

Bradford Care Association - united, we make a difference.

**Join now and
enjoy free
membership**

A unique opportunity

After a hugely challenging and unprecedented time, it's more important than ever that the care sector in Bradford is able to evolve, innovate and has a voice on the local and regional stage.

Jane Wood, Assistant Director at Bradford & District Council said:

“During the last 18 months the relationship between the commissioning and contracts team in the council and the BCA has developed immensely as we have had to pull together to maintain services. Working in partnership and co-producing solutions to the challenges adult social care faces is what we need to do.”

In recognition of BCA's constructive influence, hard work and by way of a small 'thank you' to all the social care providers of Bradford, Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) has agreed to fund BCA membership fees for all social care providers in Bradford until April 2022.

This fantastic opportunity means even more care providers throughout Bradford can have a voice, take advantage of best practice resources, and influence the care sector decision makers, as well as campaigning on key issues including the fair cost of care.

In this brochure, you'll find out more about the Bradford Care Association (BCA), our work, achievements, ambitions, and how by working together, we are making a difference.



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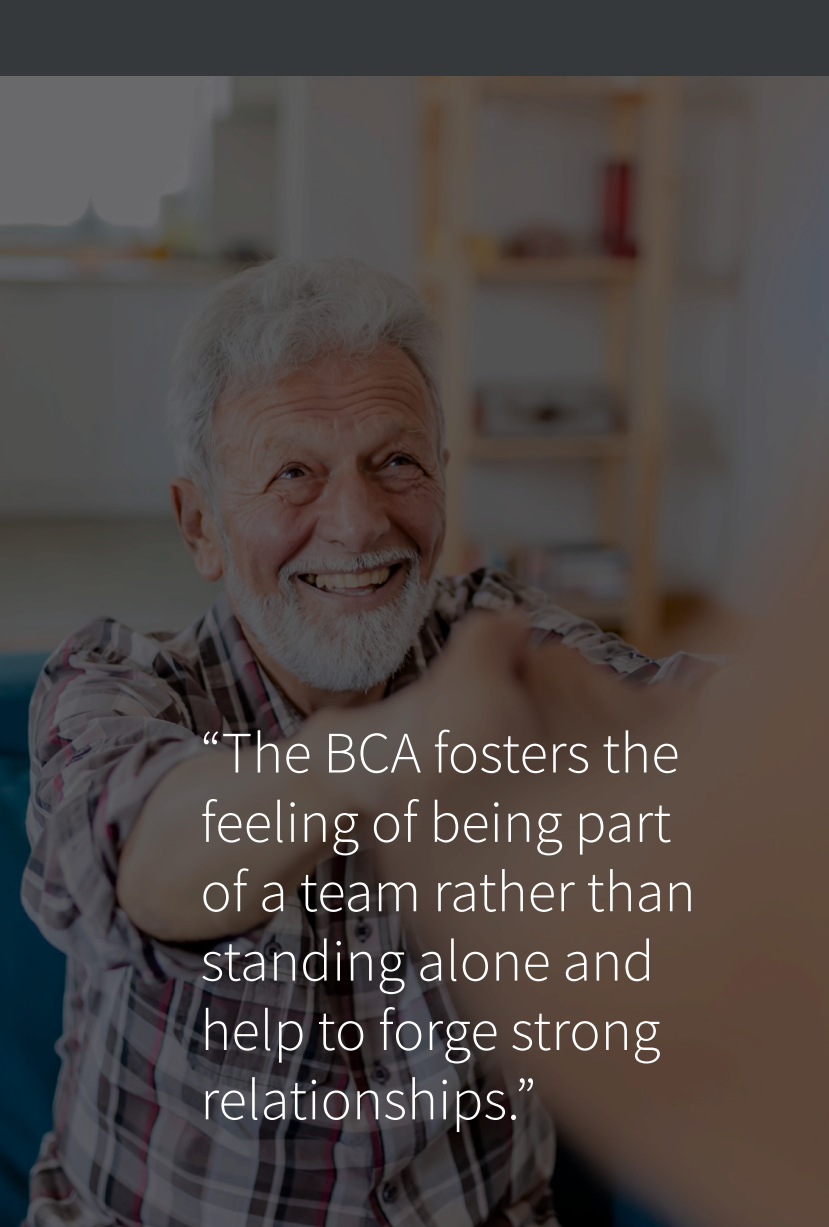
History of the BCA

The BCA was established in 2014 as a non-profit organisation with a voluntary board of directors.

Initially, the aim was to form an association that could enhance care standards throughout the Bradford district and offer support to care providers, as well as giving the sector a voice on a local and regional level, with the active support of as many members as possible.

We quickly attracted members representing care homes and home support providers from across Bradford.

Although our remit has grown significantly since then, all our core principles remain the same and still form the foundations of the BCA's ethos today.



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The BCA's purpose and vision

Over the last 18 months we have supported and brought unity to all care providers throughout Bradford, so they can provide the best care possible and work in partnership for the good of everybody.

With one shared voice, the BCA strategically influences leaders in the care sector including those in the Local Authority (LA), the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), the NHS organisations and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). As well as campaigning on key issues and shaping the vision for the future of the care sector.

The BCA strives to...

- Promote the best quality of life for the people we support.
- Help create services led by good managers, delivered by staff who feel valued and love what they do.
- Achieve a fair cost of care for care homes, home support, extra care and supported living.
- Positively engage with and support care providers.
- Share best-practice.
- Work collectively for the good of the care sector.
- Provide one powerful voice that can liaise and work closely with our system partners - The Local Authority, NHS, CCG and CQC.
- Ensure that the care sector is a key and equal partner in the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and West Yorkshire and Harrogate Integrated Care System (ICS).
- Shape the local care sector strategy to ensure the sustainability of the sector.
- Campaign for and raise awareness of issues, risks and solutions.
- Evidence the value of the care sector's contribution to keeping people happy and healthy at home.
- Lobby at a local, regional, and national level for the good of all members.
- Develop new and improved models of care.
- Lead innovation in the care sector.

The BCA are active members of the Care Association Alliance (CAA), the alliance was established as a means of local care associations to exchange best practice based on their experiences as well as being useful a vehicle to highlight the challenges and issues faced by care providers directly to the central decision makers such as the Department of Health and Social Care.

Benefits for members

In addition to all this, the BCA's members enjoy a whole host of benefits including...

● Practical help:

- Advice, guidance and information on best practice, including quality workshops, a dedicated WhatsApp group for managers and an insightful, regular news bulletin.
- Informative tools and best-practice documents to support providers with assessments and inspections including the CQC Provider Information Return (PIR) Workbook.
- Training, support and direction on funding and grants as well as DSPT/GDPR compliance support.
- Help attract a high-quality workforce through value based recruitment
- Advice on developing and retaining the current workforce through training and incentives
- Access to resources to help staff health and well-being

● Communication and endorsements:

- Direct access to leaders within the Local Authority, the CQC, the CCG, NHS and ICS
- BCA Membership demonstrate to CQC a provider's commitment to quality of care, sharing of best practice, local engagement, and continuous improvement.
- Membership certificate.



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● Cost savings:

- Specialist discounted training and leadership development support.
- Procedural support and guidance on Covid-19 testing, PPE, medication, and hospital admissions/ discharges.
- Access to members only special discounted prices and offers for a range of services such as Person-Centred Software and Altura Training.

The BCA's Successes

BCA is a signatory to the strategic partnering agreement which means the independent sector is seen as an important part of the health and care system and is around the table at system strategic meetings, including at the system executive board.

In recent years the BCA has helped to encourage a move to a fairer care fee for care homes and home support providers across Bradford.

In addition, the BCA successfully worked with the Local Authority to develop the approach to distributing the grants to achieve the greatest benefits for the sector and provided support and guidance to enable providers to understand the range of areas the grants could be used for. Covid-19 support grants, workforce grants and occupancy support were given to providers – without which many would have not survived the last 18 months. This was not replicated in other Local Authorities - and the BCA is currently representing the sector with the LA to develop a shared cost of care methodology to ensure the sustainability of the sector. The close working relationship between the BCA and the LA ensured that the needs of the sector were heard and understood, resulting in the development of the occupancy support scheme.

Working collectively gets results but there is still much more to do so that we can help achieved equality and parity with the NHS for members.



Plus, don't just take our word for it, our latest survey asked members what the BCA does extremely well. This is what members has to say about the BCA...

"The BCA informs, supports and communicates. It represents and gives the sector a strong voice."

"The BCA offers valuable networking opportunities and provides valuable training and workshops."

"The BCA fosters the feeling of being part of a team rather than standing alone and help to forge strong relationships."

"The BCA listens to everyone and makes members feel equal and a valuable part of the team. It also plays an important role in funding negotiations and legislative changes."

Sam Dawson, Head of Care at Care @ Carers' Resource, said: "Having the BCA organise regular Covid meetings and IPC meetings has been key to not only keeping up with all the changes, but to share concerns and issues. The BCA is the voice of the providers working with the local authority and it has been refreshingly positive. Quality workshops have also been invaluable and give us the time to reflect, take a breath and listen to peers about what they have done. It gives us an opportunity to focus on what we need to do to in order to continue being compliant, as well as a chance to showcase the outstanding work that has been going on in the sector. Thank you."

Karen Pogson, Registered Manager, at Active Social Care Ltd said: "The BCA is the most professional and developmental group I've ever been part of. It is so 'on point' with current issues and offers guidance and resources to manage these. Its Quality Workshops are invaluable. In addition to this, the BCA does an excellent job in representing the views and needs of members in local and wider forums. I would highly recommend membership of this group to any care manager within the district."

Why join BCA?

The BCA's members benefit from cost savings on training and benefit free quality workshops, networking opportunities and toolkits. Crucially, with a collaborative and open approach, BCA members are also on hand to support each other and work together to champion Bradford's care sector.

What you need to do

Membership is free until March 2022 thanks to funding provided by the Local Authority and all you need to do now is register for free membership by returning your completed membership form and start enjoying all the benefits that being part of BCA offers.

**For further help or information,
contact admin@bradfordcareassociation.org or
visit <http://bradfordcareassociation.org/>**

Iain MacBeath, Strategic Director at Bradford & District Council, said:

“Covid 19 has been a huge challenge for everyone, but the care sector and its dedicated workforce has been on the frontline throughout the pandemic.

The BCA is playing a leading role in improving both standards of care and influencing decisions that will shape the future of the sector, so I urge all care providers throughout Bradford to join the organisation and help give social care the recognition it deserves.

In recognition of this, we're delighted to be able to fund the BCA's membership fees until next year and collaborate with the sector into the future.”