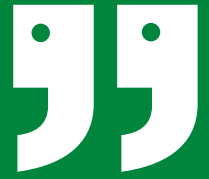


Have your say

Borders  
Voluntary  
Care Voice



# ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016



1991-2016

25<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

There are

**88**

individual and  
organisational BVCV  
members

Our second event to celebrate **Carers Week** was held on 10th June 2015. More than 80 people attended. Topics for the day were Playlist for Life, young carers, young adult carers and the Carers (Scotland) Bill. There was a series of workshops in the afternoon.



## Activities and achievements

- recruitment of new Mental Health Development Worker
- increased service user representation and involvement in planning in relation to mental health
- supported the development of Ability Borders, a user-led information organisation for people with physical disabilities and long term conditions
- supported the establishment of Borders Dementia Working Group, a voice for people with dementia in the Borders
- expanded the Borders Care Learning Network training programme for the health and social care workforce
- began project planning to improve online and offline access to health and social care information for public and professionals
- represented the interests of third sector health and social care providers at the Integration Joint Board (IJB) which went live in April 2016.

The **Carers Planning Group** has focused on reviewing and refreshing the Borders Carers Strategy, which ended in 2015. The new strategy will include developments in relation to carers' assessments, Self-directed Support and the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

In partnership with **Borders Carers Centre**, we facilitated a residential training weekend in February 2016 at Peebles Hydro. It involved carers who care for someone with an acute and enduring mental illness.



- ▲ Some of the attendees at the first meeting of Ability Borders, in Eyemouth in February.

We provided  
**£2,637**  
in grants through our  
Tailor Made Training  
programme

There are  
**30**  
regular members of  
our user and carer  
working groups

## Working Groups

All of our working groups - User Carer Working Group, Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum and Parent Carer Working Group - had a busy year, with wide-ranging discussions on a number of issues, making representations to statutory bodies, and being involved in consultations.

### User Carer Working Group

- commented on promotional materials for Medicines Awareness Week
- provided feedback on welfare benefits as part of a Scottish Government consultation on how to administer and run the system if devolved
- took part in consultation on the strategic plan for health and social care integration
- discussed monitoring the quality of care at Borders General Hospital, and sharing patient information in NHS Borders.

### Parent Carer Working Group

- Scottish Borders Council Integrated Children's Services agreed that this group would be the focal point for consultations
- acted as a focus group for Care Inspectorate inspection of children's services
- consulted on Children and Young People's Service review and draft plan
- responded to consultations on "A Healthier Scotland" and the health and social care draft strategic plan.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum

- Consultation Cafés in 2015 looked at prioritising recommendations of the mental health needs assessment and reviewing plans for health and social care integration
- discussion on training and development for Psychological Services staff
- considered the impact of charging for social work services
- supported service users to sit on external governing bodies.



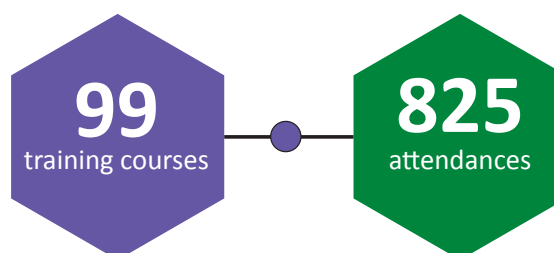
▲ **Live a Life**, formerly People First Borders, had to scale down its operations due to a lack of funding and having no worker in post.

Group meetings ceased and the AGM was held in October 2015, when the members were consulted on the local transport strategy.

BVCCV continued to look at ways to keep Live a Life operating and offered support throughout the year.

However, in August 2016, the members agreed that the organisation would cease to exist and it is now in the process of winding down.

Borders Care Learning Network - 2015



### Borders Advocacy, Advice and Support Forum (BAASF)

ceased its meetings to enable a review of membership and format to take place.

The decision took into account the need to update the Independent Advocacy Plan which ran until 2015.

The Advocacy Planning Group began work on updating the plan and identifying gaps.



## Aiming for a strong third health and social care sector in the Scottish Borders

We consulted with members and working groups on the draft strategic plan for health and social care integration and represented the third sector on the Shadow Integration Board. We are now one of the third sector representatives on the Integration Joint Board (IJB).

We have established an integration reference group, comprising BVCV members, to review papers for the IJB meetings and ensure providers have an input. We are currently working with Third Sector Interface partners to look at how to improve third sector engagement and representation in integration.

Working with partners in the third and statutory sectors, we reviewed the need for an online resource, and acted as the project lead on a proposal to the Integrated Care Fund to take forward this work.

BVCV represents third sector health and social care organisations, and service users and carers, on a range of strategic groups:

- Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board
- Health and Social Care Strategic Planning Group
- Integrated Care Fund Steering Group
- Primary & Community Care Partnership/ Borders Older People's Partnership
- Dementia Strategy Partnership Group
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board
- Mental Health Improvement Steering Group
- Joint Physical Disability Strategy Group
- Self-directed Support Project Board
- Carers Planning Group.

## Internal evaluation - what you told us

*A strong and respected voice for third sector and service users and carers.*

*BVCV is an important organisation which brings together members from a variety of specialised care groups and agencies who recognise a need for much greater communication and co-operation between us all.*

*Hope BVCV continues to work in the positive way it currently does, influencing across a range of areas, but with particular regard to enabling the Third Sector to assume a more robust leadership role strategically in health and social care planning and development.*



87% said that the work of BVCV was "excellent" or "very good".



70% said being a BVCV member made a difference to their organisation.



◀ BVCV Co-ordinator Jenny Miller with John Lamont, Jim Hume and Claudia Beamish at our annual meeting with MSPs in January 2016.