



Borders Voluntary Care Voice (BVCV) – formerly Borders Voluntary Community Care Forum (BVCCF)

BVCCF was established in 1991 in response to the NHS and Community Care Act (1990). Its remit was to act as a channel of communication between the Health Board and the local authority on all matters to do with the planning and provision of community care.

Representatives came forward as interested individuals or nominated by local voluntary groups to speak on behalf of their local communities – service users and carers, as well as those involved in providing services.

In January 1992, Annette Scobie was appointed as part time Co-ordinator, with financial support from Borders Regional Council Social Work Department.

The aim was to inform people about developments in community care and influence the ongoing review of community care plans.

It has since represented the interests of health and social care service users and carers, and the local third sector, in the planning and provision of community care.

It has been instrumental in establishing several services in the Borders, identifying a need and working with local agencies and communities to meet it.

Projects often started off under the wing of BVCCF, with high levels of support, and became established as independent organisations in their own right.

BVCCF helped to set up a range of forums and groups, to support the establishment of planning mechanisms. It also developed a track record of quality and in-depth reviews, consultations and evaluations of services, including those in pilot stages and services facing change.



Milestones 1991 – 2016

- 1991 BVCCF set up by the local Councils of Voluntary Service
- 1992 Social Work agreed funding – Annette Scobie appointed as Co-ordinator
- 1993
- NHS Borders agreed to joint funding – BVCCF representation on Joint Officers Group
 - New Horizons Borders re-established – funded through Mental Illness Specific Grant
- 1994
- ‘Always Having To Be There’ survey of carers – Feedback Event
 - Community Care Development Fund – set up to fund new initiatives in community care
 - Learning Disability User Group – ‘Finding Out About You’
 - Funding for 2 year pilot projects agreed for Age Concern and People First Borders
- 1995
- Set up Princess Royal Trust for Carers – Borders Carers Centre
 - Mental Health Consultation Report published – discussion seminar
 - Set up Panel for People with Physical Disabilities and Sensory Loss
- 1996
- Pilot funding agreed for independent advocacy – preparation of service specification

Milestones 1991 – 2016

- 1997
 - Day Care Survey – ‘A Second Home to Us’ – seminar and training event
 - Borders Independent Advocacy Service – commissioned to provide generic advocacy
 - Adopted a Code of Practice and Good Practice Guidelines for members
 - Study of Users and Carers Views of Assessment and Care Management

- 1998
 - Funding for People First Scotland Worker Project agreed through Social Work
 - Borders Disability Forum established as an independent organisation
 - Survey of People with a Visual Impairment – special event
 - PRT – Borders Carers Centre set up as independent organisation

- 1999
 - ‘Assessment and Access to Mental Health Services’ – presented to JCT for Mental Health
 - Better Government for Older People – Project Steering Group and Task Groups
 - ‘Charging Policy and Practice’ report – submitted to the Social Work Committee

- 2000
 - Carers Planning Group set and BVCCF asked to Chair the CPG
 - Respite Care Consultation – Short Breaks
 - Borders Advocacy Forum set up

Milestones 1991 – 2016

- 2001
 - Ten Year Review and 10th Anniversary Conference – ‘Challenges and Changes’
 - Management and development support for Borders Direct Payments Agency
 - Support to Borderline to become an independent organisation
 - Set up Borders Visual Impairment Network with the Borders Disability Forum (BDF)
 - Set up Wheelchair User Group with the BDF

- 2002
 - Support to Interest Link to become border-wide organisation
 - Residential Care Survey and Occupational Therapy User Satisfaction Survey
 - Launch of Care Directory and Carers Information Pack
 - Healthy Minds Conference – Tweed Horizons

- 2003
 - Wheelchair User Group – Survey of Wheelchair Users – launch of report
 - ‘Carers the Key Partners’ Conference – Tweed Horizons

- 2004
 - Mental Health Development Worker post established

- 2005
 - Representation on the new Community Health and Care Partnership
 - Living Well and Staying Well in the Scottish Borders – special event
 - ‘Finding Out’ Project – exhibition and launch of reports
 - Independent Evaluation of Borders Direct Payments Agency

Milestones 1991 – 2016

- 2006
 - ‘The Next Steps’ – special event – Borders Direct Payments Agency
 - Night Support Service Evaluation – discussion seminar
 - Consultation on Mental Health Rehabilitation Services – report and presentation
 - Vulnerable Adult Protection Unit – BVCCF established as a point of contact

- 2007
 - Day Centres for Older People – Consultation Project
 - Mental Health Day Services – Consultation Project

- 2008
 - Pilot of re-discover Borders in partnership with ‘Health in Mind’
 - Pilot of Neighbourhood Links in partnership with British Red Cross
 - Borders Direct Payments Agency set up as an independent organisation
 - Audit of Training Needs of Independent and Voluntary Sector Providers

- 2009
 - Assessment and Care Management Survey – follow up survey for SWIA
 - Moved to new accessible in Galashiels with People First Borders
 - Launch of the pilot of Borders Learning Network

Milestones 1991 – 2016

- 2010
 - Support to New Horizons Borders to become an independent organisation
 - Home Care Survey – independent evaluation of all home care services
 - New Co-ordinator appointed – Jenny Miller
- 2011
 - Review of Independent Advocacy in the Borders completed,
 - Advocacy Forum re-established.
 - BCLN mainstreamed.
- 2012
 - Parent Carer Working Group re-established
 - Launched updated Borders Carers Strategy
- 2013
 - New organisation, Borders Voluntary Care Voice, established
- 2014
 - Special annual event for Carers Week established
- 2015
 - Ability Borders set up
- 2016
 - Borders Dementia Working Group established