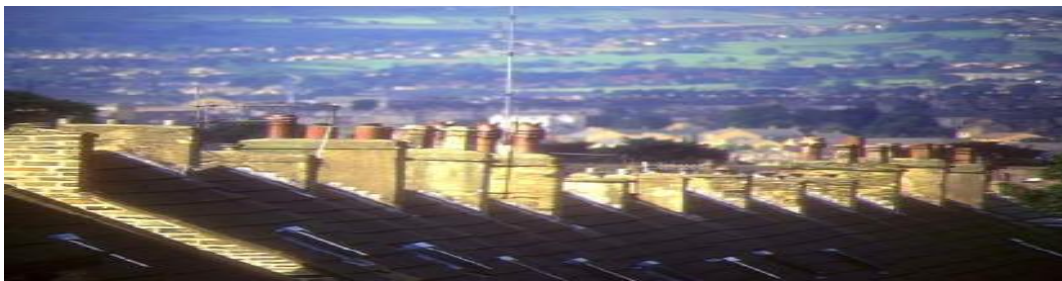


# A Green Manifesto for Bradford District



## Social Services



ShIPLEY Green Party  
April 2010





# Social Services

## The issue

The Green Party believes that every individual in society has an equal right to food, water, warmth and housing. This is a fundamental right if life is to have quality and meaning and individuals are to enjoy dignity and respect. There will always be people who require special consideration to ensure that their needs are met and their welfare assured. Society has an obligation to its least advantaged members

Strategy and delivery of social services must be based on real respect for service users (including carers) and staff. The main focus should be on preventative work with individuals, families and communities. Reducing inequalities and rebuilding self sustaining local communities is the key to reducing demand.

## In Bradford

There is huge demand on social services in Bradford. Children's services and elderly care are costly (i.e. the cost of adoption and fostering and out of authority care). Support for the voluntary services has been eroded by cuts in national and local grants and the recent attempt by the Council to scale back the community development services has created great uncertainty.

Your green councillors have:

- ▶ opposed the Conservatives' attempt to shackle community development at every level and have been partly successful in our attempts to change the Council's view on this;
- ▶ highlighted Bradford's unfair Statutory Spending Assessment (the amount central government gives us);
- ▶ worked closely with local communities to find out what it is local people need and want;
- ▶ sought to persuade the Council to prioritise spending on preventative work such as early intervention with families and basic care such as home helps, day centres and aids and appliances for elderly and disabled people to stay at home (including stair rails and ramps so that people's homes are accessible and access to the outside world is less of a challenge);
- ▶ supported partnership grants to support benefits advice services and voluntary groups which provide real value for money in the services they provide;
- ▶ helped to ensure that central government funding such as Regeneration funding, Health Action Zones and Sure Start helps to plug gaps in local spending and is targeted at the right areas and to those in most need.



## What would a Green Council do?

In addition to continuing the strategies outlined above, a green council would:

- ▶ encourage the setting up, and fund, cost effective schemes such as befriending schemes for people with mental illness;
- ▶ increase the number of day centres across the district;
- ▶ set up a joint housing and community care working group with the aim of encouraging Incommunities and council services to work more closely together for the benefit of the more vulnerable people in the district;
- ▶ encourage and support carers' forums across the district;
- ▶ launch a review of any existing charges for services on people whose sole income is from Income Support, with a view to ensuring that none of these people is charged in future.

