

Bradford roundtable: Brexit & Civil Society
Hosted by the [Brexit Civil Society Alliance](#) & [CNet](#)
3rd December 2018
Summary

The Brexit Civil Society Alliance have been holding round tables in various parts of the country to listen to concerns from local groups and individuals about impacts on their organisations as we leave the UK. This has also been an opportunity to share what we have learned from our engagement with MPs and other opinion formers and to share information and intelligence around issues specific to the sector.

Attendees at this roundtable included representatives from Bradford Council, CNET' Sharing Voices, the3Million, the Manningham Project, Bradnet, Bradford College, Better Start Bradford, Calderdale VSI Alliance.

The reasons for attending, and what people were hoping to get out of the roundtable, were various

- Wanting to know something more about what Brexit actually means other than just 'Brexit means Brexit'
- Wanting to know more about what is happening around Brexit & impacts in order to advise beneficiaries
- How and what is going to replace funding from Europe
- Trying to work out the impacts on those beneficiaries who are from the most deprived areas of Bradford
- To understand how service mapping may come before or after Brexit
- Concerns about the impacts of Brexit on the health and social care sector
- The different impacts Brexit will have on EU citizens and also what it will mean for specific groups in civil society

The roundtable discussion touched upon a number of issues and impacts of Brexit, but two themes were central to the discussion

EU Funding/ UK Shared Prosperity Fund:

- Bradford has been heavily reliant on EU funding to support communities, including educative purposes.
- Because of the uncertainty around funding post-Brexit, there is uncertainty about future initiatives

The government has given assurances that funding currently from the EU will continue as the Shared Prosperity Fund and have indicated that the money will be channelled through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEPs). The consultation on the Shared Prosperity Fund was meant to start this November but has been delayed.

Attendees discussed the importance and need for existing levels of funding to be continued and have their voices heard when it comes to the delivery of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Shamsuddin Ahmed, Appraisal & Monitoring Officer at CNet is the person of contact for the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Freedom of Movement/ EU Citizens:

EU Citizens are currently facing a lot of uncertainty as a result of Brexit. Vie Clerc Lusando and Saba-Gabrielle Mossa told attendees they spend a lot of time talking to the local communities of EU citizens about the settled status scheme. They also told attendees that there is a lot of concern about how vulnerable EU citizens (in care, children etc) will be registered and there potentially very complex cases with registering those citizens, so they are trying to be an advocate for those people. Settled status require a passport to register but there are people in the community that need to reissue their passport and that can take up to two years. What EU Citizens also need to be aware of is that they do not register through the settled status scheme, they will be here illegally.

Vie Clerc Lusando also told attendees that together with the 3Million group and the European Commission, sessions on settled status have also been held to advice EU Citizens.

The referendum also sparked an increase in hate crime and that has been felt in Bradford- one of the attendees said that 'community cohesion has gone back 30 years' as a result of the referendum. Concerns were also raised that if there were to be second referendum, those tensions may rise and could even increase.

Get our voices heard

There was also a lot of discussion about getting the concerns of the sector in Bradford heard. Jane Thomas, who chaired the roundtable asked attendees

- What portals can you best use in Bradford to get your voice heard
- What can be done in terms of signposting
- What help and support can be given to organisations on the Shared Prosperity Fund
- Contingency planning: how does the sector prepare for a) a no deal Brexit, b) a second referendum, c) the current deal being approved by Parliament

The third sector is dealing with a lot of unknowns at the moment because of Brexit, attendees also noted that it was important that small organisations have a framework in place for contingency planning.

Who to lobby:

- The LEPs
- MPs
- Local Councillors

List of resources:

Part of the roundtable discussion also addressed the lack of information and resources available to the third sector in Bradford. Below is a list that attendees and others may find useful

EU Citizens/ Settled Status

The 3 Million:

[Settled Status Checklist](#)

[162 unsettling questions to the Home Office](#) (this is really useful, and the 3million have also highlighted which questions the Home Office has answered so far about the settled status scheme)

[What will happen to the 3.6 Million EU Citizens in the UK in the case of No Deal?](#)

Funding/ Shared Prosperity Fund

Briefing by the Equality and Diversity Forum on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund [here](#).

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Designing a Shared Prosperity Fund [here](#)

Blog by Liz Shannon (Equality & Diversity Forum): Shared Prosperity Must Mean Shared Rights' [here](#).

[West Yorkshire Combined Authority: Combined Authority calls for more flexible post-Brexit funding regime to rebalance North's economy](#)

Leeds City Region LEP SPF call included in Autumn Budget 2018 submission

[West Yorkshire Combined Authority: LEPs propose merger to secure "bigger share of the prize" for Yorkshire](#)

[West Yorkshire Combined Authority: North Unites to demand control over EU cash to rebalance the economy](#)

[Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board \(LEP\): Preparing for Brexit \(report\)](#)

[The government's guarantee for EU-funded programmes if there's no Brexit deal](#)

Other resources:

[Brexit Civil Society Alliance: campaign toolkit](#) (please note that we have plans to update this, a new version will be circulated once the new edition is complete)

[Brexit Civil Society Alliance: briefing on the Withdrawal Agreement & Political Declaration on the Future Relationship](#)

[Brexit Civil Society Alliance: briefing on what a No Deal Brexit means for rights, standards, governance & transparency law-making](#)

[Brexit Civil Society Alliance Explainer: Henry VIII powers](#)

[Brexit Civil Society Alliance- Explainer: A Green Brexit in sight?](#)

[Brexit Civil Society Alliance Explainer: Fundamental Rights in a post-Brexit world](#)

Join the Brexit Civil Society Alliance

As the UK exits from the European Union, it is important that civil society organisations understand the process and work together to make sure our voices are heard.

There is strength in numbers - we have members from a range of sectors, including human rights, environment, worker's rights, equality, democracy, food, farming, trade and education.

Join us to make your voice heard.

Why join us?

- We connect organisations across the UK working on the same issues - members benefit from a directory of contacts
- We host events with civil society organisations across the UK
- We link politicians and decisions-makers to areas of expertise and knowledge outside of Westminster and Whitehall
- We provide a digital space and directory of resources and campaign material
- We send weekly newsletter updates to our members about the Brexit process & what it means for civil society
- We ensure that civil society organisations understand parliamentary processes and are able to use the law to protect and advance the rights of their beneficiaries.
- We develop working groups to measure the impact of Brexit on different sectors and play an active role in influencing outcomes.

Click [here](#) to join & more information.