

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**GIVING PEOPLE THE BEST START IN LIFE:  
UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD'S PROFESSOR NEIL  
SMALL TO DELIVER INTERACTIVE 'HEALTHY CITY'  
TALK AND Q&A AT BRADFORD CATHEDRAL**



Why are some people in Bradford healthy, and others sick?

What lessons can we learn from Bradford to help improve the lives of those growing up here and in other UK and European cities?

How can research help give young people the best start in life?

The next talk in the 'Flourishing City' series of the events will address these questions and many others, as Professor Neil Small of the University of Bradford delivers a talk at Bradford Cathedral on the subject of 'Healthy City', which follows the previous talk from Anne-Marie Canning MBE entitled 'Flourishing City'.

The talk will look at the health inequalities that Bradford faces and how the health service, lifestyles and the environment can be adapted to tackle them. Professor Small will reference the 'Born in Bradford' project, which looks at the health of the city's residents, and how this research can help improve the lives of not only those living in Bradford but those in other cities across the world.

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**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

Professor Neil Small:

“[Through this talk] we will look at what a Flourishing City involves. It’s axiomatic that a Flourishing City needs healthy children as they are the future of the city. Lots of people stay in Bradford; the city doesn’t have a huge amount of movement outside of Bradford. These are the children growing up now who’ll be the future Bradfordians, shaping the city. The better start in life that they get the more we can carry that good experience into the future, but health is the product is all the things that go on in somebody’s life.

“It’s not just about the medical care that they get. It’s about the environment that they grow up in. What we need to do is bring everyone together and ask what is impacting on health and what is producing ill health in the children of the city, and what we can do to address that. What I want to do is to contribute to a debate that’s going on across the city about how we can work together in a way that promotes the future wellbeing of the city, in this case through the health of its children.

“What I want to do is share thoughts about what we’ve done; share thoughts about what’s working elsewhere; and to encourage people to share their thoughts about what the most urgent health issues are and about the ways that we might work together to address those issues.”

*Flourishing City: Healthy City will be held at Bradford Cathedral on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm, with refreshments from 6:30pm. Free tickets can be reserved at [bradfordcathedral.eventbrite.com](http://bradfordcathedral.eventbrite.com), by visiting Bradford Cathedral, by calling the Cathedral office on 01274 77 77 20, or you can turn up on the door.*

**ENDS**

## Notes for Editors

### **Available for interview:**

Professor Neil Small

A longer piece about this event can be found on the Bradford Cathedral blog at <https://bradfordcathedral.wordpress.com/blog/> and available on request from the contact details below.

### **About Professor Neil Small**

Neil Small BSc (Econ); MSW; PhD; FAcSS has been a Professor at Bradford since 1999. He previously held posts in the University of Sheffield and the University of York. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Neil is a social scientist who has had an ongoing interest in health policy and health inequalities. For some years his research focused on chronic and life-threatening illnesses with a particular interest in end of life care. More recent concerns have been in health inequalities in babies and young children with a special emphasis on the impact of ethnicity. This interest is reflected in his position as Academic Lead for the birth cohort study Born in Bradford.

### **About the University of Bradford**

With over 50 years of academic excellence behind us as a University, we continue to grow our international reputation, course provision, and research impact.

We have always been pioneers in developing new course subjects and modes of teaching, reflecting and anticipating the needs of employers, our students, and of society as a whole; our course provision and research strategy is designed in response to the changing business, social, scientific and environmental landscape.

Today our associations and networks span the globe; from strong links to leading local and national employers, to academic partner institutions, to the World Technology Universities Network, we are an outward facing institution committed to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge for the benefit of global society.

We have an alumni community of more than 140,000 graduates in over 175 countries worldwide.

### **About Born in Bradford**

Born in Bradford is helping to unravel the reasons for this ill health and bring new scientific discovery to the world. It is also providing a catalyst for communities to work with the NHS and local authority to improve child health and wellbeing. For more information visit [borninbradford.nhs.uk](http://borninbradford.nhs.uk)

### **About Bradford Cathedral**

Bradford Cathedral has been a place of worship in Bradford since the first millennium. It is the oldest building in the city and, alongside being a place of worship, hosts events, arts projects and much more. Bradford Cathedral celebrates its centenary in 2019.

For further information please contact:

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