

Agenda for a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 5.00 pm in City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP	INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST
Azam Tait Akhtar D Green Arshad Hussain Nazir	Bibby Riaz	J Sunderland	Jenkins

Alternates:

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP
Dearden Hussain T Hussain Salam Shafiq Wood	Birch Nazam	Griffiths

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- Given the restrictions on room capacity, any non-member Councillors and members of the public who wish to attend the meeting are asked to email yusuf.patel@bradford.gov.uk by **mid-day on Tuesday 8 March 2022** and request to do so.
- On the day of the meeting please ensure that you comply with the COVID restrictions in place at the current time. If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Parveen Akhtar, City Solicitor
Agenda Contact: Jane Lythgow
Phone: 01274 432270
Email: jane.lythgow@bradford.gov.uk

To:

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (3) Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Jane Lythgow - 01274 432270)

4. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Yusuf Patel - 01274 434579)

5. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

No referrals were made at the time of the publication of the agenda.

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREVENT STRATEGY IN THE BRADFORD Previous Reference Minute: 19 (2020/21)

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The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “AF”**) outlines the approach to delivering the national Prevent strategy in the Bradford district and highlights progress made in the last twelve months against the District Prevent Action Plan.

At the meeting on 18th March 2021, the Committee requested more detailed outcomes against projects being delivered as part of the Prevent Strategy for the District and the attached Appendix 1 addresses that request.

Recommended –

That the progress on work undertaken in implementing the Prevent agenda in Bradford and its approach to supporting vulnerable people be acknowledged.

(Ian Day – 01274 433507)

7. VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVES ACROSS THE BRADFORD DISTRICT- PROGRESS REPORT

29 - 50

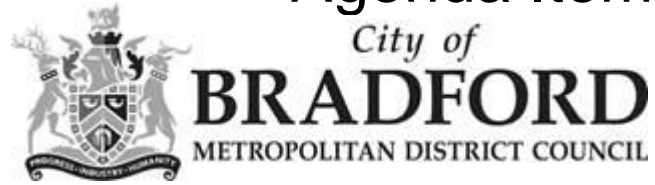
The Strategic Director, Place, will present a report (**Document “AG”**) which provides an update on the work of volunteering initiatives supported by the Council and external partners.

Recommended –

- 1. That the initiatives and volunteering that support services to local communities be acknowledged.**
- 2. That the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to provide an update on the impact of the VCSE Service Improvement Programme and the Volunteer Coordinator to support volunteering across the district in 12 months-time.**

(Ian Day – 01274 437399)

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER



Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 10th March 2022

AF

Subject:

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREVENT STRATEGY IN THE BRADFORD
DISTRICT**

Summary statement:

This report outlines the approach to delivering the national Prevent strategy in the Bradford district and highlights progress made in the last twelve months against the District Prevent Action Plan

**Jason Longhurst
Strategic Director- Place**

Portfolio:

Safer and Stronger Communities

**Report Contact: Ian Day
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods
and Customer Services
Phone: (01274) 01274) 433507
E-mail: ian.day@bradford.gov.uk**

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The 18 and under age group is still the age group where the risk of radicalisation and extremism is the highest. Extremist groups still focus most of their activity online. 2021 saw continued national lockdowns and school closures, both leading to increased time spent online by the majority of the population. Those referred to Channel across the West Yorkshire district continue to be highest in the 18 and under age group and continue to be mostly male, as reflected nationally. A significant number of Prevent referrals and cases taken up by Channel continue to have long term mental health issues or specific learning needs. Again, this has been exacerbated by issues related to Covid, including prolonged time at home and online. This continues to be a priority for our current and future work.

The Council's Prevent programme makes a positive contribution towards the Council's Equality Objectives. In the first objective: Visibility, leadership and accountability, we publish our Prevent Plan for the District on the Bradford Safeguarding page. We also consult with our new Prevent Advisory Group about Prevent related issues in the District, as well as listening to the views of those across the District in our quarterly roundtables. These also help to fulfil the Community objective, as do the work of our roles and projects. With regards to Services we ensure wherever possible that we pick projects that are from the local area and understand local issues as well as supporting the local economy.

1. SUMMARY

This report outlines the approach to delivering the national Prevent strategy in the Bradford district and highlights the progress made in the last twelve months against the District Prevent Action Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1.1 At the meeting on 18th March 2021 the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved that:

- This Committee requests that the Independent Review of the National Prevent Programme be presented to this Committee in September 2021, or as soon as it is available after its publication.
- That more detailed outcomes against the projects being delivered as part of the Prevent Strategy for the District be presented to the Committee.

2.2 The Prevent review has been granted an extension and is yet to be published. William Shawcross, the head of the Review and his team visited Bradford in April to gather evidence. Bradford welcomes the review and will report the findings from the review to the Committee as soon as it is in a position to do so.

2.3 At the meeting on 18th March 2021, the Committee requested more detailed outcomes against projects being delivered as part of the Prevent Strategy for the District be presented to the Committee. The attached appendix addresses this request. **(Appendix 1)**

2.4 The following report is an update on the Prevent work that has been undertaken over the last twelve months, how it meets the threats in our district and the impact that this work has had. It also addresses our plans for future Prevent work for the next twelve months.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 As the Covid pandemic continues, it is still having a considerable impact on the risk from extremists and radicalisation. These groups continue to utilise the online space to spread hate, conspiracy theories and mistrust between communities. Far right groups particularly, have continued to use conspiracy theories about COVID-19 as a recruiting tool to attract younger supporters into their realms during 2021. The use of memes and conspiracy theories are attractive to a particularly younger audience and have been used to attract new support. Groups across WY have been using the anti-lockdown etc. as a facade to promote their extremist views and in turn hopefully attract more members.

3.2 Self- initiated terrorism continues to be a risk, due to the low sophistication of the methods used and the ease at which things can be planned. The continued isolation and suspicion amongst some individuals, makes the potential for such attacks high. This is not linked to any particular ideology and very much taps into

suspicion over the pandemic, narratives associated with free speech, conspiracy theories and those with mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies.

- 3.3 Around 900 people of national security concern have travelled from the UK to engage in the conflict in Syria and Iraq. Of these, approximately 20% have been killed in that conflict, and around 40% have now returned to the UK. The vast majority of those returned are deemed to be of low security concern. It is assessed that many of the most dangerous individuals remain in Syria. The risk around Syrian travel continues to be somewhat abated this past year, due to difficulties in travel worldwide because of Covid. Tighter travel restrictions imposed throughout 2020/21 makes travel by extremist / radicalised individuals to conflict zones highly unlikely and indeed the same restrictions mean it is unlikely that any UK citizens who have previously travelled abroad to fight for and against Daesh will return to the UK in the near future, even as travel restrictions begin to lift as we head further into 2022
- 3.4 The Independent Review of the national Prevent programme is due to be published. Bradford Prevent has fully participated and welcomes hearing the results.

PREVENT IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

Bradford Prevent Delivery

- 3.4.1 Bradford Council and partners have always sought to tailor the Prevent programme to the needs of the District's communities and the ever developing risks they face. We are committed to engaging grass roots projects wherever possible to help build resilience and to ensure support is offered to vulnerable people of all ages and backgrounds to meet these risks. We continue to make efforts to engage communities and elected members and to build awareness of and engagement in the Prevent programme across the district.
- 3.4.2. Bradford Prevent have tailored the Prevent programme to meet the ever growing risk from online extremism across all ideologies, including newly emerging risks such as Left Wing and Single Issue Terrorism and Mixed, Unclear and Unstable Ideologies. Projects, training and support are very mindful of these ever developing risks and their potential to increase due to the vulnerabilities created by COVID.
- 3.4.3 The programme in Bradford has been made transparent, with local Prevent Delivery Plans being made available to the public. There has also been significant engagement with the local democratic framework via regular reports to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Prevent training offered to elected members. We have also introduced a Prevent Advisory Group who meet twice a year. This is made up of representatives across the district. It includes youth workers, EMAR ambassadors, former police officers and community workers. We share information on or current Prevent work and strategy and seek advice and input on future work, as well as discussing Prevent related issues.
- 3.4.4 Elected members have been positive in attending online Prevent training sessions. This not only allows for elected members to contribute ideas on delivering Prevent but enables them to take a greater community leadership role and adds

transparency and accountability to the local agenda. Elected members attended Prevent training in November of 2021, making them aware of local and national risks and how to combat these.

- 3.4.5 A community roundtable was held in last year and was very well attended. Another event was cancelled due to Covid restrictions but further events are planned for the year ahead. These events are organised in partnership with the Area Coordinator's Office and include local and voluntary community organisations, faith establishments and local residents. This has proved a successful way to engage at a grass roots level. There are many misconceptions around Prevent and this provides a forum for community members to hear what delivery actually looks like on the ground.
- 3.4.6. Under the Prevent strategy the local authority and partners develop projects to reduce the risk of people becoming involved in terrorist activity. Funding granted for the 2021/22 period was £312 132 and we were awarded the full amount of what we bid for. The full list of funded projects can be found at **Appendix 1**. Most projects are community and education based, focusing on the key risks in our district. Some of the key work is listed below:

Mothers Against Radicalisation: A six module programme is delivered to educate and support mothers on understanding the digital world and its impact and danger, safeguarding children and young people from online grooming and radicalisation. Mothers will also be equipped with the knowledge of the signs and symptoms of radicalisation and how to challenge and seek support. 50 women of different backgrounds have taken part in the programme this year with excellent feedback and a ripple effect into communities. This is an established group and now has an Ambassador's Group who are instrumental in passing on their learning to communities and working to raise awareness of Prevent related issues.

Key objectives: Educate and support mothers regarding the digital world and its impact on young people. Give them the tools to protect against digital harms. Build relationships across the district to share ideas and information on Prevent related issues.

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance: This project was well regarded in the Prevent Peer Review and is centred on supporting individuals at risk of radicalisation through one to one mentoring and support. The project delivers training in schools and community settings to encouraging critical thinking and link individuals to appropriate support.

Key objectives: Providing support and reassurance quickly to those with vulnerabilities that may be vulnerable to radicalisation but may not meet Channel criteria. Target specific schools/ communities to focus on vulnerabilities to radicalisation.

Supplementary Schools Against Radicalisation: Bradford district has over 100 madrassah's with many thousands of our young people attending 5 or 6 days per week. The project supports Imam's/teachers with the skills to coherently challenge the Daesh narrative, essential in building resilience in young people and the confidence/knowledge to seek appropriate support.

Key objectives: To give young people, parents and madrassah staff the skills to have discussions around difficult and often complex topics in a safe environment, in order to build resilience to the Daesh narrative.

Bradford Peace Museum- This session explores how to tell if information online is suspect or distorts the truth, and what to do if you see online material that promotes extremism. The session equips you with an understanding of the difference between traditional online safety learning, namely around online bullying and personal safety, and how the internet is used to spread extremist messaging. The workshops use methods that make these issues meaningful for young people and provides a safe space to explore them.

Key objectives: To give you the ability to recognise when you are being manipulated towards extremist views online and what to do if you are concerned.

Oddarts- Blame and Belonging is an interactive forum theatre performance and workshop using professional actors and specialist facilitators to explore key issues around radicalisation. This performance focuses on the adult influencer, female radicalisation and Islamaphobia. It explores people inspired by the extreme ‘far right’ and also Daesh.

Key objectives: Giving young people the opportunity to explore and discuss key extremist issues in a safe environment. The drama helps to visualise how these things may manifest in their own lives. .

Votes For Schools

Selected schools will have a Votes for Schools license so they can to deliver a weekly debate on a topical or controversial issue; and the young people will have a chance to gain knowledge, debate and vote on the issue. Topics will cover (in an age appropriate way) extremism, radicalisation, conspiracy theories, online harms, crime, hate crime etc. This knowledge will help mitigate being drawn into extremism. It will create a space to regularly talk about issues and give teachers the knowledge and confidence to conduct these sessions. Vulnerable young people will gain knowledge; and also build critical thinking skills, confidence in having a voice, tolerance and respect: thus mitigating being radicalised and being drawn into terrorism.

Key objectives: To give staff the opportunity and structure to have discussions on key topics with young people. To give the young people the opportunity, skills and experience to participate in reasoned debate. This will help to mitigate the risk of people being drawn towards extremist narratives in everyday life.

3.4.7. From the outset, Bradford Council has prioritised education as one of the key

foundation stones in the battle against extremism. The internet and social media specifically, has opened up new ways to promote extremism. Online radicalisation is identified as an area for a priority response. In addition to our funded projects, the Prevent Education Officer continues to deliver sessions that develop critical thought, an understanding of citizenship, support tolerance and provide counter narratives to extremist ideologies. She has also continued to develop the Prevent Champions Network and delivered numerous sessions to staff and students.

3.4.8 A key part of the Prevent strategy is the “Channel” safeguarding scheme. The local authority leads a panel of safeguarding professionals including police, social workers, NHS staff, schools and the justice system to identify those at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess what the risk might be and then develop tailored support for those referred to them. This could range from mentoring to things like confidence building, managing stress or drug and alcohol programmes. Participation in Channel is voluntary. Of those who received Channel support, there is still a relatively even balance in the types of extremism sited. Due to the small numbers of participants and the voluntary nature of Channel, it is not possible to give local detail on Channel referrals. The possibility of being identified may discourage some people from participation.

3.4.9 To support the understanding of safeguarding processes and to help increase confidence in staff to recognise, respond and, where appropriate, to refer concerns around extremism, training is available to staff through an adaptation of the ‘Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent’ (WRAP). The Prevent team have trained staff this year across the District including in schools, NHS staff, Safeguarding staff, Housing staff, Probation staff, DV staff, Environmental Health staff. They have also provided Prevent related training in critical thinking and how to deal with risks online to community champions across the district, elected members, ward officers, refugee and asylum staff and members of the public in community roundtables. Feedback strongly indicates that WRAP is an easy to understand and non-alarmist method of raising awareness of Prevent and that Prevent related training is extremely popular and seen as very relevant.

3.4.10 The Prevent team continue to developed the network of ‘Prevent Champions’ who lead on the safeguarding function and be kept informed of current patterns of extremism. This is already established in education and the Police but has now developed across the Local Authority and other agencies across the district. Representatives are provided with detailed Prevent related information to disseminate to their teams and extra training. This has really developed this year and we have a wide variety of representation. An event is planned for the coming months in conjunction with the Police.

3.4.11 Training and guidance has been delivered to Housing staff on how asylum seekers and refugees may be exploited and potentially radicalised. Staff are aware of the referral mechanisms for those who are vulnerable and have also been given WRAP training. Advice on how to protect yourself from extremism has been provided to the refugee and asylum community in various languages.

3.4.12 Training about the links between the links between domestic abuse and extremism has also been delivered and links with the Domestic Abuse team have been made,

so that further training can be developed in the coming year.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 There are no direct costs attributable to Bradford Council in relation to the engagement of the Prevent Coordination function.
- 4.2 A central government grant of £312 132 was made to Bradford Council in 2020/21 to fund Prevent work in the District. Of this £194 052 is supporting relevant posts and their on-costs, including a Local Authority Prevent Co-ordinator, Prevent Engagement Officer, Prevent Education Officer and Administrative support for the delivery of Prevent work. **(Appendix 2)** The remainder of the funding supports delivery of projects which contribute to delivering key Prevent objectives in the District. Bradford has secured funding to deliver 6 projects in 2021/22 at a total cost of £115 330.
- 4.3 Partners across health, education, probation and the Police have dedicated resources to ensuring that safeguarding processes are in place and where appropriate, that education services seek to steer people away from extremism and towards a more cohesive society

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 Governance - Local delivery of the strategy is overseen through the Bradford CONTEST governance mechanism, see **(Appendix 3)**. The structure involves partnership at all levels with a range of agencies needed to ensure that we successfully deliver CONTEST in Bradford and the Prevent Strategy within this. Partners should be commended for the commitment and resources they have dedicated to making this structure an effective one.
- 5.2 Two strands of the CONTEST Strategy, Protect and Prepare, deal with emergency planning, civil contingencies and business continuity. Separate plans are in place for the delivery of this work.
- 5.3 Links with CONTEST governance and the Council's Safer Communities Partnership have been strengthened with an annual report being delivered and a new performance framework agreed

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 puts the Prevent programme on a statutory footing and makes delivering the Channel scheme a legal requirement. Specifically, the Act:
 - Creates a new duty on certain bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The duty will apply to bodies including local authorities, the police, prisons, providers of probation services, schools, colleges, and universities.
 - Allows the Secretary of State to issue guidance to those bodies on how the duty should be fulfilled.

- Gives the Secretary of State power to direct a body to take certain action, which would be used to enforce compliance where the Secretary of State is satisfied that the body has failed to discharge the duty.

6.2 The Channel scheme being statutory has:

- required local authorities to ensure a multi-agency panel exists and chair the panel;
- required the panel to develop a support plan for accepted cases and signpost to other support where cases are not accepted;
- ensured consent is sought prior to support being provided;
- placed a duty to cooperate on panel partners;
- required partners to pay due regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- and allowed the Secretary of State to indemnify intervention providers that provide ideological/ theological support for the Channel programme.

6.3 The Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 enables local authorities, in addition to the police, to refer an individual at risk of being drawn into terrorism for discussion at a Channel panel. At the moment, this power is only available to the police. To achieve this change, the Act amends sections 36 and 38 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications apparent within the context of the report.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no Greenhouse Gas implications apparent within the context of the report.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.3.1 The Prevent Strategy for Bradford District is central to reducing the threat of terrorism and extremism through a partnership structure engaging a wide range of agencies including West Yorkshire Police

7.3.2 Prevent sits within the context of the District's Community Safety Plan and reports annually to the District's Safer Communities Partnership. Tackling the threat to community safety and harmony is central to Prevent delivery in the district.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.4.1 Terrorism has an impact on human rights, in particular the rights to life, freedom, respect and expression. Terrorist acts can destabilise Governments, undermine civil society, jeopardise peace and security, threaten social and economic development, and can affect the strength and resilience of our communities.

- 7.4.2 The Prevent Strategy provides a means for developing our partnership arrangements and ensuring we build resilience in the community and put in place effective counter terrorism measures.

7.5 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications apparent in the context of the report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The nature of patterns of extremism in the District mean that over time risk will vary across the district and the different ideologies that are a risk will also vary. This will impact on the levels of engagement required to mitigate any emergence of extremism and can change. Prevent work, however, does take place widely across the district. We hold quarterly roundtables, meetings with Ward Officers and a wide variety of Prevent project sessions, particularly in schools.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

Activities outlined in the report contribute to priorities within the area ward plans and will be reported to area committees on an annual basis.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- . There are no implications apparent within the context of this report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

There are no implications apparent within the context of this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the delivery of Prevent Work across Bradford district and make any recommendations for further consideration

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee acknowledge the progress on work undertaken in implementing the Prevent agenda in Bradford and its approach to supporting vulnerable people.

11. APPENDICES

11.2 Appendix one – Prevent Projects delivered in 2021-22

11.3 Appendix two- Roles and responsibilities of the Bradford Prevent team

11.4 Appendix three - Bradford CONTEST Terms of Reference

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee minutes 18th March 2021

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Bradford Prevent Projects 2020/21

Organisation	Project Name	Description	Key Deliverables	Outcomes
Empowering Minds	Empowering Mothers Against Radicalisation	The project will empower mothers to stand against Radicalisation and Grooming. Support mothers to understand the digital world its impact and dangers on inquisitive minds. Safeguard children and young people on line from Radicalisation and Grooming. Equip mothers with the knowledge of signs and symptoms of Radicalisation and on line grooming, address and implant how to challenge and address this.	16 sessions with 145 participants	The project will equip mothers with the knowledge of the signs and symptoms of Radicalisation and online grooming, address and implant how to challenge and address this.
Bradford Hate Crime Alliance	Community Support Project	The Project has been developed to support young people to steer away from extremist ideas, both on-line and through street culture. It is a community-led project to help parents and young people to stay safe from extremist influence. The project will empower young people to explore alternative methods of raising grievances, objections and protest within the rule of law and not rely on those individuals or groups peddling a dangerous and violent agenda. • The Purpose of the project is to help young people to gain the confidence and ability they need to develop within legal means the right of free expression, advocacy and representation skills needed to participate in the democratic and political arenas of our society. - Support channel processes providing additional intervention support to channel cases and individuals who don't meet the channel threshold.	15 individual sessions for parents, professionals and schools reaching 480 participants. 20 individual 1:1 mentoring sessions according to need.	The project will encourage critical thinking and support individuals with conflicted thoughts to consider their views in light of the counter narratives. The one to one mentoring will allow the building of trust and confidence of vulnerable individuals.
QRTS	Supplementary Schools Against Radicalisation	An anti-radicalisation and extremism training programme with madrasa teachers and students that builds on the link between Madrassah and Secondary school. The work ensures a consistent approach to the counter narrative and increases understanding of radicalisation by increasing the knowledge and awareness of the	50 x sessions for madrasa students, 10 workshops for staff, 10 sessions for parents, 5 assemblies	This project encourages critical thinking when religious texts and traditions are used and to check authentic sources and interpretations and will use theological examples to dispel extremist narratives

		causes and signs of radicalisation and the appropriate support and actions to take.		
Oddarts	Blame and Belonging	Blame and Belonging is an interactive forum theatre performance and workshop using professional actors and specialist facilitators to explore key issues around radicalisation. This performance focuses on the adult influencer, female radicalisation and Islamophobia. It explores people inspired by the extreme 'far right' and also Daesh.	10 days, 3x sessions a day, reaching 1000	This project encourages an understanding of the processes and meaning of radicalisation. It also encourages an understanding of the vulnerabilities, triggers and warning signs associated with radicalisation. The workshops and discussion lead to improved critical thinking and communication skills and support how to hold challenging conversations about hate and extremism. They create a safe space to explore hate and radicalisation, which reduces hate and the risk of radicalisation and also increase community cohesion.
Bradford Peace Museum	From Fake News to Extremism in a Digital Age	This session explores how to tell if information online is suspect or distorts the truth, and what to do if you see online material that promotes extremism. The session equips you with an understanding of the difference between traditional online safety learning, namely around online bullying and personal safety, and how the internet is used to spread extremist messaging. The workshops use methods that make these issues meaningful for young people and provides a safe space to explore them.	36 sessions approximately 1680 participants	Real life examples are used from apps, games and websites that are in common use by young people to explore how narratives are spread through imaging, messaging and manipulation. It allows participants to recognise extremist activity, how to be resilient to false and manipulative activity, and how to take action safely exposed to it.
Votes For Schools	Building resilience to radicalisation by developing democracy	The selected schools will have a Votes for Schools license so they can to deliver a weekly debate on a topical or controversial issue; and the young people will have a chance to gain knowledge, debate and vote on the issue. Topics will cover (in an age appropriate way) extremism, radicalisation, conspiracy theories, online harms, crime, hate crime etc. in accordance with the agreed costs & delivery milestones in the contract, on receipt of evidence they have been met.	40 sessions with 4800 participants.	This knowledge will help mitigate being drawn into extremism. It will create a space to regularly talk about issues and give teachers the knowledge and confidence to conduct these sessions. Vulnerable young people will gain knowledge; and also build critical thinking skills, confidence in having a voice, tolerance and respect: thus mitigating being radicalised and being drawn into terrorism.

Social Value

Project	Social value
Bradford Hate Crime Alliance	<p>BHCA works with those who are vulnerable for many reasons. They may have poor mental health, learning disabilities, be on the fringes of criminal activity or have dysfunctional lives due to family situations. The time that BHCA spends mentoring those in need and the speed and holistic nature of the referrals, means that those referred feel heard and are much more open about their issues than previously. The help and support provided can lead to improvements in mental health, education and employment opportunities. Participants are less likely to rely on drugs/ alcohol/ criminal activity to fill a void, they make better choices online, they show more acceptance of those who are different, leading to more community cohesion. The support that BHCA provide is to people who usually ‘slip through the net.’ People are often more likely to engage with them because they are an alternative agency to the Police and they spend time building trust.</p> <p><i>‘I remember from when he were first referred, you know, that he were researching all kinds of stuff on computer...and over months they’ve got that rapport going and now I’m thinking of closing, it’s closed from Channel now, this young lad but Bradford Hate Crime Alliance are still working with him and he’s doing better with his education now, managed to get his mental health sorted out and his family’s really happy with his progress and that’s all down to CSP workers and the team and like I said they feed everything back to me as the case manager so, you know, they’re a valuable resource and they’ve turned this young lad’s – they’ve – I wouldn’t say turned him round completely ‘cos, but he’s a lot better than what he was and that’s all due to them doing that interaction with him over a long period of time’ (CTU Officer)</i></p>
Empowering Mothers Against Radicalisation	<p>EMAR brings groups of mothers from across the district, from all different backgrounds and cultures. The women are educated about some of the key issues around radicalisation and extremism and wider issues in society, such as internet safety. They are encouraged to get involved in discussions</p>

	<p>and ask questions of each other and share experiences. There are opportunities throughout the course for the women to speak publically and share their views with key district stakeholders. The social value of this is huge as it enhances the role of women in society and their potential as leaders. Several of those involved have taken this experience and got involved in community projects afterwards.</p> <p><i>'I come from a community that tends to glorify men as leaders and women are kind of like oh you're just doing your role as a mother and you know, what – basically they're not really given the chance and opportunity to really to shine and thrive. So I personally thought this was quite a unique project that flipped the script a little bit' (Stakeholder)</i></p> <p>The discussions that the mothers have, lead to an increase in community involvement as their opinions were being sought by the LA and the Police about issues. This helped increase community pride and interest in those involved.</p> <p><i>'I'll go back to the Holme Wood estate, when I walked in they were, they were hostile towards the Police. Really, really awful. They'd already had these pre-conceived ideas in their head about where, about what I was going to do. And, again, over time, over questioning and over their sort of, I would say, their mis-information, we have reached a really, really good sort of working relationship all of us together. And there's a lot of trust and confidence now because we can, we can have these conversations' (Stakeholder)</i></p> <p>The projects brings together mums from all backgrounds and this has a positive impact on community cohesion. The mums share their own stories and experiences and this helped to build trust, dispel myths and cement new friendships.</p> <p><i>...one of the other mothers from one of the other groups is an Asian lady and erm, when we got meeting, when we put, we've got put together she talks just like me. She's so open, so honest but the only difference –apart</i></p>
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	<p><i>from skin colour we're like twin sisters. A mirror image. When they both turned up to do an interview they had more or less similar clothes on. And the conversations I've had with her around religion and stuff and I'm like, Wow. But you're forbidden to talk. You're forbidden to ask normally' (EMAR attendee and Ambassador)</i></p> <p>The mums also improved their IT knowledge and this was invaluable for them in terms of understanding what their children were looking at online and in helping to keep them safe in the future.</p> <p><i>'We had an IT session and they were talking about snap-chat and Instagram and I don't have that – I am out of date. It was so important to do this workshop so I know what our children are using – what are the privacy settings I should be putting on. We know what to look out for' (EMAR attendee) '...we had someone come in and did like computers and I really liked that because it was something I could do to protect my child. That's what really empowering 'cos it's something I can do. I figure we can take control over that situation' (EMAR attendee)</i></p>
QRTS Merit	<p>Being able to speak to young people and parents, as well as staff has been very socially beneficial as it means the education given is across all groups is consistent.</p> <p><i>'I was curious and wanted to ensure content was safe and neutral. I was then pleased it was able to explain issues to my child in a way I could not (due to my own lack of knowledge)' [Parent]</i></p> <p>The project includes work that promotes community cohesion and respecting all faiths in the community.</p> <p><i>...if someone is a different race or religion that doesn't mean you can be disrespectful or mean to them.' [Beneficiary]</i></p>

	<p>The workshops develop the skills needed to challenge inappropriate views of all kinds and help those undertaking them to be able to address these in an informed and evidence based way.</p> <p><i>‘Merely by raising their awareness and confidence it has pleased me that my kids are able to challenge inappropriate views and back it up with knowledge’ [Parent]</i></p> <p>The content and sessions helps to demystify the Prevent strategy and so helps to improve trust. It also gives excellent guidance to build skills that will help build tolerance and community cohesion in the future, via stopping people believing fake news and conspiracy theories. This could have social value in so many areas as fake news permeates so many areas of our lives.</p> <p><i>‘The delivery of the content is authentic and tailored to the communities it is delivered in, it helps to de-mystify the toxic perception of Prevent. The project is locally grown and run, keyed into local community needs and directly relevant to faith which directly opposes recruitment on the same basis. The project supports a variety of other work on building critical thinking, developing trusted networks of support and building resilience.’ [Council PREVENT team]</i></p>
Bradford Peace Museum	<p>The social skills learned in these sessions are enormously important in our digital age, particularly as more and more people are spending extended time online due to Covid. These sessions equip attendees with the skills to recognise propaganda and manipulation online and know how to deal with it. They reduce peoples’ belief in fake news and conspiracies, so the distrust between communities and different groups which is increased by the ‘us and them narrative’ online, will reduce. Declining belief in conspiracy theories may also increase trust in authority. This could all have a positive impact on hate crime, community safety and community cohesion.</p>
Oddarts	<p>The Oddarts project performs a drama for the audience and this has enormous social value. Seeing a story acted out and then being able to</p>

	<p>discuss the story and the impact on those involved, increases empathy for those different communities. This can only be a good thing in terms of improving people's attitude to each other and to different communities. The discussion afterwards encourages critical thinking and enables young people to have the opportunity to discuss difficult topics in a safe and non-judgemental way. Doing this increases the likelihood that the audience will try and see the whole picture and be more likely to see the side of all those involved. This, in turn, has the potential to improve community cohesion and community safety.</p>
Votes For School	<p>The knowledge gained from discussion around topical issues will have enormous social value. Adults and children will have a regular space to talk about issues. Vulnerable young people will gain knowledge; and also build critical thinking skills, confidence in having a voice, tolerance and respect: thus mitigating being radicalised and being drawn into terrorism. This has enormous social value in extending the democratic process into the community and encouraging discussion and debate in a healthy and safe environment.</p>

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Appendix B

Roles and responsibilities in Prevent in Bradford

Role	Responsibilities
Prevent Coordinator	<p>The Coordinator oversees the Prevent strategy and the Prevent programme in the Bradford district. They are instrumental in creating and maintaining partnerships across the district and engaging with sectors and communities to better understand their concerns and the risks related to extremism and radicalisation.</p> <p>The Coordinator provides support and guidance, as well delivering training and programmes across the district. They work with Elected Members, Council Officers at all levels of the organisation, senior representatives of other agencies, private sector and community organisations, to raise awareness of the various Prevent related risks in our society and how we can build counter narratives to these. Training is offered in how to have difficult conversations, the dangers of fake news and conspiracy theories and also on how to build critical thinking. Training is also offered on the different emerging extremism/ terrorism risks in our society.</p> <p>Strong partnerships mean that the Coordinator has a strong awareness of the Prevent related risks in our society. They use this knowledge to bid for funding from the Home Office. They ensure that this funding is spent on resources, projects and events that target the main Prevent related risks in our society and build resilience towards extremist narratives. They also ensure that the Prevent team is supporting and facilitating this work and adding to it with their own expertise and knowledge.</p> <p>The Coordinator has developed a Prevent Champions network which is growing steadily and shares good practise and resources across the district.</p>

	<p>The Coordinator is an active member of the Channel Panel and provides advice and support to partners across the district with regard to Prevent safeguarding matters.</p>
<p><u>Prevent Education Officer</u></p>	<p>The Prevent Education Officer (PEO) is responsible for supporting schools and all education establishments and those that work with young people, in fulfilling their Prevent Duty.</p> <p>They deliver Prevent training to schools, Children's Homes and Youth Worker staff across the district. They also deliver various training packages to staff and pupils regarding how to have difficult conversations with young people, the importance of critical thinking, the dangers of fake news and conspiracy theories, as well as workshops for students transitioning to secondary school.</p> <p>PEOs are instrumental in sourcing, designing and distributing resources for PSHE to build resilience to hate crime, extremist narratives and radicalisation. They provide advice and support to school staff to ensure that young people are provided with the opportunities and resources to explore ideas and understand the risks in our society and how they can protect themselves online and in everyday life. They also provide advice on the Prevent Duty in schools and how schools can best meet this in their policies, procedures and curriculum</p> <p>The PEO provides advice and training to schools and educational establishments regarding safeguarding the young people in their care and have an excellent collaborative relationship with schools, many of whom are part of our Prevent Champions network. This relationship means that they have an excellent understanding of the Prevent related issues in our schools and are able to advise on projects and support from Home Office funding that will meet these issues.</p>
<p><u>Prevent Engagement Officer</u></p>	<p>The Prevent Engagement Officer is instrumental in working with partners across the district to understand</p>

	<p>and gauge community sentiment. They work with local communities, voluntary and faith organisations to strengthen their understanding of Hate Crime and Prevent and safeguarding work and build trust and confidence in local structures designed to challenge hate and extremism.</p> <p>The Engagement Officer organises local roundtable events to engage with communities across the district. These events help the Prevent team to understand local sentiment and work with communities to raise awareness of risk and share the work that is going on across the district to combat this.</p> <p>The Engagement Officer also works with mosques and madrassas across the district, helping in the delivery of Prevent training and raising awareness of the hate crime and Prevent related risks in our society.</p> <p>Our strong community links mean that Home Office funded projects are delivered across the district. The Engagement Officer is instrumental in ensuring that these projects target the appropriate risks and are being delivered well and meeting their objectives.</p> <p>The Engagement Officer engages local councillors, making them aware of activity within their ward and they identifying appropriate community training programmes which will help build resilience and increase the capacity for communities to engage with others of a different background.</p>
Business Support Officer (part time)	<p>The Business Support Officer supports the Prevent team with their data and administration tasks to ensure that the District Prevent Plan is delivered smoothly. They provide support with data collection, budgets, administration and statistics to ensure that training, projects and workshops are delivered effectively and in a timely and professional manner.</p>

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Bradford District CONTEST Board

Terms of Reference

Overview

The Bradford District CONTEST Board brings together strategic and operational partners from across the District to deliver the National CONTEST Strategy. The Board will:

- deliver a clear strategic direction, as well as set and implement a tactical response to the threat posed by terrorism;
- consider and set actions against the District Counter Terrorism Local Profile
- identify trends and obstacles that may affect the delivery of the CONTEST strategy
- be accountable for the effective delivery of Channel
- Develop an effective communications and media strategy, both internally and externally
- ensure effective relationships are developed and maintained within the partnership and across the District to fulfil the statutory requirements placed on agencies under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the 'Prevent Duty')

Governance & Accountability

The Bradford District CONTEST Board is directly accountable to the District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and will report to the CSP on an annual basis, or more frequently as requested.

The Bradford District CONTEST Board will be chaired by the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and supported by the Superintendent Operations, West Yorkshire Police.

The Bradford District CONTEST Board will be accountable for the following;

- Setting a clear **strategic direction** for counter terrorism work across the district in line with the partnership arrangements identified in the governance framework.
- Developing and delivering a CONTEST action plan, with key milestones and underpinning performance measures, ensuring the District approach, particularly in relation to Channel, remains effective.
- Advising on cross district **strategy and policy development** relating to counter terrorism, including 'horizon scanning' to identify trends and obstacles that may affect the delivery of the CONTEST strategy.
- Ensuring **effective relationships** are developed and maintained with the Community Safety Partnership and wider cross district delivery partners to help support delivery of the CONTEST Strategy.
- **Commissioning services and projects** to assist with the delivery against the CONTEST action plan, ensuring value for money, scrutiny over the use of public money and that commissioned projects are aligned to the prevalent threat picture.

- Maintaining an overview of the **legal and regulatory** requirements that may have an impact on counter terrorism, as well as supporting delivery, where possible.
- Coordinating the delivery of Prevent education priorities in the district ensuring all sectors and strands of schooling are included.
- identifying, establishing and maintaining proactive community based relationships with key local partners; to increase the transparency of Prevent, and to increase confidence and trust in the understanding and delivery of counter-radicalisation activity in local areas

Membership & Declarations of Interests

Membership of the Bradford District CONTEST Board is drawn from senior officials across public sector agencies all of whom contribute to Counter Terrorism work.

There may be occasions where members are potentially compromised for example but not exclusively where a matter is discussed which may result in a direct personal financial benefit to a member or a close friend partner or relative, or to an organisation to which a member is linked through employment or trusteeship or to a community in which a member is resident. Members must declare interests in writing and may be asked to absent themselves from discussions relating to such matters.

Meetings

- The Bradford District CONTEST Board will meet every three months or earlier if necessary.
- The Bradford District CONTEST Board may collectively identify other issues where action is required to support the delivery of counter terrorism work, which fall outside their area of responsibility. In such cases, representatives may be asked to take these particular issues forward and report back to the CONTEST Board.
- The Bradford District Contest Board also has a responsibility to ensure that diversity issues are considered and integrated into both strategy and delivery of work to counter terrorism.

Bradford District CONTEST Board Group Membership

The following members are suggested as the key 'core' members, with a sufficient level of authority to take decisions and be accountable for delivery, on behalf of their organisations or departments in relation to Counter Terrorism work.

Org/Dept.
West Yorkshire Police
Local Authority (Children and Young People, Adult Services, Environment and Sport)
Counter Terrorism Policing North East
University of Bradford

District FE Colleges
Probation Service/CRC
Clinical Commissioning Group
Bradford District Care Trust
District Teaching Hospitals
WY Fire Service
School representative

Current Chairs	Dept
Ian Day (Chair Silver Group)	Local Authority
Daniel Greenwood (Deputy Chair Silver Group)	West Yorkshire Police

Secretariat	
Michelle Burnley	West Yorkshire Police

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Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 10th March 2022

AG

Subject: Progress report Volunteering initiatives across the District.

Summary statement: This report gives an update on the work of volunteering initiatives supported by the Council and external partners.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Our work on supporting volunteering is designed to be inclusive and benefit all local service delivery across the district. Whilst this is right and consistent with the principle of equalities at the heart of everything we do; it is also the case that our investment needs to demonstrate how it is enabling us to make sustainable progress in equality, diversity and inclusion and culture.

All grant funded, contracted partners and projects recognise the single statutory duty to promote equality under the Equality Act 2010. All our partners ensure and demonstrate that services delivered have due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Jason Longhurst
Director of Department of Place

Portfolio:
Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

Report Contact: Ian Day
Phone: (01274) 437399
E-mail: ian.day@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** Bradford District has a strong and vibrant civil society sector with an estimated 5,000 plus voluntary and community groups, 30,000 regular volunteers and 100,000 occasional volunteers committed to making Bradford District a better place to live. Our projects are connecting more and more people to volunteering opportunities in which they can make a difference. We also support community organisations offering volunteering opportunities to provide valuable local services in challenging financial times.
- 1.2** Volunteering also provides a platform for communities to engage in neighbourhood activities through events and enabling them to self-identify the key issues that they want our support with. This collective working of people in common causes brings down barriers to integration and cohesion in neighbourhoods, helps to strengthen our communications generally and improve environments where they live.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** There are a range of projects and initiatives that support volunteering in the Bradford district. Some of these supported by the Stronger Communities Team include Covid Community Champions, Citizen Coin, Community Ambassadors, Big Lunches which will be part of the Jubilee celebration events this year, volunteer recruitment, training and a volunteer 'Kite Mark' for organisations that take on volunteers.
- 2.2** During the Covid pandemic there has been wide cross sector working between the public, voluntary and private sectors. The People Can brand continues to support council wide initiatives with local clean ups and the Spring Clean. It has also been used prominently with the Covid Hub response from the Council.
- 2.3** Our partnership with the VCSE sector has had national recognition with the 'Volunteering The Volunteers' guide and the Volunteer Coordinator's guide written by Volunteering Bradford to support management/training/induction of volunteers during the lockdown picked up by the National Council for Volunteering Organisations (NCVO) and used as an exemplar.
- 2.4** During lockdown we developed a new service called 'Link Up Letters' which provided an alternative 'befriending service' to residents of Care homes. This has proved very successful and popular and is on-going, with more volunteers coming on board on a regular basis. The feedback we've had from both care homes and residents has been tremendous. We have 120 volunteer letter writers supporting the Link Up Letters project. Volunteer recruitment was capped at 1800 to support response to pandemic during lockdown via the hubs. Since the first lockdown ended and the hubs were closed 685 COVID volunteers (plus approx. 200 in Keighley) have agreed to remain on our database to support on going and need. We are currently actively recruiting /placing drivers and befrienders. The 'People Can – Kitemark' or Volunteering Quality Standards as we now call it has been attained by 24 local organisations. Please refer to Appendix A for information on Volunteering Bradford's work during the last 12 months.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1** The first phase of the *Community Champions programme* ended in September 2021 where over 5,500 residents were reached and 247 champions were recruited within ethnic communities and those with disabilities to increase vaccination take up. Additional funding was received from Public Health to extend the work of the Community Champions to support with mental health awareness. Working with Equality Together, Race Equality Network, Skills House, Linking Network and the Bridge Project we rolled out the second phase of the project from 1 October, which will run up to May 2022. Within this phase; we are concentrating on ethnic groups, those with learning and disabilities, those who can't speak English or very little and those over 65 in day care centres and care homes; covering a range of physical and mental health activities, intergenerational volunteering, befriending and ESOL.
- 3.1** Work is now underway to refresh Bradford Council's Volunteering Policy and develop effective monitoring, communications and guidance for employees. The refreshed policy aims to see more staff volunteering 2 days per year in our local communities, to enable staff to contribute to the ongoing efforts of residents and organisations in their neighbourhoods. Their contribution can be monitored through the internal online management system - ESS. Potential local projects can be brokered through the Citizen Coin app. <https://bradford.citizencoin.uk/>
- 3.2** Citizen Coin Current Position:
- The technology was developed in 2020; with extensive concept and user testing with all stakeholders. The scheme went live in December 2020, Volunteer's Day. In the midst of a pandemic, the project has been over target by 300-450% in all areas. Due to Covid challenges, the project only really started to come to life after April 2021. Please refer to Appendix B for further information about the Citizen Coin project.
- 3.3** Some achievements to note:
- 817 registered users
 - 112 retailers offering discounts off goods and services
 - 60 rewarding organisations using the scheme to advertise activities
 - 3117 coins earned
 - Some exciting sign ups to highlight include: Bradford Bulls; Bradford City; Bradford College; St Cuthbert's School; Dr Sohail Ahmed, GP
 - Several promotional T&A press articles
 - Summer Campaign – 1 June to 4 July 2021 - "Lockdown to Lift off" as part of Thank You Day
 - Social Media Reach: LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook
- 3.4** Project Outcomes:
- increase civic participation
 - Increase opportunities for social interaction to take place between people who are different from each other
 - increase spend with local services and retailers
 - change perceptions around doing social good
 - increase involvement and engagement in local activities with those people who would not normally participate
 - increase participation by people from low income households in civic and social activities

- 3.5** Covid Community Champions: Our community response was built on a rapid response from organisations and partners and was designed to reach people most acutely affected by the pandemic. The first phase of the Covid Community Champions programme ended in September 2021 where over 5,500 residents were reached and 247 champions were recruited within minority communities and those with disabilities to increase vaccination take up. Additional funding was received from Public Health to extend the work of the Community Champions to support with mental health awareness. Working with Equality Together, Race Equality Network, Skills House, Linking Network and the Bridge Project we rolled out the second phase of the project from 1 October to May 2022. Within this phase, we are concentrating on minority groups, those with learning and disabilities, those who can't speak English or very little and those over 65 in day care centres and care homes; covering a range of physical and mental health activities, intergenerational volunteering, befriending and ESOL.
- 3.6** Over 1500 people volunteered through People Can (The Council's volunteering campaign) - 35 volunteers were deployed for community reassurance walks, 10,000 leaflets handed out to residents in parks and public areas, 80,000 COVID-19 Advice and Support booklets have been disseminated. There was also coordinated community response over Ramadan and Eid to support Scholemoor Cemetery. We also developed innovative ways of partnership working with a 'Befriending Platform', designed and built to support residents with social isolation and mental health. The 'Befriending Network' was also established where volunteers provided support in a range of languages.
- 3.7** We've retained our existing volunteer workforce and grown it to 299 with additional Champions over 65 years. 80% of our Champions have been trained on mental health and they have already engaged with over 3,500 residents. Further funding has been announced from DLUHC in December 2021. Further work is being developed to roll out a much more targeted and concentrated phase of the Community Champions with the employment of 20+ casual Champions. Deadline for applications is the 28 February and it is envisioned delivery will commence at the end of March 2022 to July 2022.
- 3.8** We deployed a Youth Ambassador's initiative led by the Youth Service to engage with young people. Messages were tailored for three main groupings; the fearless, the fearful and unaware. In addition to a comprehensive induction training programme, the Ambassadors have received social media; culture change training and behavioural science workshops too. Please refer to Appendix C for further information on Covid Community Champions.
- 3.9** The award of the new VCSE Service Improvement Programme contract beginning 1st April 2022 which replaces the current Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support Grant will deliver a refreshed volunteering opportunity for residents and organisation in the district. Please refer to Appendix D which outlines the model of delivery for this service.
- 3.10** The Stronger Communities Team are also starting a process to recruit staff and a post of Volunteer Coordinator will be advertised to undertake the following key duties:

- To be the champion of social volunteering by promoting Citizen Coin, Ambassador Programme, People Library and People Can and any other volunteering initiatives committed by Bradford Council; both internally and externally, to increase the number of volunteers, scope and range of initiatives across the district.
- To develop a Bradford Council volunteering policy; connecting staff with volunteering opportunities and reporting to the Equalities Plan.
- To report and provide regular briefings on outcomes, social value, progress, impacts, benefits and best practice in volunteering in line with programme protocols at various committees, boards and partnerships as appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1** There are no additional financial or resource matters. Funding for the above schemes and projects is provided through existing Council budgets and externally funded sources such as The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1** There are significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1** There are no legal issues arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- The contribution of volunteers in all aspects of the delivery of services across the district support the principle of sustainability. For example, community clean ups of green spaces, recycling of waste, better use of resources and provision of activities for all demographics which include better health outcomes and maintenance and use of community assets.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- There are no impacts on greenhouse emissions arising from this report

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- There are no Community Safety implications arising from this report. DBS checks and safety equipment are available when required for specific projects.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- There are no Human Rights issues arising from this report

7.5 TRADE UNION

- There are no Trade Union issues arising from this report

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- The volunteering support and initiatives, such as the Spring Clean Up and Citizen Coin, are available in all wards and are coordinated with the area offices.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Volunteering initiatives benefit services provided to children through organised local activities, examples are scout clubs, youth clubs, play schemes etc.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

- The confidentiality of personal data is paramount in all of the work we do relating to our workforce and resident volunteers. We do not anticipate that any additional actions arise from the work outlined in this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None

9. Options

9.1 That the initiatives and projects promoting volunteering both internally and external to the council are supported by officers.

9.2 The Council officers and departments cease to support all volunteering initiatives and projects.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee acknowledge the initiatives and volunteering that support services to local communities.

9.2 That a further report is brought back to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide an update on the impact of the VCSE Service Improvement Programme and the Volunteer Coordinator to support volunteering across the district in 12 months.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 **Appendix A** Volunteering Bradford information and statistics for the last 12 months

10.2 **Appendix B** Citizen Coin

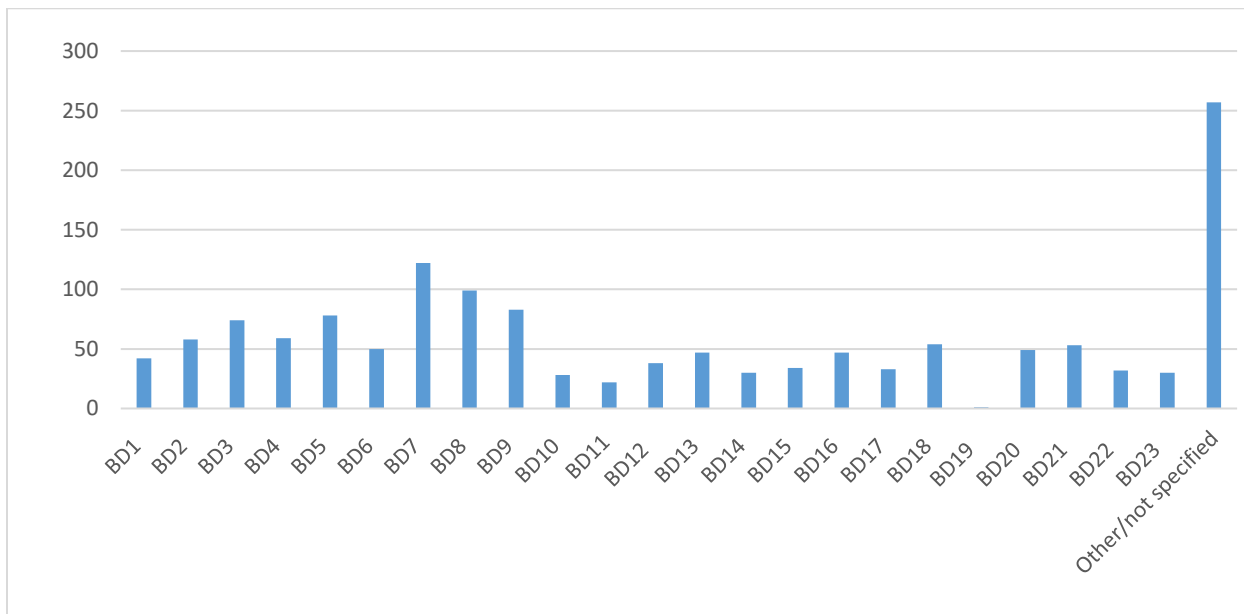
10.3 **Appendix C** Community Champions

10.4 **Appendix D** New VCSE Service Improvement Programme Volunteering support

Appendix A

Volunteering Bradford - volunteer data for 4 quarters covering 2021 with two case studies.

Total number of new volunteers interviewed	290
Total number of interactions	1323
Total number of volunteers recruited to support COVID19 vaccination hubs 228	390
Total number of volunteers referred to volunteer-involving organisations	1648
Number of new volunteering opportunities	301
Number of new volunteer involving orgs registered	114
Number of volunteers assisted online	1952



Quarter 1 report April to June 2021

Activity to meet outcome	Monitoring return
Recruit and support volunteers to find placements and promote volunteering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 new volunteering opportunities • 292 volunteers assisted online • 28 new organisations registered • 40 interviewed* <p>*since mid-April we have been offering face-to-face Covid secure appointments.</p>
Proactively work with under-represented groups in association with equalities delivery partners and the Equalities/inclusivity Delivery Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All groups are well represented except men and Lesbian and gay communities (LGBT). • We have relaunched our 'help into volunteering sessions' for asylum seekers and refugees. We deliver this in partnership with City of Sanctuary. 2 sessions delivered this quarter. • Established a referral pathway with 'Palm Cove Society' who support victims of modern day slavery. • Working with MENCAP to source meaningful internships for their service users.
Provide host organisations of volunteers with up to date good practice including safeguarding issues (particularly to enable volunteering placements to be developed with vulnerable people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Managers' Forum – Instigated monthly meetings / alongside a monthly email update for volunteer managers. Themed meetings re opening up safely; diversifying your trustee board and Citizen Coin. • 27 organisations attended x2 meetings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to update and share a 'trello' board to enable V-I organisations to share good practice 2400 unique visitors to the new VolunteerBradfordDistrict website in past 90 days
Promote how volunteering can be used to increase employability and provide skills that could be further enhanced through further training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-established referral pathway from DWP for job seekers looking for volunteering opportunities as a 'step into' employment, Facilitating a young peoples' group (in partnership with the CCG) who are interested in volunteering in health care settings
Raise awareness and recognition of volunteering within community development and as an expression of civic participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruited and ID checked 228 volunteers to support the vaccination hubs at COVID19 Vaccination Hubs in Bradford city centre Continued to develop our 'Link Up Letters' Project – providing support to Care home residents. 212 active volunteers have written over 1100 letters and cards. Continue to work in partnership with Citizen Coin to promote the reward system
Supported the development and population of a database for COVID-19 volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained communication with existing COVID volunteers / facilitating brokerage and continue to recruit for roles to support VCS response to the pandemic. Established an effective recruitment process/pathway for volunteers seeking to volunteer as COVID19 Vaccination Hub Marshalls. Supporting NHS to recruit over 200 volunteers.

Case Study: 1 Bevan Healthcare CIC

Background

Bevan Healthcare is a Social Enterprise. They provide responsive NHS General Practice services designed to meet the needs of people who are homeless or in unstable accommodation; those who have come to Bradford and Leeds as refugees or to seek asylum. In 2013, they developed Outreach Services, a tripartite approach to engaging homeless people in primary care.

Development support requested

Volunteering Bradford was approached by Bevan's Health & Well Being Lead to support them to develop their volunteering offer. Specific issues included:

- recruiting volunteers for specific roles / with specific skills
- development of volunteer roles
- recruitment & selection of volunteers
- volunteer expenses policy and procedures

Intervention from Volunteering Bradford, advice and guidance was provided in terms of development of volunteer roles:

- *Develop a 'short notice ad-hoc role' to support the delivery of Christmas presents during December.
- * support the development of a robust volunteer expenses policy and procedure
- * support the development of specific volunteer role descriptions
- * identify variety of options for recruitment of volunteers, registered on the volunteerbradforddistrict website

Outcomes to date:

- 20 new volunteer drivers recruited and ID checked & delivered over 1600 gifts to some of the districts most deprived families
- Development of clearly defined volunteer roles and an appropriate recruitment process

Case Study 2 Rimmington Pharmacy

Rimmington Pharmacy is a city centre venue that hosted and ran a temporary vaccination centre for 3 consecutive weekends during February 2021.

Development support requested

Volunteering Bradford was approached to develop a protocol for effective volunteer involvement; to support the delivery of this service; expectation that volunteer recruitment and induction should be completed within 3 days. The immediate need was to recruit 64 individuals to cover the three weekends. Ensuring; identity checked/confirmed; payment of volunteer expenses was facilitated and appropriate induction provided in terms of safeguarding / confidentiality / Covid safety.

Intervention from Volunteering Bradford

- Development of a volunteer protocol
- Develop and agree appropriate role descriptions (Marshalling, Vaccine Support)
- Volunteer recruitment /application process
- Recruitment/induction and of volunteers
- Development of volunteer expenses policy and procedure

*Develop a rapid recruitment online system targeting existing cohort of COVID19 volunteers with a view to registering minimum of 64 within 3 days

•Provide and ensure compliance with an online safeguarding and GDPR inductions – any concerns or disclosures to be made in line with the VB's policies and shared with the pharmacy as appropriate.

Outcomes

- Target of 64 volunteers recruited and registered within 4 hours.
- Target of 64 volunteers identity checked and inducted within 3 days

'We're overwhelmed with the response; I can't thank you enough for your help!
NHSParmacy (Rimmingtons)

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Appendix B

Citizen Coin

Citizen Coin Bradford project sits within the Stronger Communities Partnership's Strategy and Delivery plan under Pillar Three: Getting Involved which focuses on increasing *civic participation. Activities under this outcome are to ensure that 'more people from all backgrounds will connect with others, participate in civic life and get involved in their own communities. The project intends to bring local residents of different backgrounds together to engage in local activities. This is captured via the Citizen Coin scheme which enables people to earn digital discount coins when undertaking social value activities, such as volunteering, that they can then use to get discounts off goods and services. Those earning the digital discount coin can also opt to donate their coins to other people and organisations.

Bradford is proud to be a social coin city where we embrace pioneering technology to involve all our citizens in the opportunities our district offers. Through an app based technology, our Citizen Coin scheme rewards people for doing social good, connects our voluntary organisations with their neighbourhoods and our communities with businesses, just when our economy needs it most. We believe in the power of sharing kindness, creating a culture where people help each other to feel safe, get along, get involved and get on.

The project is 'holistic'; underpinning our Council plan by promoting better skills, creating more good jobs and better health. It supports us to ensure we create safe, strong, active communities, whilst helping to grow our economy, sustainably.

Organisations, charities and projects rely on local people giving up their time to get involved in all sorts of activities. Not only does Citizen Coin gives these groups/organisations a free platform to advertise and recruit people - its gives them a unique way to say 'Thank you'. The platform also creates an innovative 'social CV' for each user by recording what they've done and what they've earned. As a local authority we can, for the first time, evidence a broad range of social value activity, via collecting valuable transactional data. For example, the social value generated and recorded in less than 12-months equates to £103,968.

The positives for Bradford's businesses are many, for example; it's helping to keep spending local, connecting businesses with local citizens and helping retailers meet corporate social responsibility goals allowing them to reward customers. In a time of increased uncertainty for high streets Citizen Coin has helped get customers through the door with bespoke offers, giving retailers freedom to tailor promotions to increase consumption of specific stock or incentivise an additional snack to go with that free coffee. Unlike other schemes there is no deficit in the amount of voluntary skills on offer or available opportunities. Ultimately Citizen Coin

offers businesses the flexibility to do what they need to do to increase their customer-base and give back to the community, all at zero cost.

Citizens - we have already started to see some positive behaviour change and good outcomes achieved. People are volunteering more, up-skilling, getting into paid or better jobs, more footfall for businesses, and we see more active and healthier communities.

Future plans

We are now working on our end report as part of our evaluation process for the Bradford for Everyone Programme, this will evidence the early behaviour change, learnings and impact we see.

Plans and work in the pipeline

- Citizen Coin Recruitment Officer leads on project until the new team is recruited within the Stronger Communities Team; the five new Community Engagement Officers for each constituency will then pick up on this work as part of their KPIs, coordinated by the Volunteer Co-ordinator post.
- Citizen Coin will be rolled out to encourage more volunteering from Bradford Council staff, who can, as part of their paid employment, volunteer 2 days per year. Supporting colleagues to volunteer is fundamental to fulfilling a key objective within our Equalities Plan, which is to enable and empower all staff to understand better the communities we serve. The volunteering policy within Bradford Council is being refreshed to include information about Citizen Coin; A council-wide campaign will be launched in late spring. Citizen Coin information, encouraging volunteering will become part of the induction information for all new staff.
- Citizen Coin will also help strengthen our local democracy by rewarding all those who take the time to make their voices heard in council surveys and consultations. By doing so they help inform our decisions and shape our services. We are currently working with our IT colleagues on how our surveys / systems can be updated to include this.
- We are working with the Living Well programme to see how the app can be further utilized.
- We explore ways where Bradford can lead on the development of the 'Academy of Social Value' partnership with Citizen Coin. This will engage and educate other Local Authorities across the UK in the understanding, integration and implementation of social value ecosystems
- We hope to present Citizen Coin Bradford at the LGA Conference 'Innovation Zone' in June 2022, Harrogate.
- A submission has been made for the Innovation category for the LGC Awards 2022.

More Information

Download Citizen Coin app from the App Store, Google Play or use our website: <https://bradford.citizencoin.uk/>

Watch a short video showing how the scheme works <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FuLc5VTw0I>



The graphic features a pink background with a faint, stylized map of Bradford. On the left, the 'citizen coin bradford' logo is displayed in white and grey. Below it, the text 'Have you signed up?' is in large, bold, pink letters, followed by 'Rewarding & recognising all the great things our volunteers do!' in smaller pink text. Further down, two paragraphs in pink text describe the scheme: 'People who join the scheme are rewarded with Citizen Coins for completing activities of their choice.' and 'They can then use these earned Citizen Coins to get discounts off in participating local shops, services and businesses.' At the bottom left, the website 'www.bradford.citizencoin.uk' is listed in pink. On the right, a smartphone displays the app's interface, which includes a 'Welcome back' message, a balance of 11 coins, buttons for 'payment' and 'manage activities', and a list of upcoming activities. Below the phone, there are logos for 'People Care' and 'Bradford everyone', and a QR code with the text 'scan this code to watch the video & signup'.

**citizen coin
bradford**

Have you signed up?

Rewarding & recognising all the great things our volunteers do!

People who join the scheme are rewarded with Citizen Coins for completing activities of their choice.

They can then use these earned Citizen Coins to get discounts off in participating local shops, services and businesses.

Find out more: www.bradford.citizencoin.uk

scan this code to watch the video & signup



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Appendix C

Community Champions

From March 2020, Equality Together with Bradford People First, Bradford Talking Media and People First Keighley & Craven have been working with individual vulnerable/disabled people and grass root disabled people organisations to:

- Provide and circulate factual and up-to-date information and guidance in accessible formats (British Sign Language and Easy Speak) through videos and leaflets.
- Supplied “Tablets” to enable individual vulnerable and disabled people to engage digitally via the “Keeping People Connected Project”.
- Regular welfare calls to provide awareness and understanding as well as providing signposting and support to locally based community support programmes.
- Online weekly “Wellbeing Activities” to address and reduce isolation, loneliness and keeping people engaged as well as provide a platform to share valued information and address issues and concerns.
- Creation of effective referral processes in regard to Complex Needs Welfare Advice (Benefits), Non-Statutory Self & Group Advocacy and Disability Equipment that in turn supports/supported individual vulnerable and disabled people.

The Neighbourhood’s area teams launched an adapted Covid Response in September 2020, to work on community, business and voluntary sector engagement. This extended to include Home Testing offering residents self-administered COVID-19 tests on their door step by trained staff and Community Champions, duties included ‘warming-up’ and tackling rumours and engagement activities in a range of community languages.

Racial Equality Network with BEAP Community Partnership, Sangat Centre (Keighley), Karmand Community Centre and Grange Interlink and 22 grass-root organisations also were commissioned to focus on messaging and engagement of ethnic minority groups and Central and Eastern European communities. The partnership has:

- Developed a COVID-19 Training Programme with Public Health and Bradford Council for frontline VCS Staff and have trained over 30 people in round one.
- Delivered online Q&A webinars on Zoom and Facebook Live in partnership with Bradford Foundation Trust and Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- Launched a COVID-19 Community Helpline to provide information and guidance to communities in different language including Bangla, Urdu, Punjabi, English, Roma, Slovakian, Czech, Hindi, Gujarati and Arabic.

1. Briefly set out proposals for additional activities your authority would like to deliver to increase outreach, engagement and communication with residents disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, in particular those with disabilities and/or from BAME communities. (500 words maximum)

Working with lead partners; Racial Equality Network and Equality Together and an additional 40 plus partners, we have:

Recruited Community Champions via existing services and our established network of partnerships. We will expand the current remit of the Council's Ambassadors programme funded through the integration area; whilst recognising that there are a wide range of community champions that already exist for example via Living Well, COVID Lead and REN. We have:

- Mapped existing provision with current champions in place, including mobilising some of the 700 unallocated volunteers registered with Volunteering Bradford.
- Re-engaged and gain commitment from current champions who are from the very communities and groups we want to reach.
- Connect and unify our champions under two of our Shared Values; We Care and We Protect, creating a newly formed collaborative network as a district wide resource under COVID-19 Community Champions. We will work with 300 residents with a combined reach of 3,000 people.
- Provide support to residents to attend training sessions. Training will include; volunteer induction, Anti-Rumour and Critical Thinking focusing on misinformation and rumours, test and trace, vaccinations and our Shared Values in Action.
- provide on-going training to staff and champions, including the latest behavioural science and government messaging.
- Provide support via our commissioned partners to develop and run support groups for residents – either face to face or via Whatsapp groups in their local communities.
- Promote the project and how to get involved.

Communications; messaging and addressing rumours

We have;

- Built on Vaccination messaging - by extending the scope of work by commissioned partners, engaging residents via various methods such as door to door knocking and warm up activities.
- Extended the Covid Helpline hours - This will enable us to build capacity via the recruitment of additional volunteers to manage phone lines and develop a database to monitor performance.
- Developed and disseminate key messages and with expediency to those with disabilities and other languages; including where needed; phone calls and visits.

The project is overseen by a Project Manager, who works with the Project Coordinators based with our lead partners. As Bradford is one of five test and learn sites, there is already a robust project management methodology in place and an Evaluation Officer who can support with measuring impact. Each lead partner will be involved in the dissemination of learning and participation in forums.

The project will be guided by REN COVID-19 Response Steering Group and report to the Stronger Communities Partnership Board which oversees the funding.

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Appendix D

VCSE SIP Volunteering Support

The volunteering offer for Bradford District & Craven, aligning it with diagnostic and capacity building, through a new Promoting Volunteering offer provided by Participate Projects and CAB&D. Participate is the leading provider of corporate volunteering in Bradford District. CAB&D have experience of managing volunteering within their wider organisation and through COVID-19 response work, in addition to experience of developing supported groups to manage volunteers.

Delivering under a strong joint brand **Here4BDCC**, building on our current strengths we will provide an **outreach programme** that delivers:

- Online recruitment of volunteers at scale; using COVID-19 experience and use Here4BDCC Hubs for engagement (providing local insight and knowledge of groups and their volunteering needs).
- Online directory of volunteering opportunities via Here4BDCC website - directly linked to database registration. Capacity to upload opportunities via the website, database integration with diagnostic and online advertisement of opportunities
- One to many training workshops (e.g. Starting from Scratch, Introduction to...) providing simple planning tools and information. Emerging organisations understand their volunteering journey through increasing team learning; Leading to volunteer development plans.
- Specialised 1-1 support for groups, linked to development plans and capacity building diagnostic - developing local promotion of volunteering offers, including through increased use of free and paid social media.
- signposting to DBS checking services
- Alignment of the Participate Bradford Together corporate volunteering platform and materials to promote business volunteering
- Individual brokerage of business resources, skills, manpower, materials, aligned with CB diagnostic.
- Mobilisation of business volunteers to support major events, building on the Participate Covid response.
- Enhanced engagement with Citizen Coin ensuring every volunteering opportunity has access to this initiative and expanding it to corporate volunteering
- Support to annual celebration events (e.g. Community Stars)
- Develop volunteering offers of organisations that provide self-care, befriending and other health initiatives; our Voice and Influence offer will include the Befriending Network providing direct links across the team
- Digital services; online training, resources, downloads. Links to other provision and videos. These will enable local VCSE organisations to equip themselves to recruit, train and support volunteers, reducing the need for support from a central service
- Priority services for underrepresented community groups and smaller grassroots organisations

- Close working with Bradford's City of Culture 2025 bid, supporting them to deliver volunteering outcomes; CAB&D have already provided advice to help shape their funding bid. We will support recruitment, training and deployment of their volunteering staff team.

The team will consist of 2.4 FTE Volunteering Development Officers.

Furthermore, we will upskill volunteers through access to online training provision, including working with private training providers through Bradford Together to offer relevant qualifications to volunteers. We will also signpost volunteers to the wide range of accredited training available online through the Open University around VCSE knowledge and skills.

We will use our connections, through VCSE organisations, job clubs, employment schemes, businesses, enterprise coaching and our Social Venture School, to present opportunities for volunteers to move into employment / self-employment. We will actively support people to volunteering as an opportunity for career development / enterprise start-up.

Additionally will be provided through provision of existing partner resources / match:

CAB&D– Trustee toolkit, Shaping the Future Programme Co-ordinator insight, Vision for Volunteering national programme.