



**BAAPB Update
Issue 36
January | 2025**

Chris Barber – Vice Chair

Happy, if somewhat belated, new year to you all and hope that you all had a great Christmas and new year break. Welcome back to a new year full of zoom and team meetings, oh well, we can but hope for a meeting free period whilst we drag our weary bodies back to work!

Hands up those of us who have made ‘new year resolutions’ on the 1st January, only to lock them away again on the 2nd, never to be seen again (renewing or starting a gym membership or going on that diet springs to mind here). Come on, be honest!

My new year’s resolutions? Well, to try to be kinder to myself and to be a better neurodivergent advocate in the face of the very cold wind that is coming in from across the pond in terms of disability discrimination and hatred. Anyway, welcome to this first newsletter for 2025 and I hope that you enjoy it.

Chris

Contents

Pure Expo event achieves real success
Tabriz Hussain, PURE Project

Day Centre Brochure
Day opportunities commissioning team

Disco Inclusive
Harborne Village Social Club

BMet Community Engage Courses
Resources for Autism and Birmingham Metropolitan College

SEND Coproduction Award Scheme
Lakhvir Sahota, Participation and Co-Production Officer

SEND Coproduction Training 2025
Lakhvir Sahota, Participation and Co-Production Officer

Shaping Birmingham’s Future Together Market Roadshow
Birmingham City Council

Cuppa and Chat (Jan-Mar 2025)
Resources for Autism

Wellbeing Walk (Jan-Mar 2025)
Resources for Autism and the Active Wellbeing Society



Wishing you all a very happy new year!
For those celebrating, happy Lunar New Year!



Working in partnership together



Pure Expo event achieves real success

Tabriz Hussain, PURE Project

The council's PURE Project ran its showcase one-day event, on 2 December, for people facing barriers towards education, training and employment.

Pledge Stakeholder Summit

It was a wonderful day at Villa Park, with more than 600 people attending.

The day started with an inspirational awards ceremony with Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson. A range of insightful talks also brought together experts by experience, employers, support organisations and the public sector. Guests included the Knowledge, Evidence and Governance team at BCC, senior representatives from employers Oakland International, Medequip and Tesco, and the CEOs of FareShare Midlands, Better Pathways, Prison Link and Midland Mencap.

Darren Harris, former Captain of the Blind England Football team and Paralympian also shared his experience on living with a disability, with an inspirational session on unleashing potential.

Skills and Jobs Fair

More than 70 organisations exhibited on the day, offering citizens a wonderful opportunity to explore new training and career pathways. Exhibitors included Balfour

Beatty VINCI, Civil Service Jobs, DWP, Equans, Serco, The Kings Trust, Veolia and many more.

Citizens were also able to discuss their ambitions 1-to-1 with the PURE team, speak to PURE participants, take part in a Jobs Club, and join in with fun taster sessions. There was also a fantastic spoken word performance from Hussain Manawer, Sunday Times best-selling poet and author, who shared his story on dealing with loss, mental health challenges and the importance of support networks.

A big thank you to all involved

The Pure Project team would like to say a huge thank you to their providers, BCC colleagues, DWP and WMCA partners for being there to support the team. PURE is a collaborative initiative and the team is proud to work alongside its partners – and also thank all participants. They were a shining example on the day!

About PURE

The PURE Project supports people furthest from the labour market facing barriers to securing work. It is managed by Birmingham City Council

and funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Now in its third phase, PURE has helped more than 5,000 people across Birmingham to build confidence, develop new skills and find exciting opportunities.



Guest speakers sharing their story at the PURE Expo.

For more information and referrals:

Visit the website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/birmingham_pure

Email us at BirminghamPURE@birmingham.gov.uk

Call us on 0121 675 2609





Day Centre Brochure

Day opportunities commissioning team

Day opportunities in Birmingham – a brochure to explain all the options available

Adults supported by Birmingham Adult Social Care (ASC) attend a wide range of day opportunities across Birmingham and its neighbouring local authorities.

The council directly provides support at nine individual day centres, four of which also have gardening projects attached. There are also over fifty third sector and private organisations commissioned to provide day opportunities services.

Day opportunities are funded directly by Adult Social Care when someone is eligible for statutory funding. The Council will either pay directly or you can use a direct payment. Some people pay for day opportunities themselves.

Each day opportunities provider featured in the booklet has supplied details about their premises, type of support available and other information that we hope will assist you in choosing the right setting.

Please note that the information contained in the booklet is accurate as shared with us as of April 2024. Details may be subject to change and will be updated from time to time.

If you require additional support in choosing day opportunities you can contact the Commissioning Team by e-mail at Dayopportunitiesvision@birmingham.gov.uk or by calling the Adult Social Care Contact Centre on 0121 303 1234 and request a call back from John Freeman, Commissioning Manager.

Please see the January 2025 BAAPB newsletter email attachments to access the Day Centres Brochures document.

Alderman Bowen

Address: 125, Broadway Avenue, Bordesley Green, Birmingham B9 5YD

Telephone: 0121 464 1470

Website: [Adult social care - Day opportunities | Birmingham City Council](#)

Client Group

Predominantly: Learning Disabilities, physical disabilities and autism

Age Range: 18+ **Opening / Closing times** – 8am – 4:30pm – Monday to Friday.

Centre Information

Building Accessibility		Y	Single story building, fully accessible facilities.
Outdoor Space		Y	Gardens to rear of the property.
Personal Care Facilities		Y	Care Suites
Transport provided		Y	Pick up / Drop off. Carers also provide own transport.
Administering Medication		Y	In line with BCC policies & procedures.
Lunch/ snacks Diet Provision		Y	Lunch is available to purchase on site. Individual needs and any dietary requirements can be catered for, such as dysphagia, gluten free, allergens, diabetes, religious and cultural needs. Packed lunches can be brought in if preferred.
1 to 1 Care Provision		N	

Activities provided for clients

Physical Activities		Y	Enablement based sessions – food tech, personal wellbeing groups, nutrition & healthy eating, exercise groups, IT & communication, setting up personal emails, photography, creative expression through art & design. Music, drama & disco.
Sensory Activities		Y	Two light/sensory rooms, omi-vista specialist sensory interactive equipment.
Outings/Trips		Y	Trips to pub meals, parks, picnics, exercise in the community, personal shopping experiences, shopping for meal planning.
Educational Activities		Y	Literacy & numeracy sessions, personal wellbeing. Enablement based approaches.

Additional Information

Alderman Bowen is a large 120 placement centre which provides: skills for life, personal wellbeing, communication & expression, music & drama, work and volunteering opportunities. Staff and citizens are reflective of the diversity of the local community.

Example of a provider information page from the Day Centres Brochures booklet.



Website:

www.birmingham.gov.uk



Contact:

07703 373 674



Email address:

AutismADHD@birmingham.gov.uk



Disco Inclusive

Harborne Village Social Club

Providing an exciting night-time leisure activity on the last Wednesday of each month. Primarily for young adults (18-35 in age), living with cerebral palsy, a learning disability and/or autism, though all are welcome.

Talking about exciting times, Disco Inclusive is gearing up for a New Year rave on Wednesday 29th January 2025, where bright is right. Join us at the fab Harborne Village Social Club, 3 Serpentine Road, Harborne, B17 9RD, between 7pm and 10pm. Please be patient, we have limited volunteer staff so entry will not happen before 6.50pm (Ten minutes ahead of 7pm).

Who knows, in your bright gear you might make it even more exciting! Boogie down, come along and have fun.

Karl will be the popular DJ pumping out the beat. If you've a couple of tracks you would like to hear in the request slot, then write them down and post them in the magic goldfish bowls on the night. To add to the fun the last request will be delivered in Karaoke mode by a member; it could be you! It's your chance, is stardom calling?

Three lucky members and 1 lucky escort will be going home with a raffle prize, it could be you.

Please spread the word and if you are connected with an organisation, it would help if you were able to ask them to pin up the attached flyer on their notice board.

Please be mindful of the following: Covid hurts and it's still around so be good to everyone else by not coming along if you are, or feel, unwell. No drinks on the dance floor please and drink sensibly; not too much. By following these simple asks we can make it a great night for everyone.

All our volunteers are DBS registered to work with vulnerable people. They are not trained in health or care matters. If member needs support their escort (PA or carer) must be with them. Disco Inclusive provides the opportunity and facility and has public liability insurance to enable them

to do this as safely as possible.

FOR ADULTS 18+ WITH PHYSICAL & LEARNING DISABILITIES

DISCO INCLUSIVE

Boogie Night

- DJS
- DISCOS
- DANCING
- BAR
- MEET FRIENDS

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

HELD THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH: 7- 10PM

29th January
26th February
26th March

**£5 PER PERSON
FIRST CARER FREE**

HARBORNE VILLAGE SOCIAL CLUB,
3 SERPENTINE RD, HARBORNE,
BIRMINGHAM B17 9RD

www.facebook.com/DiscoInclusive

Info: Sharon Smith on (0121) 729 8431 / 07440017582
inclusiveisco330@gmail.com
Graham Price (0121) 565 2875 grahampr2@gmail.com

A fun packed night-time, leisure activity at a welcoming, exciting venue with a licenced bar and DJ playing music to meet all tastes. There's an entry charge of £5 for each member (service user), one escort (carer) per service user free. Additional escorts, (carers) may be asked to pay. Friends will pay an entry fee.





BMet Community Engage Courses @ Resources for Autism Birmingham

Resources for Autism and Birmingham Metropolitan College - BMet Engage

BMet Engage – community-based learning

We are looking for any adults 18+ (including parents/carers) who may be interested in attending our BMet community college on Fridays.

These courses are free for people living in Birmingham on means tested benefits (household income less than 25k).

Birmingham Metropolitan College - BMet Engage – community-based learning

Fridays @ Pershore Road, Selly Park, B29 7EL

“We support your access to learning and employment”.

BMet engages with Resources for Autism by offering accessible and informal education programs that support access to learning, further education, work experience and employment.

We create an inclusive and empowering environment for everyone, where each student is encouraged to develop and enhance their own unique set of skills.

After the successful delivery of our Mental Health Awareness, Digital and IT (including digital safety), Preparation for Work and Foundations for Learning and Life College certificate community courses, BMet will be covering these topics over the rest of the year:

- Environmental sustainability
- First step engagement in learning
- Healthy eating/cooking
- Parenting skills
- Physical activity

If you are interested, please complete the following [REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FORM.](#)

BMet

We support your access to learning and employment.

BMet

BMet engages with local communities by offering an informal education programme supporting access to learning and employment.

Courses are made up of 2-hour sessions, delivered over 6-weeks within the community:

- Preparation for work
- Introduction into Health and Social Care
- Introduction into Early Years and Childcare
- Introduction into Teaching and Lecturing
- Foundations for Learning and Life
- Digital and IT
- Mental Health and Wellbeing

Email community@bmet.ac.uk or visit bmet.ac.uk/community for more details

BMet



SEND Co-production Award Scheme

Lakhvir Sahota, Participation and Co-Production Officer



Introducing the SEND Co-production Award Scheme

The **Birmingham SEND Co-production Award Scheme** is a pioneering initiative designed to celebrate and embed effective co-production across education, health, and social care settings. It provides schools and organisations with a clear framework to capture the positive impact of co-production, ensuring that the voices of children, young people, and their families are at the heart of decision-making.

Through this award scheme, settings are supported in showcasing the tangible benefits of working collaboratively with families, such as improved outcomes, stronger partnerships, and enhanced community engagement. By signing up, organisations receive guidance on how to demonstrate co-production in action and gather evidence of its ripple effects across their communities.



To date, 40 organisations across education, health and the voluntary sector have received their bronze award. Many of these settings have benefited from this structured approach to embedding co-production. Early applicants are already seeing increased confidence among staff and families, greater alignment between services, and a stronger sense of shared responsibility for achieving meaningful change.

We encourage more organisations to seize this opportunity to:

- Gain recognition for their commitment to co-production.
- Build sustainable partnerships that improve experiences and outcomes for children and young people.
- Inspire a culture of collaboration and innovation within their setting.

Together, we can make co-production the cornerstone of service delivery across Birmingham.

Join the SEND Co-production Award Scheme today and be part of a movement driving real change for families and communities.

For more information and how to sign up, visit this link here: [Award Scheme - Local Offer Birmingham](#)

If you would like to discuss this Award Scheme further, please contact Lakhvir Sahota: lakhvir.sahota@birmingham.gov.uk





SEND Co-production Training 2025

Lakhvir Sahota, Participation and Co-Production Officer

SEND Co-production training award – 2025 dates now open for booking.

Following the success of co-production training in 2024, we are delighted to announce more sessions for 2025. Between February and December this year, there will be a further 10 sessions taking place at a variety of venues across Birmingham.

All sessions are free and open to all staff and volunteers working in SEND education, health, social care, and the voluntary sector services in Birmingham. Young people and parents and carers are also welcome to attend this training.

What exactly will be covered in the co-production training sessions is detailed below, as well as additional information relating to the arrival procedure and refreshments.



Purpose of these sessions:

- Hear perspectives on co-production – from young people and parent carers
- Share experiences – identify opportunities and celebrate co-production successes
- Understand the benefits– how co-production can make a difference in your work and networks
- Define co-production and the 4Cs– explore the [SEND Co-production Framework & Charter](#)
- Learn about the [SEND Co-production Award Scheme](#) – a tool to show co-productions impact in your setting

Session Date	Venue
Monday 10th February 2025: 10:00am - 13:00pm	Lakeside Children's Centre (Family Hub), B23 7ZL
Monday 10th March 2025: 10:00am - 13:00pm	Wyndcliffe Primary School, B9 5BG
Monday 7th April 2025: 10:00am - 13:00pm	Spring Housing, B42 1DT
Monday 12th May 2025: 10am -13.00pm	Ann Marie Howes Centre, B26 2DU
Monday 9th June 2025: 10am -13.00pm	Midland Mencap Pinewood, B32 3BZ
Monday 14th July 2025: 10am - 13.00pm	St Mary's Bearwood, B66 4BX
Monday 15th September 2025: 10am -13.00pm	The Sanctuary (Compass Support), B35 7PX
Monday 13th October 2025: 10am - 13.00pm	Lakeside Children's Centre (Family Hub), B23 7LY
Monday 10th November 2025: 10am - 13.00pm	(venue to be confirmed)
Monday 8th December 2025: 10am -13.00pm	Midland Mencap Pinewood, B32 3BZ

For a list of upcoming sessions, and information on how to book your place, please click the following link: [Birmingham SEND Co-production Training Sessions 2025 - Local Offer Birmingham](#)



Shaping Birmingham's Future Together Market Roadshow

Birmingham City Council



Shaping Birmingham's Future Together (SBFT) MARKETPLACE ROADSHOW 2025!

The SBFT Marketplace is a unique opportunity to connect with various local services providers, local organizations, and community and faith partners. This event is designed to bring information and resources directly to you, making it easier than ever to engage with the services that can benefit you and your community.

This marketplace will be bringing services around the following themes:

Inclusive Growth:

Ensuring all citizens benefit from Birmingham's economic growth.

Health and Wellbeing:

Promoting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing for all.

Safe and Clean:

Creating a safe and clean environment for everyone.

Connected Communities:

Building strong, connected communities.

Sustainable Future:

Working towards a sustainable and resilient future for Birmingham.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, 29th January 2025

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Venue: Highfield Hall, 127-129 Highfield Road, Hall Green, B28 0HS

Your participation is crucial in making this event a success.

For more information register your interest today:

<https://bit.ly/HallGreenSBFTMarketplace2025>

For more information or any queries, please contact our team at SBFT@Birmingham.gov.uk.



Website:
www.birmingham.gov.uk



Contact:
07703 373 674



Email address:
AutismADHD@birmingham.gov.uk



Cuppa and Chat sessions (Jan-March 2025)

Resources for Autism

Resources for Autism

West Midlands Cuppa & Chat

Monthly online
Support Group



Our monthly Cuppa & Chat is a relaxed online meet for parents & carers to share experiences, let off steam, offer support and advice to each other

Usually second Wednesday of the month
@10:30am-12:00pm (upcoming dates)

- 8th January 2025
- 12th February 2025
- 12th March 2025

To book on
please register by
CLICKING HERE or
scanning the
QR Code above

for further information please email
kelly@resourcesforautism.org.uk

www.resourcesforautism.org.uk
Charity number 1061253





Wellbeing Walks (Jan-March 2025)

Resources for Autism and the Active Wellbeing Society



FREE LUNCH & WELLBEING WALK



Meet at Hay Hall Manor House, Redfern Road, Tyseley, B11 2BE

All are welcome to come and enjoy some food, some light exercise, the outdoors and have a chat

BOOKING ESSENTIAL SO WE CAN LET YOU KNOW IF CANCELLED FOR ANY REASON.

Please come join us on
-Tuesday 14th January 2025
-Tuesday 11th February 2025
-Tuesday 11th March 2025

Lunch @ 12:30pm followed by 1 hour canal walk @ 1:30pm

For further information and to book on the walk please scan the QR Code or [CLICK HERE](#)



Contact Kelly by Email: kelly@resourcesforautism.org.uk Call: 07794230243

Please do sign up to the The Active Wellbeing Society card, which also allows you to attend some free and cost-effective events in Birmingham:

<https://theaws.co.uk/join-us/wellbeing-card/>

www.resourcesforautism.org.uk

Charity number 1061253