately 60 disabled people from across the Bradford District. H.M Deputy Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, Mr Balbir Panesar and the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Cllr Abid Hussain opened the meeting where they both talked about the value of disabled people in society today.

A number of presentations and activities took place throughout the day. One key activity was giving disabled people who attended the opportunity to express themselves through art.

Photo examples below
As part of Mental Health Awareness Week (14 – 20 May 2018) and the topic being, 'Stress' and are you coping, the Forum held a soup and chat drop-in. This was a chance for anyone to come along and have a chat and enjoy a bowl of homemade soup and a roll. Approximately 15 people came on the day. There was the opportunity to talk to a worker from MIND on mental health and well-being, whilst workers from Healthwatch Bradford got individual's views on what they thought about NHS England making changes to the prescribing of certain over the counter medicines.

4. Forum Members Involvement in other Meetings

The Forum continues to have committee members who are on various boards and partnerships to ensure that the views of disabled people reach the highest level and are taken seriously.

These include:

- Healthwatch Bradford and District
- Strategic Disability Partnership (SDP)
- Mobility Planning Group
- Highroyds Memorial Garden & Chapel
- Bradford Association of Visually Impaired People (BAVIP)
- Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust

Committee and Forum members are also working with key partners such as the Bradford Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust, Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) and many other groups and organisations.

This is to ensure that the views of disabled people and carers feed into the planning and delivery of services.
5. **Action Plan**

The Forum has continued to focus on the same four key areas of its action plan. These were:

- **Representation on strategic boards** - Two members from the committee on the Strategic Disability Partnership (SDP) Board
- **Getting disabled people’s views and finding out what people’s needs are** - Taxi Campaign Survey which has been ongoing
- **Supporting campaigns or other groups who campaign** - Banning of A-Boards on pavements
- **Developing and strengthening the Forum** - Encouraging new membership on to the committee and the Forum

The Bradford & District Disabled People’s Forum (BDPF) also held an away day in October 2017 in which 9 committee members attended, the aims were to look at ways to increase participation and to revisit the BDPF’s priorities.

6. **Future**

Despite changes beyond the Forum’s control, the committee has worked very hard this year on your behalf. This is through influencing and building links and networks with members, other groups and organisations.

As the Chairperson of the Bradford and District Disabled People’s Forum, I would like to thank all the committee members, Forum members, Sandra Brown and other staff members from Equality Together for all their help and support given to the BDPF and may it continue.

The strength of the Forum is not only in identifying mutual concerns and taking action to improve things but also in supporting individuals and groups who may feel isolated or less confident or able to raise concerns alone. I hope we can continue to work together to provide a powerful voice for Disabled People in Bradford and District.
Financial Report 2017-2018

Equality Together is commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to support the Bradford & District Disabled People’s Forum (BDPF), this includes:

- Development worker time
- Meeting expenses - BSL, room hire, refreshments
- Admin support
- Member travel expenses

Fundraising

- Sovereign Health Care = £2,320
- Community Lunch in Memory of Jo Cox = £200
- Total = £2,520

Expenditure

- Amount spent from fundraising = £2,520
- Total amount in account = £500