# Bristol Disability Equality Forum Update 22nd April 2020

[From Laura J Welti]

Apologies I can’t be with you, as planned.

**1. Locally**

1. We:

* Moved what projects we can online,
* set up daily peer support, socialising and information Zoom meetings and,
* for those not digitally connected, a weekly telephone call offering the same.

1. We’ve set up a Covid page on our website, providing info across the spectrum.
2. We ‘meet’ weekly with Council senior leadership team and cabinet members, to:

* hear what they’re doing,
* raise issues/unmet needs and disability equality perspectives.

1. On Thursdays we meet with a cross-sector of equalities’ communities’ groups to co-ordinate our work and ensure intersectionality.
2. We’re advising the Manager of the Council Communications team on the provision of accessible communications about Covid-19.

**2. Sub-regionally**

We’re on the (‘ex-Avon’) CCG’s Covid-19 advisory group focusing on equalities.

We’re also acutely aware that half of the sub-region is well behind the other half in terms of effective management of the pandemic in their area.

**3. Nationally**

We:

a. Campaigned against the Coronavirus Bill allowing for the suspension or variation of our rights under the Care Act, mental health legislation and regulations.

b. Are campaigning for the small and micro VCS to receive government support, on a par with the private sector.

c. Persuaded the most influential of our local MPs to raise a proposal of ours with the ministers concerned, that would prevent anyone having to be discharged to a care home i.e. temporary rehab units akin to the Nightingale Hospitals being funded.

**4. Successes**

Unfortunately, there isn’t time to cover this but I’d be happy to circulate something if delegates would like. Suffice it to say that we believe our previous work with the CCG to get them to prioritise co-production across the whole CCG – was instrumental in them approaching equalities groups for advice, as soon as Covid-19 was a reality here.

We also know that the Council have introduced certain support subsequent to our approaching them.