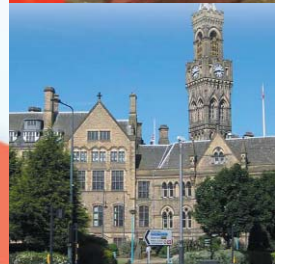


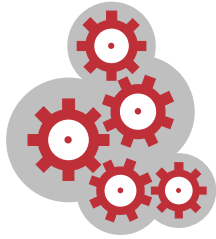
# How to Make a Difference in the Bradford District

Becoming an  
active citizen



**CNet**  
EMPOWERING  
COMMUNITIES





**CNet**  
EMPOWERING  
COMMUNITIES

**CNet :**  
Community Empowerment Network  
for Bradford and District

**Make a Difference**

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Based on work originally done by Ruth Wilson and Julia Holdsworth.

Published in partnership and with the consent of  
Volunteering Bradford

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# How to **Make a Difference** in the Bradford District

Becoming an  
active citizen

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	What is this booklet about?	5
1.2	Who is it for?	6
1.3	Who can take part?	6
1.4	How to use this booklet	7
1.5	CNet/Volunteering Bradford	7
1.6	For more information	8
1.7	Abbreviations	9
<b>2</b>	<b>Health and Social Care</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1	Independent Visitor (for looked after children)	11
2.2	Research Ethics Committee Lay Members	12
<b>3</b>	<b>Community Safety</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1	Magistrate	14
3.2	Youth Offender Panel Member	15
3.3	Independent Monitoring Board	17
3.4	West Yorkshire Police Authority	19
3.5	Lay Visitor/Independent Custody Visitor	20
3.6	Crime & Community Safety Roles	21
3.7	Neighbourhood Watch	23
3.8	Scrutiny Panels	24
<b>4</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>26</b>
4.1	School Governor	27
4.2	Parent Teacher Association	28
4.3	Adult, Further & Higher Education Governor	29

<b>5</b>	<b>Local Governance</b>	31
5.1	Parish & Town Councillors	32
5.2	Bradford & Keighley Youth Parliament	34
5.3	Public Appointments	35
5.4	Neighbourhood Forums	36
5.5	Charity Trustees & Members of Management Committees	37
5.6	Housing & Tenants Associations	38
5.7	Trade Unions	40
<b>6</b>	<b>Transport</b>	41
6.1	Transport Groups & Organisations	42
<b>7</b>	<b>Other Active Citizen Roles</b>	45
7.1	Campaigning & Lobbying	46
7.2	Getting Involved	47
<b>8</b>	<b>Appendix</b>	49
	Useful Organisations in the Bradford District	50

# Part 1: Introduction



## 1.1 What is this booklet about?

**This booklet is about how to be an active citizen in the Bradford District.**

There are lots of ways to volunteer and be active in our District, and there are thousands of people who contribute in all sorts of projects, groups and organisations. Some play a significant part in influencing policy or the way the local services are run, and it is these roles in particular that we look at in this booklet.

Roles where:

- ★ people get to have a say in local strategy, and sometimes in national policy as well through speaking on behalf of others
- ★ citizens help local services decide what should be on offer, and how services should be delivered through forums, and self-help groups
- ★ volunteers who campaign or lobby for changes in the law, policy or services
- ★ people who act on behalf of the community as members of school boards, magistrates, lay visitors.

For some people, voting in elections is not enough, while others choose not to vote at all. However, many people want to play an active part in what happens in their area, and possibly to campaign on national or international issues as well.

At the same time, many organisations in our District want to include individuals and communities in decision-making, and some statutory bodies are required to involve local people in particular roles. Many offer interesting and rewarding ways to take part, where you meet new people and build up skills. If no one is addressing something that concerns you, you may want to set up a new group to tackle it.

This booklet sets out some of the opportunities and useful local contacts.

## 1.2 Who is it for?

**The booklet is for anyone wanting to be active in helping shape policies and services, or generally act as decision-makers in some roles**

You may have a lot of time or only a little. You may have experience of this kind of activity through your work or other commitments, or it may be new to you. You may want to bring about change in an area or on an issue that matters deeply to you, or you may want to develop experience of influencing policy because it will help with your career or your personal development.

The booklet is also for organisations that advise people in finding interesting volunteering opportunities.

## 1.3 Who can take part?

**Anyone can play an active citizen role. Many of the opportunities outlined here are open to anyone. Often, organisations are keen to involve and represent the clients and communities they serve. Some may want to encourage the involvement of groups that they feel are underrepresented, such as women, or people from black and minority ethnic communities.**

Some roles have a minimum age. Sometimes, organisations are looking for people with particular skills or experience. Sometimes, this means you will be working with people who are vulnerable, you will have to have a Criminal Records Bureau check.

There may be additional criteria - for instance, you cannot be a trustee if you:

- ★ are aged under 18 (unless the charity is a registered company)
- ★ have been convicted of certain offences (unless the conviction is regarded as 'spent')
- ★ are an undischarged bankrupt
- ★ have been previously removed or disqualified from trusteeship.

Some roles are paid with an allowance and, therefore, are not strictly volunteering. If you are in receipt of benefits you should check if they will be affected in any way.

If you are keen to take part, get in touch with the organisation or body that you want to join. Find out what they are looking for, and think about what you have to offer and what you want to get from the experience. Remember that often there will be training and support to help you learn the ropes.

## 1.4 How to use this booklet

**This booklet describes a number of different roles on offer in our District to people wanting to have an active role in influencing policies and services. Though we have tried to include as many as possible, we have not listed every way of being involved. We hope that you will find something in the booklet that will help you get started.**

We have grouped the roles into different areas of activity, such as 'Education' or 'Community Safety'.

Each role that we cover has a short introduction, and is divided into four sections:

- ★ **What** does this role involve?
- ★ **Who** can get involved in this role?
- ★ **How** do I go about getting involved?
- ★ **Where** can I find out more information?

Note: Many of the roles described in this book are carried out by volunteers, who are only paid expenses. Some are paid in other ways, and where this happens the people involved are not volunteers. We are including these roles because they are an important way of being an active citizen in our District.

## 1.5 CNet / Volunteering Bradford

**This booklet was produced by CNet as part of their active citizenship work – Bradford District's 'Take Part Pathfinder Project.' It is based on previous work that Volunteering Bradford and CNet did together on the previous edition of this booklet.**

CNet realised that many people are interested in getting involved and having a say, but they don't always know where to start. The booklet is part of our wider work of promoting active citizenship among people living and working in Bradford.

For a list of some of the partner organisations we work with, see the Appendix on page 50.

## 1.6 For more information

**There are many useful organisations listed throughout this booklet. The following are some of the key contacts for finding out about opportunities for active citizenship in our District:**

### **CNet**

[www.cnet.org.uk](http://www.cnet.org.uk)

Tel: 01274 714144

Email: [contact@cnet.org.uk](mailto:contact@cnet.org.uk)

CNet is the Community Empowerment Network for Bradford and District. One of its major roles is to promote community representation and deal with issues surrounding social and economic planning in the District. It runs capacity building and community development programmes, and encourages community group activity through its Grassroots Grants programmes.

### **DIVA Bradford**

[www.divabradford.org.uk](http://www.divabradford.org.uk)

Tel: 01274 433656

A database of voluntary organisations in the Bradford District.

### **Volunteer Centres:**

#### **Volunteer Centre Keighley and District**

Tel: 01535 609 506

Email: [admin@keighleyvb.co.uk](mailto:admin@keighleyvb.co.uk)

#### **Volunteer Centre Shipley**

[www.volunteeringbradford.org](http://www.volunteeringbradford.org)

Tel: 01274 588 233

Email: [info@volunteeringbradford.org](mailto:info@volunteeringbradford.org)

## 1.7 Abbreviations

<b>BKYP</b>	Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament
<b>CNet</b>	Community Empowerment Network for Bradford and District
<b>CRB</b>	Criminal Records Bureau
<b>IMB</b>	Independent Monitoring Board (for prisons)
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>NHS</b>	National Health Service
<b>NUS</b>	National Union of Students
<b>PPC</b>	Programme for a Peaceful City
<b>PPI</b>	Patient and Public Involvement
<b>PTA</b>	Parent Teacher Association
<b>TUC</b>	Trade Union Congress
<b>YOI</b>	Young Offenders Institution

# **Part 2: Health and Social Care**



## 2.1 Independent Visitors (for looked after children)

**The 1989 Children's Act makes provision for all 'looked after' children (in local authority care) who do not have regular contact with parents, or someone who assumes parental responsibility to have the right to an independent visitor.**

### **What do Independent Visitors do?**

Independent Visitors are members of the public who visit a child in care who has infrequent or no contact with parents and family. All children need an adult in their lives to take an interest in them, to support, advise and encourage them. An Independent Visitor is there for the child, and takes on a befriending role.

Most of the children are living in the Bradford District. However, some children are placed outside of Bradford, so people are also needed who are willing to travel once a month to visit a child placed in another area.

In the Bradford District, the Independent Visitor Scheme is run by Barnardos. People who are accepted as Independent Visitors receive guidance and training, along with support, travel costs and other out-of-pocket expenses. If you are matched up with a child, Barnardos ask you to make a commitment for five years.

### **Who can take part?**

Any member of the public over the age of 21 can apply to become an Independent Visitor (however, people who work in the Council's Children's Services cannot apply). Barnardos' oldest volunteer is currently 80 years old and their youngest is 21.

### **How to get involved:**

For more information, contact:

#### **Seen and Heard**

##### **Barnardos**

Tel: 01274 531466

Email: [seenandheard@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:seenandheard@barnardos.org.uk)

Your local Volunteer Centre will also be able to provide you with contact information (see page 50).

### **For more information:**

#### **Barnardos**

[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

## 2.2 Research Ethics Committee Lay Members

**Research Ethics Committees (RECs) safeguard the rights, safety, dignity and well-being of people participating in research in the NHS. Each year, RECs review around 6,000 research applications. On average, they give an opinion after 35 days, well within the maximum allowance of 60 days.**

### **What do Research Ethics Committees do?**

A Research Ethics Committee's (REC) task is to consider the ethics of proposed research projects that will take place within the NHS. It is the duty of a REC to protect the interests of research participants. The committee reviews research applications and gives an opinion as to whether the research is ethical.

### **Who can take part?**

At least one-third of the members must be 'lay'. Lay members are people whose main personal or professional interest is not in a research area. The remainder of the committee are expert members, who are specialists including doctors, other healthcare professionals and academics. Members of the public who are not health care professionals and who are interested in thinking about the issues from the perspective of a potential research participant and would like to develop knowledge of research ethics are able to apply.

REC members receive training in ethical review and have opportunities to debate challenging issues. Committees meet on average for half a day per month and you will need to be able to attend at least two thirds of meetings.

### **How to get involved**

You can get in touch with your local health authority or health board to see if RECs in your area are recruiting new members. For RECs in England, these details are available from:

#### **National Research Ethics Service website:**

[www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/contacts/find-your-local-rec](http://www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/contacts/find-your-local-rec)

Or you can contact the Operations Coordinator for the National Research Ethics Service:

#### **Janet Kelly**

Tel: 01325 746167

Email: [janetkelly@nhs.net](mailto:janetkelly@nhs.net)

### **For more information**

National Research Ethics Service

[www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk](http://www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk)

# Part 3: Community Safety



## 3.1 Magistrate

**Magistrates are members of the local community who are appointed by the Lord Chancellor to hear both criminal and civil cases. There are about 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales. Being a magistrate provides the chance for you to:**

- ★ serve your community in a unique way
- ★ make an important contribution to upholding the law
- ★ develop a deeper understanding of your local community
- ★ gain a good working knowledge of the law
- ★ develop personal skills, such as decision making, communicating and team-working which can be invaluable in other areas of your life.

### **What do magistrates do?**

Magistrates usually sit as one of a bench of three magistrates. You will be hearing the less serious criminal cases such as minor theft and motoring offences. You may also deal with a range of non-criminal cases affecting families and children or young people, or with civil cases involving matters like licensing or Council Tax.

Magistrates 'sit on a local bench' for a minimum of 26 half days a year. A qualified legal adviser gives advice on points of law and procedure. Magistrates receive full training to prepare them for the role. Some magistrates take part in committees and conferences looking at wider issues of national policy and legislation, particularly through involvement in the Magistrates Association.

### **Who can take part?**

To be a magistrate you need to be able to demonstrate not only common sense and the ability to weigh evidence and reach reasoned decisions, but also six key qualities: good character, understanding and communication, social awareness, maturity and sound temperament, sound judgement, commitment and reliability.

You must live and/or work in the area in which you are a magistrate and have good knowledge and understanding of your local community. Ideally, each bench reflects the community it serves in terms of occupation, political affiliation, gender, ethnic origin and so on. There is currently a particular need for more young people and people from ethnic minority backgrounds to enter the magistracy. Certain groups of people are ineligible, including members of occupations which might be seen to pose a conflict of interest with the role of magistrate, such as traffic warden or police officer.

### **How to get involved:**

Contact your local magistrate's court for more information:

#### **Bradford Magistrates' Court**

Tel: 01274 302035

Email: wy-bradfordmags@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk

#### **Keighley Magistrates' Court**

Tel: 01274 518325

Email: wy-keighleymags@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk

You can also get more information, and download application forms from:

#### **Ministry of Justice**

[www.direct.gov.uk/magistrates](http://www.direct.gov.uk/magistrates)

### **For more information:**

#### **Criminal Justice System**

[www.cjsonline.gov.uk](http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk)

Information about the criminal justice system in England and Wales, how it works, and who's involved.

#### **Local Criminal Justice Boards**

<http://lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk>

Select 'West Yorkshire' to find out about criminal justice in our area, and volunteering opportunities.

#### **Magistrates Association**

[www.magistrates-association.org.uk](http://www.magistrates-association.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7387 2353

## **3.2 Youth Offender Panel Member**

**In 2002 a new court order - the Referral Order - was introduced by the government. This is given to most 10 to 17 year olds who plead guilty to a first time offence. The Youth Court refers the young person to a Youth Offender Panel, which is made up of two members of the community and one member of the local Youth Offending Team (YOT).**

The Referral Order and Youth Offender Panel are two of a number of new strategies aimed at achieving 'restorative justice'. They bring victim and offender together to find resolution through negotiation and mutual understanding of the harm caused to all concerned.

## **What do Youth Offender Panels do?**

As a member of the Youth Offender Panel you will be representing your local community in deciding how young people should be treated by the law. The Bradford Youth Offending Team works with young offenders across the District: it convenes four community panels, which normally take place on weekday evenings.

The Panel talks to the victim, the young offender and their parents or carers, and considers what is the best and most appropriate course of action to be taken. With the people involved, the Panel decides what form of recompense the young person will make.

To be on a Youth Offender Panel, you must complete a short training programme (two and half days plus two evening sessions). You will then be expected to volunteer for around three hours each fortnight, as well as reading some documentation on each case you are involved in.

## **Who can take part?**

Youth Panel Members must be at least 18 years old, have an interest in their local community and be willing to make a small amount of time available on a regular basis. You will undergo a full Criminal Records Bureau check. However, previous convictions will not automatically bar you from Panel membership.

## **How to get involved:**

For more details on becoming a Youth Offender Panel Member contact:

### **Bradford and District Youth Offending Team**

Bradford Office: Tel: 01274 436060

Shipley Office: Tel: 01274 435050

## **For more information:**

### **Bradford and District Youth Offending Team**

[www.bradford-yot.co.uk/](http://www.bradford-yot.co.uk/)

Tel: 01274 436060

### **Local Criminal Justice Boards**

[www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk](http://www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk)

Tel: 0113 2902 962

Select 'West Yorkshire' on the website to find out about criminal justice in our area, and volunteering opportunities.

### **National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO)**

[www.nacro.org.uk](http://www.nacro.org.uk)

Tel: 01274 436060

## Youth Justice Board

[www.yjb.gov.uk/YouthOffenderPanels](http://www.yjb.gov.uk/YouthOffenderPanels)

### Other opportunities

Youth Offender Panels are part of a range of Restorative Justice Initiatives which are becoming increasingly common in the UK. Other initiatives include:

- ★ **Victim Offender Mediation:** an impartial and independent third party helps both victim and offender to communicate either directly or indirectly in an attempt to create a greater understanding between the parties that might ultimately lead to some form of tangible reparation.
- ★ **Victim/Offender Conferencing:** follows the same principles as victim/offender mediation but has a wider group of participants, bringing in families from both parties and in some cases members of the wider community with some relevance to the situation.

## 3.3 Independent Monitoring Board

**By law, every prison and immigration removal centre in the UK must have an Independent Monitoring Board (IMB).**

IMBs perform a vital 'watchdog' role on behalf of Ministers and the general public in providing lay and independent oversight of prisons and immigration removal centres.

There are more than 1,800 volunteers attached to prisons and immigration removal centres, and more recently, short-term holding facilities at places such as airports and reporting centres. They have an increasingly important role to play in ensuring that prisoners and detainees are being cared for decently and with humanity.

### What do Independent Monitoring Boards do?

Board members visit their nominated establishment on a regular basis. These visits need not be announced and can take place at any time.

Members hear complaints and requests from prisoners and detainees if necessary out of the sight and hearing of a member of staff. They get to know the staff and management whilst maintaining their independence. Board members may take up an issue with the establishment's Governor or, in some circumstances, even the Home Secretary.

IMB members can provide a vital link for prisoners, detainees and staff with the outside world. They can visit all parts of the premises at any time of the day or night, including the kitchens, education centres, recreation areas and health care centres. Members are also called in when there is a serious incident, to monitor how it is dealt with.

You will be required to attend full Board meetings at least once a month and take your turn at handling request and complaint sessions. You will be part of a team, and comprehensive training is on offer. Being an IMB member takes up an average of 2-3 days per month.

### **Who can take part?**

The only qualifications needed to become a member of an IMB are energy, commitment and a fair amount of free time. Prisoners may wish to discuss matters of a personal and private nature, so it is important that you are sensitive, tactful and open-minded.

People who have had previous experience of voluntary work within their local communities are particularly welcomed. IMBs are keen to reflect the diversity of British society.

Members of black and minority ethnic communities are particularly encouraged to apply as they are under represented on many boards.

### **How to get involved:**

You can apply direct to the Clerk of the Independent Monitoring Board at your nearest prison or immigration removal centre, who will supply you with an application pack.

Alternatively, you can contact:

#### **Independent Monitoring Board Secretariat**

Tel: 020 7035 2261

Email: [imb@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imb@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

### **For more information:**

#### **Independent Monitoring Board**

[www.imb.gov.uk](http://www.imb.gov.uk)

HM Prison Service

[www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk](http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk)

Contains 'Locate a Prison' with basic information on all the UK prisons.

#### **UK Border Agency**

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/immigrationremovalcentres](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/immigrationremovalcentres)

Contains basic information on all current UK Immigration Removal Centres.

## 3.4 West Yorkshire Police Authority

**The West Yorkshire Police Authority oversees policing in the area on behalf of the public. Its main statutory duty is to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force in the area. The Police Authority also has a key role in consulting with local people in West Yorkshire about the service provided by West Yorkshire Police.**

### **What do Police Authorities do?**

The Police Authority is required to:

- ★ publish annual policing plans and performance reports
- ★ consult with local communities about policing in the area and determine local priorities after consulting with the public and the Chief Constable
- ★ determine the annual budget
- ★ co-operate with the responsible local authority in determining Local Area Agreements.
- ★ appoint the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constables
- ★ monitor the way in which the police deal with complaints from the public
- ★ secure 'best value' - a continuous improvement in the way services are provided
- ★ operate a scheme to provide an independent check on persons being detained in police cells.

As an independent member you are expected to:

- ★ attend all meetings of the Authority and appropriate committees
- ★ engage with the performance management processes operating within West Yorkshire Police
- ★ participate in public consultation on local policing issues, including evening meetings and public speaking
- ★ keep up-to-date with developments in both local and national policing.

A commitment of at least one day a week is required, for which an allowance and expenses are payable. Appointments are normally for a term of four years.

## Who can take part?

Most police authorities outside London have 17 members. Nine of those members are councillors and 8 are independent members, supported by a team of staff. Independent members are people who live or work in the police authority area, and are appointed by the authority from a shortlist compiled by a selection panel. For West Yorkshire independent members must be over 21 and have lived or worked in the area for at least 12 months.

## How to get involved:

Vacancies are normally advertised in the local media and on the West Yorkshire Police Authority website. Contact:

### West Yorkshire Police Authority

[www.wypa.org.uk](http://www.wypa.org.uk)

Tel: 01924 294000

Email: [ed@wypa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ed@wypa.pnn.police.uk)

## For more information

### Home Office: Police

[www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk)

## 3.5 Lay Visitor/ Independent Custody Visitor

**All police forces have Lay Visitors, or Independent Custody Visitors. These are volunteers who make unannounced visits to police stations to carry out checks on the custody areas – the cells where people in police custody, but not yet convicted of committing any offence, are held.**

### What do Visitors do?

The role of Visitors is to ensure that those held in police custody are being treated humanely and are not subjected to unnecessarily degrading conditions or treatment.

You will be expected to make a minimum of 24 visits spread throughout the year. These will be a mixture of rostered and non-rostered visits. As an Independent Custody Visitor you act as an independent monitor, checking on the welfare of detainees and ensuring that all their special needs are met. You also observe and report on the conditions of cells, detention rooms, charge rooms, medical rooms, washing facilities, kitchen areas, exercise yards and the operation of CCTV systems.

### Who can take part?

Anyone aged 18 or over and living within the Police Authority's area can apply to be an Independent Custody Visitor. Applicants must be independent, so people who may face a conflict of interest such as magistrates, serving police officers and Special Constables, are not eligible. However former magistrates, police officers and Special Constables may be considered.

### How to get involved:

Lay Visitors are often recruited through local advertising campaigns and are appointed through the local police authority. The Police Authority operates a continuous programme of recruitment. Details of the current programme can be obtained from the Scheme Administrator:

#### **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Administrator**

West Yorkshire Police Authority

[www.wypa.org.uk](http://www.wypa.org.uk)

Tel: 01924 294006

Email: [kn1@wypa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kn1@wypa.pnn.police.uk)

### For more information:

#### **Independent Custody Visiting Association**

[www.icva.org.uk](http://www.icva.org.uk)

#### **West Yorkshire Police Authority**

[www.wypa.org.uk](http://www.wypa.org.uk)

## 3.6 Crime and Community Safety Roles

**The way in which policing is delivered at local level in the Bradford District has been changing, and this has had an impact on the ways in which people can get involved in helping their communities reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.**

### What roles are there?

There are a number of different ways that you can get involved in influencing community safety policy in your area, or in helping determine how services work to prevent and tackle crime. These can include taking part in particular initiatives that focus on one area or issue. You can also join a local Neighbourhood Watch (see Section 3.7).

Contact Points have been set up across the District, to ensure better links between local residents and the police. These are staffed by volunteers from the local community who have a concern about crime and community safety issues.

## **Who can take part?**

Anyone living or working in the District can find ways of getting involved in promoting community safety and influencing local services that play a role in this.

## **How to get involved:**

### **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Each part of the District has a Neighbourhood Policing Team with Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers who work to address issues of concern to local residents. For more details on getting involved, phone the West Yorkshire Police switchboard and ask to be put through to your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

### **West Yorkshire Police Switchboard**

Tel: 0845 6060606

On the West Yorkshire Police website's Neighbourhood Policing page, you can use your postcode to locate your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and find out about activities in your area. You can also subscribe for free automatic updates via email.

To do this, visit:

### **West Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing**

[www.westyorkshire.police.uk/npt/](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/npt/)

### **Bradford Council Neighbourhood Support Service**

Their work includes linking communities with their Neighbourhood Policing Teams and encouraging the involvement of local people. They will be able to tell you of relevant local initiatives that you may want to join. They also run regular Neighbourhood Forums in each ward which usually include the chance for residents to raise community safety issues with their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. To find out more about these forums and other initiatives contact:

### **Keighley Co-ordinators Office**

Tel: 01535 618008

### **Bradford North Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 431066

### **Bradford South Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 431155

### **Bradford West Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 432597

### **Shipley Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 437146

### **For more information:**

**Home Office: Police**

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police)

**Local Criminal Justice Boards**

<http://lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk>

Select 'West Yorkshire' to find out about criminal justice in our area, and volunteering opportunities.

**Safer Communities Partnership Bradford District**

[www.saferbradford.org.uk](http://www.saferbradford.org.uk)

Tel: 01274 437460

## **3.7 Neighbourhood Watch**

**Neighbourhood Watch is the largest community safety organisation in the country, covering six million households. There are 170,000 neighbourhood watch groups ranging from the smallest schemes covering a dozen or so homes in a single street to county-wide associations with many thousands of members. Neighbourhood Watch aims to reduce the fear of crime through strengthening communities, improving local security and building communication between residents and the police. The UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust is a new charitable trust whose primary purpose is to support and promote the neighbourhood watch movement by providing an effective and informative two-way communications channel through its website.**

### **What does Neighbourhood Watch do?**

Neighbourhood Watch brings members of the local community together to deal with local crime related issues. As well as holding regular meetings, they may get involved in other initiatives, such as holding information sessions or raising money for safety initiatives. Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run by their members through a volunteer co-ordinator. They are supported by the police.

### **Who can take part?**

Any local resident can be involved in helping to set up or run a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Each scheme is run by a volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator from the local community.

### **How to get involved:**

If you would like to be part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area, phone the police switchboard and ask to be put through to the Local Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer at your local police station:

You can also find your local group through the UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust:

[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

You can also contact the Bradford District Safer Communities Partnership:

**Safer Communities Partnership Bradford District**

[www.saferbradford.org.uk](http://www.saferbradford.org.uk)

### **For more information:**

UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust

[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

## **3.8 Scrutiny Panels**

**There are three Scrutiny Panels in the Bradford District, dealing with race hate crime and stop and search issues. They are hosted by each of the Bradford Police divisions (Bradford North, Bradford South and Keighley). There is also a Homophobic Scrutiny Panel hosted by the Equity Partnership.**

### **What do Scrutiny Panels do?**

The panels meet on a monthly basis either at a police station or local community venues. The panels scrutinise police approaches to investigating crimes classified as 'Hate Incidents'. To do this, six incidents are chosen, and all aspects of the investigation are reviewed, from initial call handling, conduct and supervision of the investigation to how the matter was finalised.

In addition to this, the panels also sample ten 'stop and search' records from the local area. They look at the reasons for the 'stop' and whether it was carried out lawfully. In particular, they explore whether stop and search is being used disproportionately, looking at whether people from visible minority ethnic communities get stopped and searched more often than people who are white.

All issues raised are pursued at the appropriate level, either locally or through the West Yorkshire Police Authority.

### **Who can take part?**

The panels consist of members of the local community, together with the police and other partners such as the local authority, Victim Support and the Crown Prosecution Service.

### **How to get involved:**

Contact the West Yorkshire Police head office in Wakefield for more information:

#### **West Yorkshire Police Switchboard**

Tel: 0845 6060606

Contact the Equity Partnership for more information about the Homophobic Scrutiny Panel:

#### **Equity Partnership**

Tel: 01274 727759/79

[www.equitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.equitypartnership.org.uk)

You can also contact Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA), a partnership of agencies and voluntary organisations from across the District which have come together to tackle hate crime.

#### **Bradford Hate Crime Alliance**

Tel: 01274 786652

### **For more information:**

#### **Crime Prosecution Service West Yorkshire Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel**

[www.cps.gov.uk/west\\_yorkshire/partnership\\_working/race\\_scrutiny\\_panel/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/west_yorkshire/partnership_working/race_scrutiny_panel/)

The website provides information about the West Yorkshire CPS hate crime panel.

# Part 4: Education



## 4.1 School Governor

**School governors are one of the largest voluntary groups in the country. There are around 345,000 school governors at over 30,000 schools. They work to raise standards of achievement and to contribute to the strategic development of their school and its role in the community.**

### What do governors do?

The governing body has a range of duties and powers. It works strategically with the school to ensure good quality education for all pupils. Together with the head teacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, the governors set the school's policies and aims as well as carrying out a range of other duties, including:

- ★ setting targets for pupil achievement
- ★ managing the school's finances
- ★ making sure the National Curriculum is taught, and is balanced and broadly based
- ★ appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay
- ★ planning the school's future direction.

### Who can take part?

Schools are keen to attract people in their community to become governors, and they aim to have governing bodies that are representative of the communities that pupils come from.

Governors need no formal qualifications or particular skills, but they do need to have time and commitment.

School governors are drawn from different parts of the community, such as:

- ★ parents
- ★ staff
- ★ local education authority
- ★ members of the local community.

Anyone aged 18 or over can apply to be a school governor.

### How to get involved:

If you want to be a governor somewhere in particular, you can approach the school direct. To find out about general vacancies for governors, contact the District's School Governor Service:

## **School Governor Service**

Tel: 01274 385629

Email: [school.governor@educationbradford.com](mailto:school.governor@educationbradford.com)

## **For more information:**

### **Education Bradford**

[www.educationbradford.com](http://www.educationbradford.com)

Follow the link to the local school governor service pages.

### **Governornet**

[www.governornet.co.uk](http://www.governornet.co.uk)

### **Information for School and College Governors (ISCG)**

[www.governors.uk.com](http://www.governors.uk.com)

Tel: 01483 300280

Email: [iscg@governors.uk.com](mailto:iscg@governors.uk.com)

## **4.2 Parent Teacher Association**

**A Parent Teacher Association (PTA) brings together parents, teachers and others who are interested in supporting a local school. It plays a key role in the life of the school by connecting teachers, parents and the local community.**

### **What do PTAs do?**

Your PTA is whatever you want to make it. There is no single legally correct model.

PTA activities vary to suit the needs of the school and the skills of the PTA members but most PTAs engage in the following activities:

- ★ fundraising to help the school provide 'extras' for the pupils
- ★ running social events for parents and children
- ★ providing helpers for outings and special events
- ★ helping organise clubs for sport, music or drama
- ★ running meetings to inform parents about education issues and new developments.

### **Who can take part?**

Any parent or guardian of a child at the school can be a member of the PTA, alongside members of the staff body. Some schools run Parents, Teachers and Friends Associations which allow members of the local community to get involved as well. The members of the PTA elect the members of the committee including treasurer, secretary and chairperson.

**How to get involved:**

The easiest way to get involved in a Parent Teacher Association is to contact the chairperson of your school's PTA or speak to the head teacher. If you do not have children attending school there may be a school near you that has a friends, parents and teachers association.

Education Bradford can provide information on local PTAs:

**Education Bradford**

[www.educationbradford.com](http://www.educationbradford.com)

Tel: 01274 385500

**For more information:****National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations**

[www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk)

## 4.3 Adult, Further and Higher Education Governor

**Governors in adult education help to determine the overall strategy for the institution. They oversee its activities and budget, determine future direction and foster an environment which enables students and staff to realise their potential.**

**What do governors do?**

Each governing body is made up of people connected to the institution and independent members who have an interest in their local community. Governing bodies normally meet several times a year and new members are provided with training to help them fulfil their role.

**Who can take part?**

Anyone with an interest in education and their local community can apply to become an independent member of an adult education board of governors.

**How to get involved:**

If you are interested in being a governor at a college or adult education centre, contact:

**Information for School and College Governors (ISCG)**

[www.governors.uk.com](http://www.governors.uk.com)

Tel: 01483 300280

Email: [iscg@governors.uk.com](mailto:iscg@governors.uk.com)

Vacancies are also publicised in the local press or you could contact your local adult education institution or further education college directly.

In our District, these include:

**Bradford College**

[www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk](http://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk)

Tel: 01274 433333

**University of Bradford**

[www.bradford.ac.uk](http://www.bradford.ac.uk)

Tel: 01274 232323

**Leeds City College**

[www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk](http://www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk)

**Keighley Campus**

Tel: 01535 685 000

**Shipley College**

[www.shipley.ac.uk](http://www.shipley.ac.uk)

Tel: 01274 327222

Email: [enquiries@shipley.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@shipley.ac.uk)

**Workers' Educational Association**

Yorkshire and Humber Region

[www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk)

Tel: 0113 245 3304

Email: [yorkshumber@wea.org.uk](mailto:yorkshumber@wea.org.uk)

**For more information:**

**Higher Education Funding Council for England**

[www.hefce.ac.uk/lgm/governance/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/lgm/governance/)

**Open University, Yorkshire**

[www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

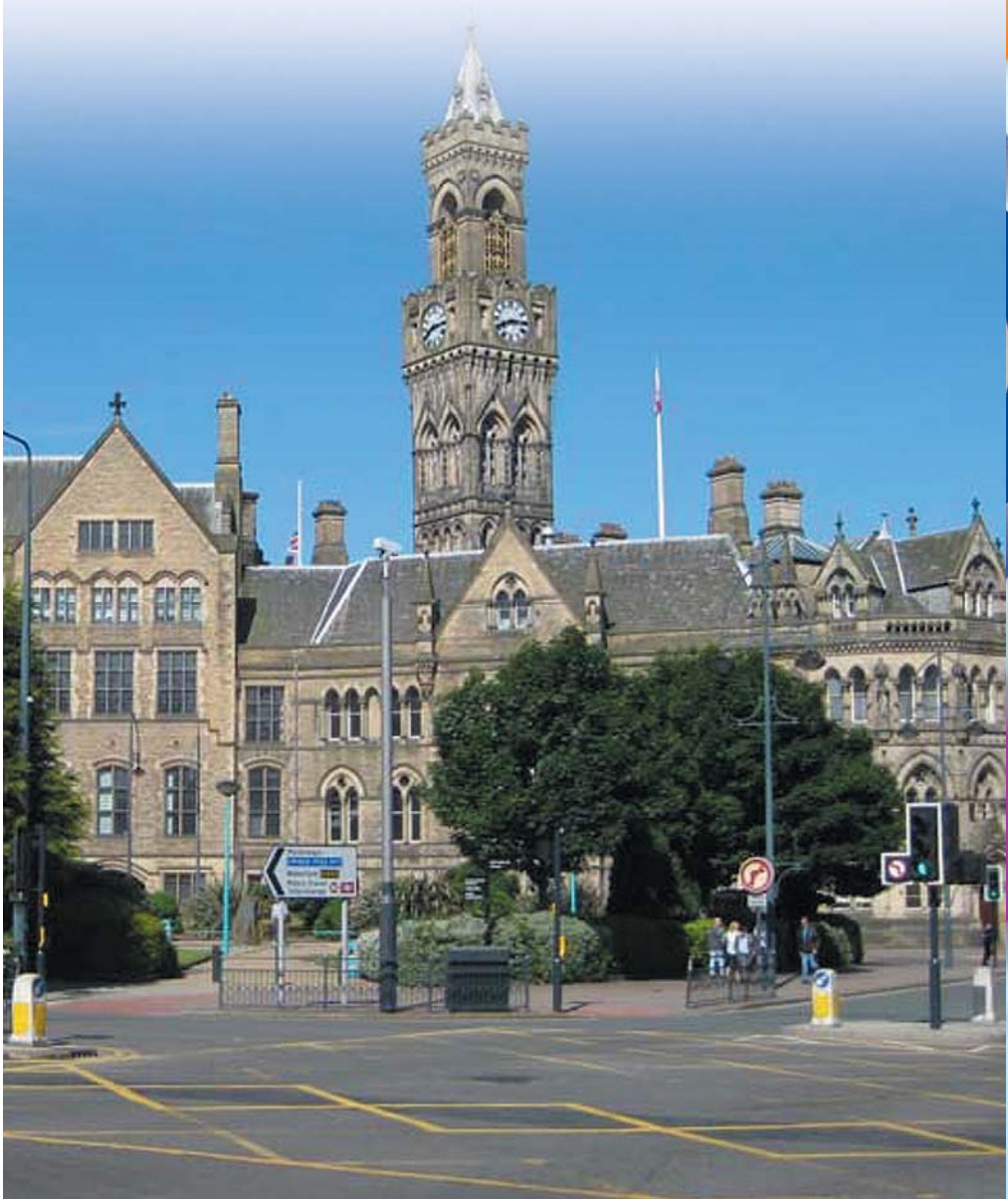
Tel: 0113 2444431

Email: [Yorkshire@open.ac.uk](mailto:Yorkshire@open.ac.uk)

**University of the Third Age**

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

# Part 5: Local Governance



### 5.1 Parish and Town Councillors

Local councils can be an effective way to get involved in community life. They deal with local people and local matters on a day-to-day basis. Local Councils may be called Parish, Town, Neighbourhood, Community or Village Councils. The councils are now permitted to choose their own name from this list. Parish or Village councils tend to include villages and rural areas. Town, Neighbourhood and Community councils cover more urban areas.

Alongside the Bradford Metropolitan District Council there are 18 local councils in our District.

#### What do councils and councillors do?

Local councils have a number of basic responsibilities. These cover three main areas:

- ★ representing the whole electorate within the parish
- ★ delivering services to meet local needs
- ★ striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

Councillors have three main components to their work:

- ★ **Decision making:** Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- ★ **Monitoring:** Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- ★ **Getting involved locally:** As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations.

Councillors are elected, usually every four years, to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward. In smaller parishes they may represent the entire parish area.

Following elections, councils appoint a chair or - in town councils - a mayor. Being a councillor takes up about 2-3 hours a week, although if you decide to sit on a committee this time may increase.

The following areas in the Bradford District have local councils:

- ★ Addingham
- ★ Baildon
- ★ Burley in Wharfedale
- ★ Clayton
- ★ Cullingworth
- ★ Denholme
- ★ Harden
- ★ Haworth, Crossroads and Stanbury
- ★ Ilkley
- ★ Keighley
- ★ Menston
- ★ Oxenhope
- ★ Sandy Lane
- ★ Silsden
- ★ Steeton with Eastburn
- ★ Trident (in central Bradford)
- ★ Wilsden
- ★ Wrose

Other local councils are being set up.

### **Who can take part?**

Most people aged 21 or above are eligible to stand to be a councillor. You do not have to have had experience of local government to get involved with your local council, and the vast majority of local councillors are independent of political parties.

### **How to get involved:**

If you are interested in standing for election to your local council you must send a valid nomination paper to your local Returning Officer. You will then be considered for inclusion on the next ballot.

Phone Bradford District Metropolitan Council for details of your Returning Officer:

**Bradford Council**

Tel: 01274 432111

For contact details of each of the local councils in the District, visit: [www.bradford.gov.uk/asp/councillors/parish.asp?id=1](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/asp/councillors/parish.asp?id=1)

**For more information:**

National Association of Local Councils  
[www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk)

**Yorkshire Local Councils Association**

Tel: 01904 642435

Email: [ylca@williamhouse.co.uk](mailto:ylca@williamhouse.co.uk)

## 5.2 Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament

**The Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament (BKYP) was set up to give young people aged 11-21 a voice. It aims to ensure that young people are listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies.**

There are 30 members of BKYP, with representatives from Bradford North, Bradford South, Bradford West, Shipley and Keighley. Elections are held every 2 years. All activities in the BKYP are youth-led. Members of the parliament tackle issues which are important to them and to other young people through targeted campaigns.

### **What does the parliament do?**

After the elections a road show is held in each constituency. Young people are invited to the event to choose the issues that the members of youth parliament will be working on for the next two years. Young people highlight the issues that are important to them and a vote is taken to find the top three priorities in the constituency. These become the three issues that the MYPs focus on for their term of office.

Elected members receive an eight-week training and induction programme. As a member of the BKYP, you are expected to attend at least one meeting each week, although there are times when the commitment will be higher.

Members work with voluntary and public sector organisations. They meet with local councillors, MPs and with a range of organisations to share information and put forward the views of young people.

For young people who do not want to stand for election as a member, Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament has lots of opportunities to get involved in campaigns and events. You can also take part in on-line polls and debates.

### **Who can take part?**

Anybody living in the District aged between 11 and 21 years old can stand for election and has the right to vote for their local representative.

### **How to get involved:**

You can get involved either by contacting the BKYP offices or by attending one of the many different meetings they arrange locally. These are advertised on the BKYP website.

#### **Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament**

[www.bkyp.com](http://www.bkyp.com)

Tel: 01274 431849

### **For more information:**

#### **National Youth Parliament**

[www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk)

## **5.3 Public Appointments**

**Public bodies (sometimes known as quangos) play a major role in determining local strategy and in making decisions about local services. There are currently over 800 government-sponsored public bodies in the UK, covering many areas such as community safety, health, environment, sport, science, the arts and other areas. Nationwide, there are approximately 22,000 public appointments which serve these bodies.**

### **What do public appointees do?**

Public appointees are members of boards which are involved in making decisions which develop, shape and deliver government policy and public services. Most appointments are part-time and require a commitment of 2-3 days a month. However, the terms of appointment vary considerably. Some require a full-time commitment, others just a few hours each month. Many appointments are unpaid, some attract a daily fee, others an annual payment.

### **Who can take part?**

Public appointments are made in different ways, depending on the remit and composition of different committees, quangos and boards. Usually anyone can apply, though an appointment may require particular expertise. This area of active citizenship can require experience of meetings and planning. There may be a significant amount of reading, along with other duties.

### **How to get involved:**

Appointments follow an application procedure which may last from several weeks to several months between advertisement of the post and appointment.

Lists of currently available public appointments can be found at:

#### **Public Appointments Unit**

[www.publicappointments.gov.uk](http://www.publicappointments.gov.uk)

#### **Appointments Commission**

[www.appointments.org.uk](http://www.appointments.org.uk)

### **For more information:**

You can also visit the websites of different government ministries and public bodies to find out about vacancies.

## **5.4 Neighbourhood Forums**

**Neighbourhood Forums take place across the District in each ward. They enable active citizens to come together to talk about issues affecting their community. Forums encourage communities to develop and work together to improve their neighbourhoods. They provide an opportunity for local people to make their voices heard about local issues and to get updates on services and community activity in their area.**

### **What do Neighbourhood Forums do?**

Neighbourhood Forums are public meetings that take place in local communities two or three times a year. Local people, council departments and other organisations can arrange for issues to be put on the agenda for discussion. Neighbourhood Forums provide the chance for local bodies to provide information to the public as well as to seek local views on important issues.

### **Who can take part?**

Anyone interested in local issues can attend a Neighbourhood Forum meeting.

### **How to get involved:**

Meetings are advertised publicly, and anyone who has attended a previous meeting receives an invitation. You can contact Bradford Council or your local Area Co-ordinator, to find out when and where the next Forum is being held:

#### **Assistant Director of the Neighbourhood Support Service**

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Tel: 01274 431447

Email: [steve.hartley@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:steve.hartley@bradford.gov.uk)

#### **Keighley Co-ordinators Office**

Tel: 01535 618008

#### **Bradford North Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 431066

#### **Bradford South Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 431155

#### **Bradford West Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 432597

#### **Shipley Co-ordinator's Office**

Tel: 01274 437146

## **5.5 Charity Trustees and Members of Management Committees**

**Charity trustees are the people legally responsible for the overall management and decision-making in a charity. There are around a million people currently serving as charity trustees in the UK, in a wide range of organisations: large national charities and small local ones; church councils; housing associations; Parent Teacher Associations and community groups.**

### **What do trustees do?**

Trustees are usually volunteers. They are involved in deciding aims, objectives and budgets, ensuring good governance and reviewing performance. Some charities provide induction and training to trustees to help them fulfil their duties.

If a charity has few or no staff, the trustees may be directly involved in the day-to-day running of the charity. In larger organisations, staff carry out the work of the charity while the trustees are responsible for strategic planning and governance.

### Who can take part?

Sometimes charities need people with particular skills to serve on their boards - such as people with financial expertise or knowledge of human resources. They may be keen to involve people with experience of their services, or who represent the local community. They may particularly welcome board members from groups which they feel are under-represented on their management committee, such as women, people with disabilities, or people from black and minority ethnic communities. Members of boards may be elected or invited.

### How to get involved:

There are a number of ways to find out about trustee vacancies. If you are interested in helping a particular charity, you can approach the organisation direct. You can also contact your local Volunteer Centre (see page 50).

For a list of many voluntary sector organisations in our District, visit:

**[www.divabradford.org.uk](http://www.divabradford.org.uk)**

You can also find trustee opportunities at the following websites:

#### **NCVO Trustee Bank**

[www.ncvo-vol.org.uk](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk)

#### **[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)**

Enter your postcode and then select 'Trusteeship and Committee Work' from the drop-down Activities list.

## 5.6 Housing and Tenants' Associations

Tenants' and residents' associations offer a shared voice for people who live in the same area, or who have the same landlord. Members work together to improve housing and environmental conditions in their neighbourhood and should represent the views of all tenants and homeowners in the area. Together, these activities encourage a sense of local community.

### What are housing and tenants' associations?

Housing and tenants associations work together with landlords to improve the housing conditions and the local environment. Tenants can expect to have a say in a range of issues including:

- ★ housing conditions and services
- ★ improvement programmes of housing stock
- ★ review and development of policy
- ★ performance of the organisation.

### Who can take part?

Associations are often set up by council or housing association tenants. However, any group of people can set up an association. For example, associations can be run by people who rent or own their homes and who:

- ★ have the same landlord (such as the council, a housing association tenants or private landlord)
- ★ live in the same street, housing estate, flat complex or village
- ★ live in a sheltered housing complex.

In most tenants' and residents' associations, anyone over 16 can be a member. If there is no association you can join, you may want to consider setting one up yourself.

### How to get involved:

To find out if there is an association in your area, contact your landlord or speak to your neighbours. You could also ask in your local library. You can get help and advice in setting up and running a tenants' and residents' association from the council - speak to your local tenant participation or community officer. Contact your Area Co-ordinator for more information (see page 37) or your landlord.

The following database of voluntary and community organisations in the Bradford District has links to a number of tenants' and housing associations:

**[www.divabradford.org.uk](http://www.divabradford.org.uk)**

You can also contact Bradford Community Housing Trust Group (BCHT), which is made up of the Bradford Community Housing Trust and six local housing trusts:

#### **In Communities**

[www.incommunities.co.uk](http://www.incommunities.co.uk)

Tel: 0845 1208171

### For more information:

#### **Shelter**

[www.england.shelter.org.uk](http://www.england.shelter.org.uk)

#### **Tenant Participation Advisory Service**

[www.tpas.org.uk](http://www.tpas.org.uk)

### 5.7 Trade Unions

**Trade unions represent the interests of people at work and negotiate with employers for better terms and conditions for their members.**

#### **What do trade unions do?**

Trade unions usually provide a range of services for their members. These include negotiating agreements on pay and conditions; providing legal and financial advice; assisting with sickness benefits and education facilities, and supporting and advising individuals if they face issues at work.

Being a member of a trade union means that you are able to campaign and to have your voice heard on important issues, as part of a collective.

#### **Who can take part?**

If you are in employment, the law gives you the right to join a trade union wherever you work, whether this is recognised by your employer or not.

#### **How to get involved:**

If you want to join a trade union where you work, you should approach a representative such as a shop steward. You can also contact the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and find out which union is most relevant to your work. You can get assistance setting up a branch if none exists at the moment.

#### **For more information:**

##### **ACAS (The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service)**

[www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

Tel: 08457 474747

##### **Department for Business Innovation and Skills**

[www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

##### **Directgov**

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

Search for trade union:

##### **Trades Union Congress (TUC)**

[www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)

# Part 6: Transport



### 6.1 Transport Groups and Organisations

**There is a wide range of groups and organisations concerned with transport issues. Some are based locally, and some are active across the region. Most are part of national organisations, and many are run on a membership basis. In some cases, providers of public transport and related organisations encourage customers to become involved in consultations or user groups.**

#### **What do transport organisations do?**

Many of the transport organisations campaign for better services, and lobby for integrated transport planning on behalf of transport users. Some also provide information services. Members and activists may be involved in campaigns in a number of ways. They may also join the management committee, or represent the group at public meetings or external committee meetings.

Anyone concerned about transport issues in the area can explore ways of getting involved in influencing services and policy.

#### **How to get involved:**

If you use public transport, you may see posters, leaflets and ads at bus and railway terminals, telling you how to get involved. Below are some of the District or regional groups and organisations you can get in touch with. See 'For more information' for some of the national organisations that are active on transport issues.

#### **Ramblers Yorkshire**

[www.ramblersyorkshire.org](http://www.ramblersyorkshire.org)

Campaigns around transport as well as on other countryside and walking issues.

#### **Bradford CHA Rambling Club**

[www.bradfordwalking.org](http://www.bradfordwalking.org)

#### **Campaign for Better Transport West Yorkshire**

[www.bettertransport.org.uk/west\\_yorkshire\\_local\\_group](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/west_yorkshire_local_group)

Tel: 01274 403540

Email: [rwilkes@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rwilkes@blueyonder.co.uk)

Part of a national environmental transport body looking for sustainable answers for transport problems and encouraging more use of public transport, walking and cycling. It includes the Streets for People initiative: a network of community groups, residents associations and individuals who want to improve their local environment.

**West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority**

[www.wypta.gov.uk](http://www.wypta.gov.uk)

Tel: 0113 251 7272

**Wharfedale Rail Users' Group**

Tel: 01943 609142

Email: [PJHonSecWRUG@aol.com](mailto:PJHonSecWRUG@aol.com)

Supports the interests of rail users on the Wharfedale Line, and lobbies for improvements to services or passenger facilities as appropriate.

**Aire Valley Rail Users' Group**

[www.avrug.org.uk](http://www.avrug.org.uk)

**Car Plus**

[www.carplus.org.uk](http://www.carplus.org.uk)

Tel: 0113 234 9299

Email: [info@carplus.org.uk](mailto:info@carplus.org.uk)

A national charity promoting responsible car use, including car sharing and local car clubs.

**Yorkshire and the Humber Transport Roundtable (YHTAR)**

[www.yhtar.org.uk](http://www.yhtar.org.uk)

Email: [webmaster@yhtar.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@yhtar.org.uk)

YHTAR is an alliance of environmental transport groups interested in different areas of transport. It is part of a network of similar groups nationwide. It runs campaigns on different aspects of transport from cycling to aviation.

**Yorkshire Branch, Railfuture**

[www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk)

Railfuture is an independent, voluntary campaign group.

**Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group**

[www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)

A local group that works to improve affordable public transport in the Yorkshire Dales area.

**For more information:****British Transport Police**

[www.btp.police.uk](http://www.btp.police.uk)

Tel: 0800 405040

**Bus Users UK**

[www.bususers.org](http://www.bususers.org)

Tel: 01782 442855

Email: [enquiries@bususers.org](mailto:enquiries@bususers.org)

A national organisation which includes local groups.

## **Passenger Focus**

[www.railpassengers.org.uk](http://www.railpassengers.org.uk)

Tel: 08453 022022

The national rail consumer watchdog.

## **Campaign for Better Transport**

[www.bettertransport.org.uk](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk)

## **Yorkshire and the Humber Transport Roundtable**

[www.yhtar.org.uk](http://www.yhtar.org.uk)

Email: [webmaster@yhtar.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@yhtar.org.uk)

The website has links to a number of national, regional and local organisations, under the following headings:

- ★ aviation
- ★ car use reduction
- ★ cycling
- ★ environment
- ★ safety and health
- ★ public transport
- ★ transport
- ★ transport roundtables
- ★ walking
- ★ others.

# Part 7: Other Active Citizen Roles



### 7.1 Campaigning and Lobbying

**Campaigning and lobbying are about trying to bring about change.**

#### **What do campaigners and lobbyists do?**

Campaigners may be active in national pressure groups or local groups (sometimes affiliated to national campaigns, sometimes with a local focus). The campaigns may be short term or on-going. The roles volunteers take on may be related to management committees, fundraising, raising awareness, running events and demonstrations, publishing newsletters or a wide range of other activities.

Lobbying is the business of trying to influence government policy by working with members of parliament or other government representatives. Volunteers can contact their local political representatives or Members of the European Parliament to encourage them to prioritise particular issues, or they may take part in lobbying initiatives run by a particular organisation.

#### **Who can take part?**

Anyone can be a campaigner. Experienced campaigners and lobbyists build up a range of skills and networks. It may be that if you join a campaigning organisation, you will get some training to help you be effective. Or you may set up your own group.

#### **How to get involved:**

For details of a wide range of voluntary and community organisations in the District, contact your local Volunteer Centre (see page 50).

For a list of voluntary and community organisations in the Bradford District (including a section on campaigning) visit:

**[www.divabradford.org.uk](http://www.divabradford.org.uk)**

#### **For more information:**

##### **Volunteering England**

[www.volunteering.org.uk](http://www.volunteering.org.uk)

In their 'I want to volunteer' section of the website, they list a number of national campaigning organisations.

##### **Do-it**

[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

## 7.2 Getting Involved

**Active citizenship is about taking part and one of the simplest ways to do this is through attending a meeting on local issues. Meetings can be good starting points for linking up with others interested in the same issues as yourself, and for finding out about different ways of getting more involved. You may also take part in initiatives such as community consultations, local research and other events that aim to find out what local people want and involve them in helping shape policy and services.**

In the Bradford District there are a range of different public forums where you can both find out information and make your voice heard. Alongside the range of opportunities already listed in this document you can get involved or get more information about local meetings from:

- ★ volunteer centres (see page 50)
- ★ your local library
- ★ the Council Area Co-ordinators (see page 37)
- ★ your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team
- ★ Bradford and Keighley Youth Parliament (see page 34)

The following two networks are also good starting places:

### **CNet**

CNet (Community Empowerment Network for Bradford and District) provides support and training for community representatives who are elected through the District's voluntary and community sector forums to sit on Strategic Partnership Boards and the associated family of partnerships. CNet runs programmes of support for all kinds of representatives at both local and the strategic level. It works to ensure that people's voices can be heard in a variety of different ways in different forums.

A major priority is to reflect the diversity of the local population and ensure that 'forgotten' and marginalised communities and those living in deprived areas are included and have equal access to information and opportunities. CNet can provide support to local groups and initiatives wishing to organise, and can help support their involvement and develop local infrastructures. It can tell you about local events and ways of getting involved.

CNet also supports the work of networks and small groups through small funding grants.

### **CNet**

[www.cnet.org.uk](http://www.cnet.org.uk)

Tel: 01274 714144

Email: [contact@cnet.org.uk](mailto:contact@cnet.org.uk)

### **Programme for a Peaceful City (PPC)**

The Programme for a Peaceful City is a network of over 100 academics and others, who live and work in the Bradford District. Members include representatives of the voluntary and statutory sectors as well as members of the public. The aim of the programme is to develop relations between the University and the City of Bradford to contribute to community peace and development through sharing of research, running workshops and other activities.

### **PPC**

Lisa Cumming, Programme Officer

[www.bradford.ac.uk/acad/ssis/activities/ppc/](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/acad/ssis/activities/ppc/)

Tel: 01274 23 4173

Email: [l.f.cumming@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:l.f.cumming@bradford.ac.uk)

# Part 8: Appendix of Useful Organisations



### 8: Useful Organisations

For help and further information, contact the following:

#### Voluntary Sector

##### Volunteering Bradford - including:

##### Shipley Volunteer Centre

(also Bingley and Baildon enquiries and Millennium Volunteers)

14 Commercial Street

Shipley

Bradford BD18 3SP

Tel: 01274 588233

Email: [info@volunteeringbradford.org](mailto:info@volunteeringbradford.org)

##### Keighley and District Volunteer Centre

8-10 North Street

Keighley BD21 3SE

Tel: 01535 609506

Email: [admin@keighleyvb.co.uk](mailto:admin@keighleyvb.co.uk)

#### Employee Volunteering

##### Bradford Cares

Business in the Community

44 - 60 Richardshaw Lane

Pudsey LS28 7UR

Tel: 0113 205 8200

Email: [yorkshire@bitc.org.uk](mailto:yorkshire@bitc.org.uk)

#### Statutory Agencies

##### Volunteering Unit -Bradford Council

6th Floor

Olicana House

Chapel Street

Bradford BD1 5RE

Tel: 01274 437970

Email: [volunteering.unit@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering.unit@bradford.gov.uk)

##### Voluntary Services Nurse Manager

Bradford Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Duckworth Lane

Bradford BD9 6RJ

Tel: 01274 364309

**University of Bradford Union**  
UCAN Volunteering Centre Manager  
Richmond Road  
Bradford BD7 1DP  
Tel: 01274 233260  
Email: ucan@bradford.ac.uk

**Volunteer Services Co-ordinator**  
West Yorkshire Police  
PO Box 9  
Laburnum Road  
Wakefield WF1 3QP  
Tel: 0845 6060606  
Website: [www.westyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk)

The **bvolunteering partnership** comprises representatives of the main strategic volunteer-involving bodies in the Bradford District. Its main functions are to promote all aspects of volunteering and volunteering good practice, including organising and participating in promotional and celebratory events.

For further information about these organisations and other members of the bvolunteering partnership, visit:

[www.bvolunteering.org](http://www.bvolunteering.org)



## Make a Difference

This booklet is a useful guide to ways of making a difference in our District by being an active citizen. Thousands of people are active across the Bradford District, in all sorts of roles and organisations. Some are in positions which mean they have a say in local or national policies, or in how services are delivered, some volunteer with local groups and in their communities or are active on boards, or in community safety roles. They may be on committees, or active in campaigns. These are the sorts of roles we mean when we talk about active citizenship.

This booklet is a starting place for people wanting to get involved in this way.

Further copies are available from:

CNet

385 Canal Rd

Frizinghall

Bradford BD2 1AW

T: 01274 714 144

E: [contact@cnet.org.uk](mailto:contact@cnet.org.uk)

Downloadable from our website: [www.cnet.org.uk](http://www.cnet.org.uk)

We would like to thank the following organisations for their help:

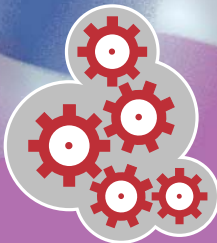


**take part**

pathfinder

Take Part Bradford is managed by CNet. It forms part of the Take Part Pathfinder programme which is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and managed by the Community Development Foundation.





**CNet**  
EMPOWERING  
COMMUNITIES