



March 2017 - Wider Activity Report

Bristol Chamber of Commerce & West of England Initiative (BCCI) has as its major strategic priorities:

- West of England Devolution – including Combined Authority and Metro Mayor
- Sustainable long term growth plan for West of England
- Partnership working including LEP, City Office, Destination Bristol
- Linking business to schools and education

This wider activity reports sets out many of the other activities, projects and programmes that BCCI leads or supports. Sitting at the centre of Business West, the core purpose of the Initiative is to enable the business community to focus on the long term improvement of its social and economic infrastructure and place making to make this city region the very best place to live and work, for the whole population.

It undertakes this through supporting or leading a wide range of activities which include: Supporting Younger & Older People, Education & Skills, Diversity, Housing, tackling Exploitation & encouraging Ethical and social enterprise, Armed Forces, Sustainable Place, Sport: Health and Wellbeing.

Supporting Younger & Older People

Bristol Young Heroes Award - Bristol Young Heroes Awards is an annual gala dinner to celebrate the best of Bristol as found in the lives of its young people. It's the city's 'Oscars' for those who have overcome challenge and adversity to live life to the full, both for themselves and for others. BCCI will continue on-going annual support of promotion of the Awards and helping the organisers gather sponsorship, raise profile and include in any relevant Business West communications. www.bristolyoungheroesawards.co.uk

Key4Life - A social venture and charity creating innovative solutions to help reduce youth offending and gang warfare. BCCI is supporting through introducing Key4Life to businesses within the area and helping through mentoring opportunities. The challenge is to help young men coming out of jail onto a new path through mentoring, work tasters, and ultimately to assist them in finding and sustaining long-term employment in order to create a new future. www.key4life.org.uk

Learning Ships - My Future My Choice - We support the project through our Bristol Initiative Charitable Trust. Now 7 years on, this programme led by Hugh Thomas has engaged with over 6000 children. My Future My Choice introduces children and young people to the vast range of exciting opportunities available for their future. Exploring the past and future to encourage them to open their minds to the possibilities and have the self-belief that they can achieve and be successful and happy in school and in whatever they chose to do in life. www.myfuturemychoice.co.uk

LinkAge - LinkAge is a Bristol driven partnership, working to support the facilitation of inspiring social activities that enrich lives, reduce isolation and loneliness and promote active participation in local communities. The Initiative supported LinkAge's bid for funding into research projects to look into functions that may help promote active participation. This is in conjunction with UWE Bristol and the Bristol Robotics Laboratory. www.linkagebristol.org.uk

Babbasa - Babbasa is a Bristol social enterprise that sets out to support the professional aspirations of young people, irrespective of their background. By supporting young people through a flagship programme made up of three core projects: Empowered, Ask About Me and Bright Ideas. BCCI is supporting Babbasa with their "Change 300 futures" programme, an ambitious campaign to support 300 aspiring young people from Bristol's disadvantaged inner city communities to progress into work, further education or self-employment over the course of 2017. #change300futures. www.Babbasa.byep.org.uk

Skills & Education

Avon Scout Association - James Durie sits on the Board for the West of England area and is helping to establish new groups in some of the areas across the West of England where there are gaps, in particular in some of the more challenged communities. www.avonscouts.org.uk

South Bristol Youth - Aim of raising attainment and bridging gap between school and college. SBYC run events such as Young Professional Women's Week, aimed at 11-16 year olds. The consortium currently supports over 1350 students. Business West is making ourselves aware of this as its part of our skills agenda and feeds into the bigger picture. Our Business West Skills West team also work to support this Consortium. www.southbristoloyouth.com

Learning Partnership West - BCCI Chairman John Savage, chairs this organisation which provide education and learning to troubled teens. LPW work with children and young people, their parents and communities to make Bristol a better place, more inclusive, with quality opportunities and choices for all, celebrating the diversity of one of the most vibrant cities in the UK. www.lpw.org.uk

Teach First - a national programme whose mission to end educational inequality drives- it is an ambitious goal but by working in partnership with schools, universities, charities, businesses and individuals this goal is becoming a reality. BCCI engages our business community and provides support to Teach First. www.teachfirst.org.uk

Ablaze - a not for profit charity providing mentoring, reading buddies, mock interviews and high-end achiever programmes are some of the work streams managed by Ablaze. BCCI continue to support Ablaze and promote opportunities for businesses to help Ablaze achieve their objectives with schools and learning providers. www.ablazebristol.org

The Park, Knowle - offer facilities and opportunities for all residents of all ages, from fitness and well-being to business hub and creative studios. Local people are at the heart of everything that goes on. The facilities are set in pleasant surroundings and a professional environment to accommodate a wide range of ages and interests. The Park is run as a trust chaired by one of our Initiative members, David Freed. www.theparkknowle.org.uk

Strengthening our communities

To build a diverse, stronger and more successful Bristol BCCI is involved and leading on a number of different initiatives and research, to better understand our diverse communities and economy to build a more resilient economy and workforce and help create social capital and cohesion, and more successful businesses. We are working in a number of ways to achieve this and have developed a series of events with a number of different members and partners, including West of England LEP and Mayor Marvin Rees and Bristol City Council, Black South West Network, MTM Awards, Babbasa, Stapleton Road Traders and Bristol Pakistan Association.

We recently ran a dedicated BAME Export workshop at Barton Hill Settlement. This was a fully booked workshop, feedback extremely positive so plan to run more of these within the communities.

Award winning 91 Ways - 91 Ways is a very exciting initiative led by Kalpna Woolf and supported by a diverse group of individuals and organisations including our Bristol Initiative Charitable Trust. The aim is to engage everyone across Bristol to build a better, more united, sustainable city. There are 91 different languages spoken across our city and this project helps to determine a better understanding of how Bristol's communities live; their behaviour, their food journeys and how they engage with our city. www.91ways.org/about-us

Bristol & Bath Regional Capital CIC – Business West and the Initiative are founding members of this new organization which is creating new ways of building and financing social infrastructure in this City region at a time when public monies are diminishing. www.bab-rc.uk

Housing

Homelessness - Mayor Marvin Rees has set up a "City Office" which aims to tackle city-wide issues - one of which being the Homeless within our City. There are now over 100 people sleeping rough in the city, increased from under 20 only 3 years ago. We at BCCI are working with a number of partners including Golden Key, Second Step, Crisis Ministries and Bristol & Bath Regional Capital to develop a series of programmes aimed at reducing homelessness in the city. The first priority has been to create 100 new bed spaces in locations identified by the working group. Second priority is to a Hearts & Minds Campaign and thirdly a Livelihood programme. The Initiative team works closely with the City Office to help achieve these objectives.

First Bus has donated 2 double-decker buses to be converted into homeless shelters. We will be inviting Initiative members to help develop this project. For further information please visit: www.bristol.gov.uk/mayor/city-office

BCCI has a seat on the **Bristol Homes Board**, chaired by Mayor Marvin Rees which has as its principle aim to build new affordable homes each year along with delivering the best use of our existing housing stock.

Bristol YMCA – We sit on the Advisory Board and work alongside partners to enable the build of a new 90 bed hostel for the centre of Bristol. The initiative will continue to support the development of future projects. www.bathymca.co.uk

Exploitation & Ethical Business

Anti-Slavery partnership (ASP) & Unseen – ASP is made up of Avon & Somerset Constabulary, local authorities, business representatives and Unseen and works to help eradicate modern day slavery and exploitation. The Initiative and Unseen recently held a business information event centred on the newly released TISC Report which helps business register their intent to help tackle modern day slavery. The Initiative sits on various crime forums to ensure we are providing the voice of business and sharing our knowledge with our business community. Future business engagement events will be planned with our partners. www.unseenuk.org

TISC Report – BCCI are one of the strategic partners of TISC Report. This is the world's largest Open Data Registry committed to ending Modern Slavery, joining up Transparency In Supply Chains (TISC) reporting globally. We are encouraging our businesses in Bristol and the South West and across the country to join TISC Report and pledge to become transparent about their supply chains and help end modern day slavery. www.tiscreport.org

Fairtrade Business Awards – These Awards reward businesses that demonstrate commitment to using and promoting Fairtrade. We encourage all our businesses where possible to make this commitment and support locally sourced, and Fairtrade products. Business West supports these awards with Event Management and promotion and has done this for a number of years and will continue to do so. www.bristolfairtrade.org.uk

Bristol Zero Tolerance – This initiative aims to make Bristol a city free from gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation. BCCI supports this initiative and was a lead organisation signing the Zero Tolerance pledge.

City of Sanctuary - This is a national network to welcome, support and celebrate people seeking sanctuary and link them with work experience and employment. BCCI help this organisation to engage with the business community by running a variety of engagement activities.

Sustainable Place

Green Sustainability - Post 2015 European Green Capital, David Mellor as Vice President of BCCI sits on the board of the Bristol Green Capital Partnership which aims to help create a sustainable city with a high quality of life for all. Live projects on this include Reuse Bristol. www.bristolgreencapital.org

Go Green – BCCI continue to work in partnership with Low Carbon South West to deliver the Go Green project across our city. This aims to inspire all businesses to adopt more sustainable practices through its online tool and event programme. This project has to date engaged with over 1500 businesses since its birth for 2015 European Green Capital year. www.gogreenbusiness.co.uk

Sport - Health & Wellbeing

Bristol is European City of Sport 2017. Bristol (alongside 15 other European cities) has been awarded the prestigious title of European City of Sport 2017. This is in recognition of our great sports facilities, our current physical activity levels, success of local sports clubs and sporting events and how Bristol works together to provide high quality sports provision. This year will feature European City of Sport activity cumulating in a city-wide conference toward the end of the year.

BCCI has partnered with **Bristol Sport** with an aim of adding value for members and both parties promoting to the wider business community to actively get involved with sport and its associated health and wellbeing benefits during Bristol's year as European City of Sport #makingbristolproud. BCCI also supports the work done by Bristol Sport, helping them engage businesses and showcase the city region's top tier professional clubs. www.bristol-sport.co.uk

BCCI is helping to establish a new **Bristol Sports partnership** which uses sport to create opportunities for business and people; enabling us to lead healthier lives through sporting engagement.

We support and work with **WESPORT** charity and county sports partnership, managing grass roots and community projects and supporting the Workplace Challenge. This challenge encourages businesses to get their staff active by "Livening up Your Lunch" which helps employees discover bite size activities. www.wesport.org.uk

Access Sport is also supported by BCCI and uses sport and in particular BMX cycling, as a mechanism to engage youngsters from challenged backgrounds and help to advise and support them to make smarter life choices. www.accesssport.org.uk

Armed Forces

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly. Bristol is the signatory of the covenant and BCCI work with the Armed Forces to support through services, policy and projects relationship and support on-going.



Working in partnership to make Bristol, Bath & the West of England the best place in which to live and operate in business for all our citizens.

 @BW_initiative

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www.initiativewest.co.uk

