



**Notes of the Disabled People Forum held on Thursday 9 February 2012
held at the Carlisle Business Centre, 60 Carlisle Road, Bradford, BD8
8BD**

Present:

Cath Stevenson (Chair)	Janet Cuff
Gill Bowskill	Kath Wooler
Joanne Atkinson	Sam Atkinson
David Blythe	Chris Rubery
Teyyeb Rashid	Paul Deary
Halyna Dowan	Jan Evan (Support Worker-Wagtails)
Kevin Baldwin	Geoff Watson
Susie Farrar	A. Conran
R. Helliwell	Lee Bottomley
Trevor Ramsay	

In Attendance:

Paul Hicks - Remploy
Sue Webster - Jobcentre Plus
Sandra Brown - BACC
Phil Cutler - BACC
BSL Interpreters

Apologies: Rita Berry, Sue Crowe, Linda Hanson, Paul Anderson, Emmerson Walgrove, Alice Brown, Jill Grant, Titch Kavangh

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cath welcomed everyone and apologies noted above.

2. Guest Speakers

Job Centre Plus-Sue Webster

Sue introduced the processes operated by Job Centre Plus for claimants under "Get Britain Working Programme" the replacement of "New Deal" which includes: **Work Clubs, Work Together, Work Experience, Enterprise_Clubs, Enterprise Allowance, Work Based Academies and Mandatory Work Activity.**

Sue went on to talk about the support given to disabled people wanting to get back into work.

Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs) - voluntary support for those who have new or existing health conditions which affect their daily lives & whose main barrier to finding work is their health condition.

Work Choice - consists of 3 modules and supports people with complex disabilities for whom other Department of Work and Pension (DWP) provision is not appropriate and those who are in work but under threat of losing their job as a result of disability.

Access to Work - available for individuals with health conditions or disabilities. Provides practical & financial support to help overcome barriers to starting or keeping a job. Also provides advice to employers.

Permitted Work - for people in receipt of benefits due to illness or disability. Can affect other benefits claimed, e.g. housing benefit, so it is important to speak to a Job Centre Plus Adviser before starting work.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Advisers - support for customers who are claiming Employment & Support Allowance.

If anyone wanting more information about support for disabled people and employment contact Sandra at the BACC office and she will pass on Sue Webster's contact details.

- Question: Deaf issues regarding different assessments are confusing how can deaf people get clarification?
- Response: Cannot comment on individual cases because each case is complicated. Ingeus Deloitte and Best work with individuals. More information can also be obtained from the jobcentre plus website.
- Signing- posting people to the internet is not always accessible
- Question: disabled person who recently had a hip operation how does affect benefit and employment?
- Response: Again cannot comment on individual cases. The individual would need to speak to an advisor. Phil suggested that these were the sort of questions that could be raised at the MP Question Time event in March.

Remploy - Paul Hicks

Paul introduced the Work Choice programme operated by Remploy. An aspect of that work is to combat employer prejudices and disability awareness raising. Access to this is through Job Centre Plus, Disability Advice Service. A disabled person can still access the service even if they are not referred by Jobcentre Plus.

Remploy deal with the whole spectrum of disability and to qualify you must have a disability. You must show a commitment that one is looking for work. Once accepted you are assigned to an advisor. CV and confidence building workshops are available. Paul Hicks, Account Manager, works with employers to understand disability and to ensure the process is fair.

Employers include Asda, and Sainsbury and information is shared

around recruitment processes.

There are 7-8 people for every job in Bradford. Once in work Remploy continue to give support by their in-work advisor for 2years. An example was given about a deaf person not being able to take part in the team meetings but Access to work programme was flagged up which enabled this person to take part. Work trials, work placements, and interviews are all tools used to support disabled people into getting a job.

3. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2011

Minutes agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

BISON Funding applied for by BACC on behalf of the Disable People's Forum was confirmed and the funding of £1000 will be used for 2 events (Action Plan Update & Hate Crime). Meeting welcomed confirmation of the fund and will progress in organising 2 separate events.

Whetley Hill Resource Centre update from Kath Wooler will remain open for a further 12-18 months with drastic changes for the longer term. Janet Cuff reported that there were also discussions on looking at a Social Enterprise model for the centre and introducing future charges for food & transport.

5. Question Time Event

Phil gave an update on where things are with the event and the question headings to put forward. Phil asked members to put forward challenging questions. Phil also requested that questions to be sent to admin@bacc.uk.com by 1st March.

6. Any Other Business

The AGM date to be agreed at the next committee meeting of Disable People Forum.

Bradnet new Neets (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Project for disabled young people. For more information about the project contact tariq.ahmed@bradnet.org.uk or text only on 07980852733

Sandra mentioned a consultation about hospital mental health services for adults and older people in Bradford, Airedale and Craven. Trevor Ramsay is involved with the consultations.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next big meeting will be the MP Question Time Event on Wednesday 21st March, 11.00am - 2.00pm at the Carlisle Business Centre.