

Department of Adult Social Care and Health

Public Health
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To: Favor UK Recovery Walk Team

Email: Andrew.taylor@bradford.gov.uk

Date: 07 August 2025

Sensitivity: RESTRICTED

Dear UK Recovery Walk Team,

On behalf of the leadership in City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council I am writing, as Interim Director for the Public Health Department, to express our full support for the bid to host the UK Recovery Walk 2026 in Bradford.

The Recovery Walk 2026 hosting strongly aligns to our principles for treatment and recovery, as set out in our strategic Bradford District Combating Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (CADP) priority plan as follows:

- Evidence-Based Approach: Leveraging successful strategies from elsewhere and using real-time information.
- Lived Experience: Involving individuals with first-hand experience of drug-related harm.
- Adaptability: Remaining responsive and flexible, incorporating additional stakeholders as needed.
- System-Wide Engagement: Ensuring all parties are involved and share responsibility.
- Influence and Visibility: Seizing opportunities to meet identified priorities and increase awareness.

In our duties, outlined in the drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners, our commission of Create Strength Group (CSG) to deliver a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) function is central to the CADP. The commission with CSG specifically includes the Lived Experience Evaluation Project (LEEP) which provides the space for those with lived and living experience of alcohol and drug use and recovery to facilitate the development of our local treatment and recovery systems.

We are confident in CSG's ability to lead on the Recovery Walk 2026 hosting application, bringing their experience of engaging those with lived experience. Were the application to host be successful, the delivery group involved with the pre-application discussions will continue to support the scheduling and finer details of a well organised event.

The delivery group has already provided much advice to CSG on hosting events in Bradford city centre and capitalising on Bradford's City of Culture 2025 legacy. It is here we feel hosting the Recovery Walk 2026 shall provide further opportunity for treatment and recovery organisations across the UK, as well as local artists and creative organisations, to celebrate the heritage and culture of the diverse communities who call Bradford home.

CSG, our LERO, will ensure that the lived experience of their recovery alumni, as well as that of our treatment providers, is woven throughout the planning and delivery process. This is an opportunity to galvanise the talent and resourcefulness of those with lived and living experience and allow their stories to take centre stage, not only to support the success of this event but also to provide exposure to supporting industries.

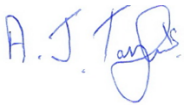
Public Health Bradford have already provided CSG with the financial resource to undertake the co-ordination of the detailed planning of this event, and lead the working group, were Bradford to be successful. Further resources shall also be arranged, to ensure the success of this event.

The proposed UK Recovery Walk 2026 is scheduled for **12th September 2026** and will take place at **City Park**. This location is central to the Bradford City and accessible to those traveling by public transport or by personal transport. Furthermore, those attending the Recovery Walk will be greeted by the architectural heritage of the Wool Exchange, St George's Hall, City Hall and the newly upgraded Norfolk Gardens Park, which runs alongside City Hall.

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's Public Health department are dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of our residents and also that of those working and visiting our district. We, the Council Leadership, wholeheartedly endorse this bid and look forward to working closely with all partners to make the UK Recovery Walk 2026 a significant and memorable event for everyone involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Taylor

**Interim Deputy Director of Public Health
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council**

“Working Together to Deliver Better Health and Better Lives”