

Bradford Co-Production Partnership Update Number 19 - September 2025

Large print edition

Co-Production
Partnership



Sharing the power

Welcome

Welcome to the latest update from the Bradford Co-Production Partnership.

Co-Production is about disabled people and people who run services working together to make them better.

We will be looking at some of the changes happening to the Emergency Department at BRI and how we want to make it accessible for all.

We also look at what is commissioning, and how the Co-Production Partnership can support people get involved in this.

Finally, there is an update on the council's charging for social care services policy.

The Co-Production Partnership is jointly managed by BTM and Equality Together. It is funded by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.



Changes to the emergency department in Bradford

The Co-Production Partnership has been working with disabled people and staff at Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI) to make sure the new Emergency Department (also called A&E) is accessible for us as disabled people.

The Hospital Trust which runs BRI has got some money to rebuild the Emergency Department. This is an opportunity to make sure it is as accessible to as many people as possible. The Co-Production Partnership has helped different groups have their say on what they need to make this work as well as possible.

Although there are limits on what can be done with the space, there is much which can be improved, for example, making sure that there is enough space between the seats for people to move around easily. Also, having good lighting is really important.

One of the issues which many disabled people have talked about is that staff in the Emergency Department do not know that a patient may need additional support and reasonable adjustments.

We think there should be a system where the computer will tell staff if people need a reasonable adjustment. We have suggested that the hospital computer system should do this. We were told that the current computer system cannot do this. We have asked that this is changed when they update their computer system.

People have also said that finding their way around the Emergency Department is difficult. We have asked that all signs are made in a way which will make it easy for as many people as possible to understand them.

If you want to have your say about how to make the Emergency Department better for disabled people, please email George.reynolds@bthft.nhs.uk

What is Commissioning?

The Co-Production Partnership often asks disabled people and carers to be involved in commissioning. We thought it would be useful to give you all a short guide to what this is.

Commissioning is when a big organisation like the council or the NHS decide how to spend their money on services for the people in their area.

There are different things which need to be done. This is called 'The Commissioning Cycle'.

The first thing they need to do is decide what services are needed. They will look at **what care and support is needed** in the District. Next the council decide what the most important things for an organisation to do are and what questions they will ask organisations to answer to show they will do a good job.

They then **find organisations** to deliver the care and support and buy services from them. They need to find organisations which will give people a good quality service and be good value for money for the council or NHS.

Finally, they **check** that services are being delivered well. This should include listening to people who use services.

We want to make sure that people who use social care services are able to have a say on what services Bradford Council commission. To do this we are working with disabled people to develop some training.

One of the commissioning projects Bradford Council is working on at the moment is to find organisations to provide housing support for people with learning disabilities. If you want to get involved in this project email willq@equalitytogether.org.uk call or text 07432 264 881

Bradford Council's charging for care services

Earlier this year, Bradford Council told people that they will be changing their policy on how they decide how much people who use care services will have to pay.

Lots of disabled people and carers came to meetings about this. Others filled in a survey or told the council what they thought about this idea. Although nobody wanted to pay more for the services they use, most people know that Bradford Council does not have enough money.

Lots of people said that if the amount they pay does go up, then the council should do this more slowly. The council have agreed that the care charges will be increased over two years, not the one year first suggested.

Although this is only a small change, it does show that sharing our views can make some difference.

Contact the Co-Production Partnership

Email willq@equalitytogether.org.uk

Phone, text or WhatsApp 07432 264 881