





Brighton & Hove
City Council

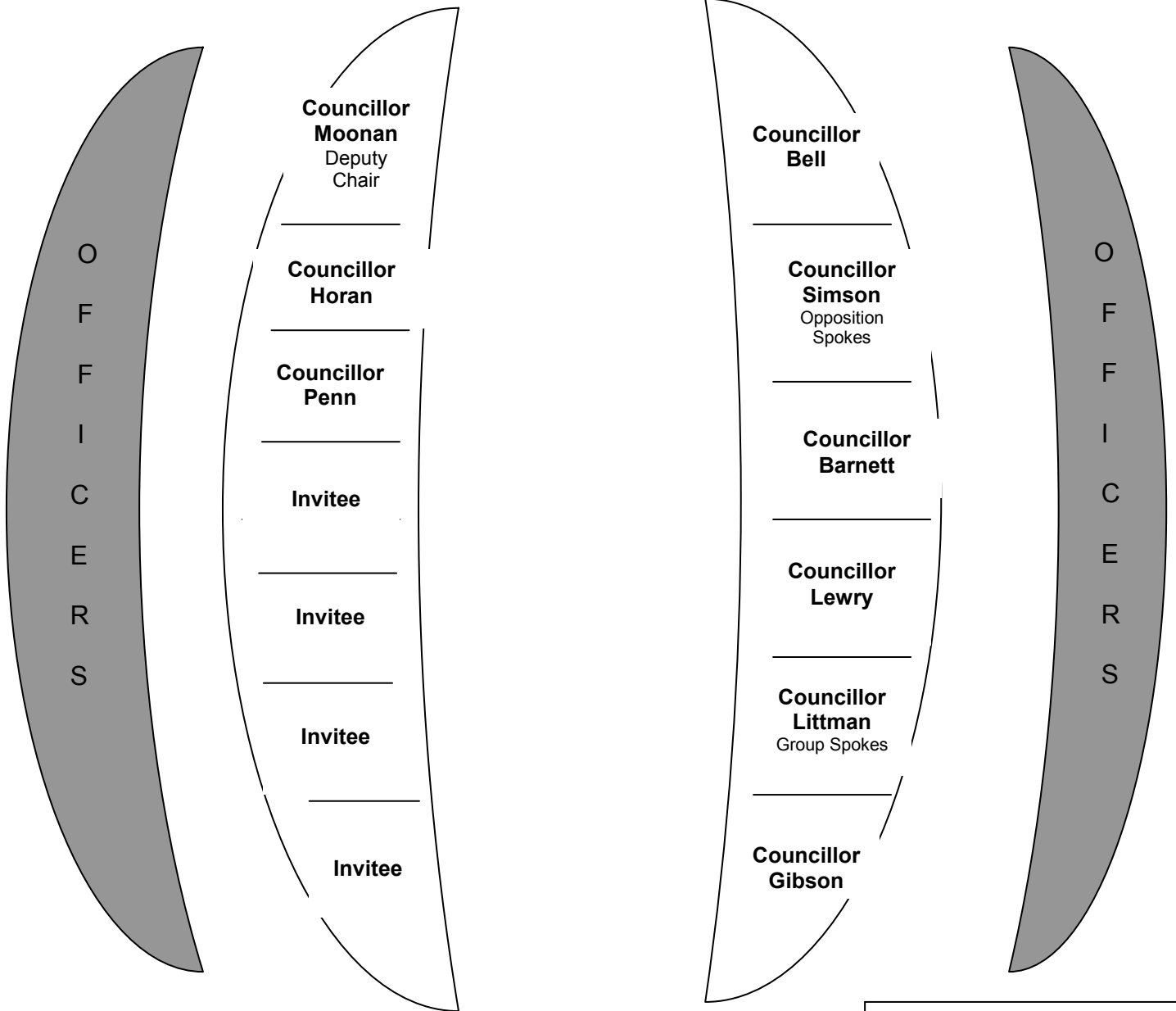
Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee

Title:	Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee
Date:	23 November 2015
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	St. Richard's Community Centre, Egmont Road, Hove
Members:	Councillors: Daniel (Chair) Moonan (Deputy Chair), Simson (Opposition Spokesperson), Littman (Group Spokesperson), Barnett, Bell, Gibson, Hill, Horan and Lewry,
Invitees:	Claire Holloway (Clinical Commissioning Group, Hanan Mansi (HOPE Sussex), Joanna Martindale (HK Project) and Nev Kemp (Sussex Police)
Contact:	Penny Jennings Democratic Services Officer 01273 291065 penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk

	The venue has facilities for wheelchair users, including lifts and toilets
	An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter and infra red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.
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Democratic Services: Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee

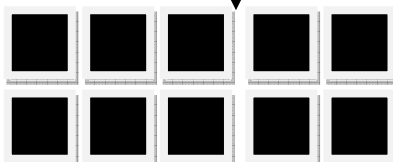
Legal Officer	Assistant Chief Executive	Councillor Daniel Chair	Democratic Services Officer
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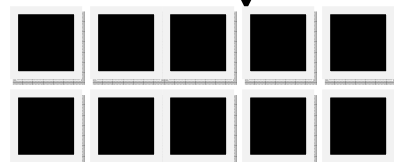
Press

Public Speaker Public Speaker

Public Seating



Public Seating



AGENDA

27 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) **Declarations of Substitutes:** Where councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same political group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) **Declarations of Interest:**
 - (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
 - (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
 - (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

- (c) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note: Any item appearing in Part Two of the agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the press and public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls and on-line in the Constitution at part 7.1.

28 PRESENTATIONS

There will be two presentations before proceeding to the formal business of the meeting:

- (a) A presentation by representatives from Brighton & Hove Faith in Action (30 minutes approximately including the opportunity to ask

questions);

(b) A presentation by local community representatives in relation to the Hangleton & Knoll area (30 minutes approximately including the opportunity to ask questions).

Following these presentations and the opportunity to ask questions it is intended that there will be a short break before proceeding to the further business of the meeting.

29 MINUTES

1 - 12

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015 (copy attached).

30 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

31 CALL OVER

- (a) Items (32 – 37) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

32 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

13 - 14

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** To receive any petitions presented by members of the public to the full Council or at the meeting itself - report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in relation to an e petition and a paper petition entitled "Neighbourhood Policing" received at Council on 22 October 2015 (copy attached);
- (b) **Written Questions:** To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 16 November 2015.
- (c) **Deputations:** To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 16 November 2015.

33 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by Members:

- (a) **Petitions:** To receive any petitions referred from Full Council or submitted directly to the Committee;
- (b) **Written Questions:** To consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** To consider any letters;

- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Full Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

34 CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD'S AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION 15 - 22

Joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Director of Public Health (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Ben Miles Tel: 01273 290336
Ward Affected: All Wards

35 BRIGHTON & HOVE FAIRNESS COMMISSION UPDATE 23 - 28

Briefing paper for note and oral update on behalf of the Assistant Chief Executive (copy of briefing paper attached)

Contact Officer: Matthew Wragg Tel: 01273 293944
Ward Affected: All Wards

36 WELFARE REFORM: RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL INCLUSION 29 - 50

Joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Finance and Resources (copy attached)

Contact Officer: John Francis Tel: 01273 291913
Ward Affected: All Wards

37 ADOPTION OF THE FOOD POVERTY ACTION PLAN 51 - 86

Report of the Director Public Health (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Becky Woodiwiss Tel: 01273 296575
Ward Affected: All Wards

38 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

To consider items to be submitted to Council for information.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting

39 COMMUNITY VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Please Note, Community Venues for meetings the remainder of the Municipal Year are as set out below :

25 January 2016, South Portslade Community Centre, Church Road, Portslade;

14 March 2016, Valley Social Centre, Whitehawk Way, Brighton.

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

Electronic agendas can also be accessed through our meetings app available through www.moderngov.co.uk

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Penny Jennings, (01273 291065, email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Penny Jennings, (01273 291065, email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication Friday, 13 November 2015

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS, COMMUNITIES AND EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 5 OCTOBER 2015

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Daniels (Chair) Councillor Moonan (Deputy Chair), Simson (Opposition Spokesperson), Littman (Group Spokesperson), Gibson, Hill, Horan and Lewry

Invitees: Geraldine Hoban (Clinical Commissioning Group), Hanan Mansi (HOPE Sussex), Joanna Martindale (HK Project) and Nev Kemp (Sussex Police)

Apologies: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Barnett and Bell

PART ONE

13 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(A) Declarations of Substitutes

13.1 There were none.

(B) Declarations of Interest

13.2 There were none.

(C) Exclusion of Press and Public

13.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee considered whether the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business on the grounds that it is likely in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during it, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act.

13.4 **RESOLVED** - That the public are not excluded from any item of business on the agenda.

14 PRESENTATION - STREET COMMUNITY

- 14.1 Kurt Horex and Keith Newnham were in attendance and gave a presentation on behalf of the street community, they provided an update on current issues for this community within the city. Both were candid in sharing their experiences as ex members of the street community and gave their perspectives on the issues facing the street community including their vulnerability to violence and their respective perspectives on access to and availability of services, support available and how that could be improved. Both gave details of their personal journeys to the point which they had reached now, how they were moving forward following their previous addictions and attendant mental health issues. Both men highlighted that although individual services were good there was a degree of disunity and sometimes animosity between services it was important to provide the right level of targeted (to individual need) support to those in active addiction.
- 14.2 Both referred to the difficulties in receiving proper diagnosis and the right level of mental health support for multiple and often deep seated problems and in accessing housing. A “revolving doors” situation often arose whereby following periods in rehabilitation and move on accommodation individuals could then end up on the street again and vulnerable. Sometimes there was an unwillingness to engage when individuals were in active addiction and were facing multiple problems associated with that.
- 14.3 David Walton and Petra Salva were in attendance on behalf of St Mungo’s Broadway which had recently arrived in the city. They outlined the work that was being undertaken in the city and how they intended to carry that forward and to work pro-actively with other agencies to help to reduce the number of people rough sleeping in Brighton and Hove.
- 14.4 The Chair and Deputy Chair everyone for their contributions and unique perspectives which were valuable to their understanding of the complex and multiple issues involved. Following the presentation there was a short break during which members had the opportunity to ask questions and to talk informally before proceeding with the remaining business on the agenda.
- 14.5 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the presentation be noted.

15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 15.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2015 as a correct record.

16 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

- 16.1 The Chair explained that the meeting was being recorded and would be capable of repeated viewing via the subsequent on-line webcast. The Chair gave the following communications:
- 16.2 The Chair welcomed Hanan Mansi and Joanna Martindale from HKP, representatives from the community and voluntary sector, great to have you here and look forward to the knowledge, expertise, creativity and challenge you will bring to the Committee.

- 16.3 The Chair also thanked Geraldine Hoban who would be leaving the CCG at the end of the month for her tireless work to make the CCG an effective and efficient organisation, driving up improvements in local health care in very challenging circumstances. Geraldine was acknowledged as a great champion of bringing clinicians and the community closer together, not an easy task and as a great supporter of realising the assets within our communities and community and voluntary sector to help tackle health inequalities. Under her watch much joint work between the council and the CCG had been successful progressed to get better outcomes for residents. The Chair wished Geraldine well in her future endeavours.

Use of Community Venues

- 16.4 The Chair welcomed all present to the Friends Meeting House, explaining that all meetings of the Committee would take place at community venues across the city. It was good to be in another community venue and would be interesting as the committee went around the city to remind itself of the vast diversity of communities in the city which was spatially very small.
- *Brighton city centre was very diverse community;*
 - *Residents and businesses were cheek by jowl – which is not without its challenges*
 - *The meeting was being held in Regency Ward which had just over 10,000 residents (10,240)*
 - *70.2% white British, 29.8% BME – higher than city overall- 80.5% white British, 19.5% BME*

Recent and Forthcoming Events

- 16.5 The Chair encouraged committee members and public to participate in two great celebrations of the ethnic diversity of our city - 1st November in the Corn Exchange we have Black History Month Family day and in the Brighton Museum & Art Gallery Diwali day

End of September saw the launch of the Fairness Commission and its first meeting - all commissioners received full and frank picture of the city and its challenges and the public sector budget pressures. This would be a standing item on future agendas.

Sad News

- 16.6 The Chair stated that she was sorry to have to inform the Committee that the city had lost one of its most dedicated community activist – Faith Matyszak-Gander MBE passed away in early September. For many decades Faith was involved and often the driver of much work in the city - Brighton and Hove Black Women's group, B&H Racial harassment forum, Trust for Developing Communities, Brighton Unemployed Family Centre. Fighting for fairness and equality had been at the heart of her work.

Good News

- 16.7 It was noted that on a happier note, the Council had been successful in getting a grant from the Tinder Foundation to:

deliver work clubs in partnership with Job Centre Plus, the National Careers Service and the Fed Online at Jubilee Library from mid-October

computer access being taken to Food Banks by Libraries IT volunteers using 4G enabled i-pads, starting at the Hangleton and West Blatchington Food Bank from October 14.

Committee members had been invited to launch 14th October at Jubilee library. More details could be obtained from Alan Issler in library services.

Final remarks

- 16.8 The Chair welcomed Chas Walker the new CEO of YMCA Downlink and more significantly, farewell to David Standing. Chas was appointed CEO in early September but David had stayed to ensure a smooth transition. A small indication of the tireless commitment and dedication he had always given to helping improve the lives and opportunities for young people in our city. David was wished every success in his next adventures and everyone was looking forward to working with Chas.

17 CALL OVER

- 17.1 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion except Item 22 "Equality and Inclusion Policy: Review Proposal."

18 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

- 18.1 There were none.

(b) Written Questions

- 18.2 There were none.

(c) Deputations

- 18.3 There were none.

19 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

- 19.1 There were none.

(b) Written Questions

19.2 There were none.

(c) Letters

19.3 There were none.

(d) Notices of Motion

19.4 There were none.

20 ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY UPDATE

20.1 The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director, Adult Services and Acting Executive Director, Environment, Development and Housing providing an update on the council's rough sleeper strategy.

20.2 It was explained that the issue of rough sleeping had become more acute recently with a visibly increased presence on the streets. This not only impacted on an individual's life chances, but also on the city's reputation and had cost implications for public services and business. The city's current approach needed to be re-assessed to ensure that the city's commissioners, service providers and advocates were working in partnership to a clear strategic plan which would seek both reduce rough sleeping in the city and to improve outcomes for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.

20.3 The Committees' approval was sought to the approach to developing a new Rough Sleeper Strategy for the city, which aimed to ensure no one had to sleep rough in Brighton and Hove by 2020.

20.4 The Housing Strategy Manager, Andy Staniford, explained that over recent years the number of rough sleepers seen by services had almost doubled, a new estimate was to be compiled towards the end of 2015 and officers were concerned that numbers would increase further due to the natural draw of the city, the impact of welfare reforms and the high cost of accessing and sustaining accommodation in the city's private rented sector. This project would review the way that rough sleeping was currently addressed, covering the measures to prevent people sleeping rough, services provided to support people on the streets and approaches to help people move on from rough sleeping in a sustained way. Stakeholders would be involved in the review and would be encouraged to formally sign-up to the resultant strategy. An initial set of strategic priorities had been drafted in order to help shape the discussions which needed to take place and these were set out in the report.

20.5 Councillor Littman welcomed the report but found some of the language used problematic. He considered that it was important to note that there were multiple causes, changes in national policy and the level of on-going welfare reform, the local authority needed to assess measures and support which could be given to seek to prevent people from ending up as rough sleepers in the first place. Councillor Gibson concurred in that view, also citing cut backs which the Council itself had undertaken.

20.6 The Clinical Commissioning Group, invitee, Geraldine Hoban, was in agreement that an integrated solution needed to be sought, using different criteria for different types of

homelessness, the issue needed to be looked at its totality. It was important to seek to avoid revolving doors, where individuals accessed different services and moved in and out of homelessness. There were many, particularly young people across the city who were “sofa surfing” due to the lack of affordable housing and who were vulnerable to homelessness and rough sleeping.

- 20.7 Councillor Moonan, the Deputy Chair commended the work that had been undertaken, and expressed the view that it was important to challenge existing practices and essential to impose tight timescales for action. It was also good to hear about good services which existed whilst acknowledging that more needed to be done to join them up.
- 20.8 The Chair, Councillor Daniel noted that a number of cuts had been made by the previous administration. Whilst agreeing with what had been said it was important to note that this work could not be carried forward by this Committee, or indeed, the Council on its own. It was important to speak to users and other experts in seeking sustainable solutions.
- 20.9 The Chair put the recommendation to the vote.
- 20.10 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee gives its approval to the approach outlined in the report.
- 21 PROGRESS TO DATE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRIGHTON & HOVE FAIRNESS COMMISSION – OCTOBER 2015**
- 21.1 The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive detailing progress made to date on the establishment of the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission.
- 21.2 It was noted that at its July meeting, the Committee had received a report setting out the proposed details on the ways of working for the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission including its draft terms of reference. These had been agreed and the report before them that day was intended to provide an update on the progress to date in establishing the Fairness Commission.
- 21.3 It was noted that, the Chair, Councillor Daniel and Councillors Simson and Littman would sit on the Committee as observers and that in accordance with the recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee on 11 June 2015, the Chair and Commissioners had made a number of suggestions for additional Commissioners and these had been followed up subsequently. The process by which the Commission would be delivered were outlined, evidence and solutions would be gathered through a range of methods.
- 21.4 In answer to questions it was explained that the Commission’s meeting scheduled for 14 October would be held in closed session to enable wide ranging discussions to take place to enable themes and lines of enquiry to be agreed upon. All subsequent meetings would explore these themes, would be public and would take place at a series of venues across the city.

21.5 The Chair, Councillor Daniel explained that updates on progress of the Commission and its work would appear on subsequent agendas as a standing item.

21.6 The Chair put the recommendation to the vote.

21.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the progress made to date; and

(2) Requests an update on the work of the Fairness Commission at its Committee meetings during the period of the Commission’s work.

22 EQUALITY & INCLUSION POLICY REVIEW PROPOSAL

22.1 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee gives approval for the council to continue to follow its existing Equality and Inclusion Policy; and

(2) That the Committee notes that a full report and new policy will be taken to full council for approval, linking the timetable for this to timetable for the Fairness Commission in order to reflect its findings and recommendations.

23 PREVENT : NEW STATUTORY DUTY

23.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health detailing the new general statutory “Prevent Duty” for the local authority and other statutory partners created by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which had come into force on 1 July 2015. The report sought to identify implications for the council’s work, risk management and actions needed to achieve compliance.

23.2 The report set out the strategy in the context of the Action Plan and the work of the Community Safety Partnership. The key priorities and actions required in order to achieve compliance were set out as were the priorities and performance indicators which were also reflected within the corporate plan.

23.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel explained that notification had been received immediately prior to the meeting of proposed amendments/additional recommendations by the Green Group, seeking confirmation that the Members had had the opportunity to give them proper consideration. Councillor Horan sought confirmation that the work being undertaken would focus on all vulnerable groups, and would therefore have a broader focus than those currently highlighted in the media. The Chair was in agreement this was very important and it was confirmed that this was the approach used and that the Prevent Strategy addresses all forms of terrorism.

23.4 The following amendment was put by Councillor Littman on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Gibson. It was proposed that four new recommendations, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8 be added and renumbered accordingly:

2.5 “The NCE is concerned to note the requirement to “create credible voices and community spokespeople.” This shows a total lack of respect for existing community spokespeople; and the rights of communities to organise their own representation. The requirement to “sustain trust and confidence” in communities may be impossible to

achieve, if we do not show trust and confidence in those communities ourselves. Imposing spokespeople on communities shows neither trust nor confidence.

2.6 The NCE is concerned to note the focus on acts of non-violent extremism; which would not be in themselves otherwise illegal. This risks the suppression of the right of freedom of speech.

2.7 The NCE is concerned to note that the “us and them” nature of this extension of the Prevent agenda may foster feelings of “otherness” among sections of our community. It is well recognised that a feeling of “otherness” acts to significantly increase the danger of radicalisation.”

2.8 The NCE is concerned to note that, as it stands, overall, this policy runs a serious risk of being counterproductive; driving criticism underground; fostering mistrust and lack of confidence in local and national authorities; and potentially increasing the susceptibility of some sections of the community to the radicalisation, which it is intended to counteract.”

- 23.5 The Prevent Coordinator, Nahida Shaikh explained that there it was intended to build on the cross cutting work carried out to date, utilising the strong community networks that already existed facilitating support to communities in having a voice. Ultimately, to have effective mechanisms in place around supporting young people, both these were also identified needs by communities. The Prevent Coordinator suggested that it would be more appropriate to replace reference to “creating” by the word “supporting”, as more accurately reflecting what was intended as referred to in 3.14 (iii) in the report. The Prevent Coordinator also amplified on the work that had been undertaken to date, the consultation and inclusion which had been taken place and detailed how that would be carried forward in concert with communities.
- 23.6 Councillor Littman responded stating that on the basis of the further explanation given and details of the rationale for it, he was willing to remove paragraph 2.5 of the Green Group amendment, he did however wish for points 2.6 – 2.8 inclusive to remain in place as worded and for them to be re-numbered accordingly. Whilst accepting all that had been said, he was firmly of the view that it was very important for the approach adopted to be absolutely clear and unequivocal and was not counter-productive. Councillor Littman acknowledged the work carried out over the last three years or so as a result of the strong links across communities. He was anxious that the duty created, could undermine what had been achieved, there was a danger that it could do “more harm than good”.
- 23.7 Councillor Gibson concurred with the concerns expressed by Councillor Littman reiterating his support for the Green Group proposed amendments/additions which he hoped would be supported by the Committee.
- 23.8 Councillor Hill responded in respect of the proposed amendments stating that whilst supporting the proposed change of wording which would result in the removal of paragraph 2.5 she had concerns regarding the other suggested amendments and was unable to support them. Councillor Hill stated that in some instances non-violent action was illegal, incitement to racism for example, it was necessary to balance the need to support and the need to act. In Councillor Hill’s view 2.7 was an expression of opinion,

she would be uncomfortable with expressing support for the policy whilst at the same time seeking additional assurances that it would work, that appeared contradictory.

- 23.9 Councillor Littman stated that whilst accepting in some instances non-violent action could be illegal, he firmly of the view that it was important not to act in a way which could result in alienation.
- 23.10 Councillor Simson concurred with all that had been said by Councillor Hill, considering that the existing policy and recommendations were not counter-productive and did not need to be added too.
- 23.11 The proposed Green Group amendments were then formally voted on excluding proposed paragraph 2.5 which it was agreed would be deleted. The amendments were lost on a vote of two for and eight against by the ten members present at the meeting.
- 23.12 The Chair then put the substantive recommendations set out in the report to the vote. All Members present were in agreement that the reference to “create credible voices” should be replaced by “support credible voices”. On a vote of eight to two by the ten members present at the meeting the recommendations set out below were agreed.
- 23.13 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the requirements of the Prevent Duty and the resource implications with respect to staff training and extending safeguarding and the Prevent Duty arrangements for out-of-school educational and childcare settings;
- (2) The Committee note that a “Prevent Action Plan” responding to risks and priorities setting out the work programme and performance framework will be taken to the Prevent Board in its October meeting;
- (3) The Committee notes the resource implications for Prevent projects; and
- (4) The Committee note the requirement for an overall communication plan; and
- RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** - That the report be referred to Full Council for noting and a copy is sent to all Committee Chairs.

24 TRANS NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 24.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health detailing the Trans Needs Assessment Findings and recommendations.
- 24.2 It was explained that the council’s commitment to reducing inequality and ensuring fairness in the city for all its communities was set out in the Corporate Plan. In 2013 a scrutiny panel had been established to better understand and highlight the challenges facing trans people in the city and had made a number of recommendations for change. A key recommendation had been to undertake the first ever Trans Need Assessment for the city. This report was intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of current and future needs of local trans people to inform commissioning and delivery services across the city in order to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.

- 24.3 A presentation was given by Public Health Consultant, Alistair Hill which sought to give a comprehensive overview of the work which had been undertaken in concert with the Trans Needs Assessment Steering Group and other partners and as a result of community collaboration. The recommendations agreed by the steering group had been formulated on the basis of the evidence received and the findings had already been fed back to the trans community.
- 24.4 It was explained that this work had been carried out in the context of the Trans Equality Scrutiny Report, published in 2013, the Brighton & Hove Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Trans Needs Assessment Steering Group. The methodology adopted had involved community research conducted by Brighton University and the Brighton & Hove LGBT Switchboard, interviews with other stakeholders, analysis of data received and call out for evidence. Key findings of the survey had indicated that in the last five years nearly four out of five respondents had experienced depression and one in three had self-harmed. Counselling support was limited. Respondents had also reported that they had experienced verbal abuse, harassment, physical violence or sexual assault. At some point in the past six in ten reported that they had experienced domestic violence and one in three had experienced homelessness. Highly valued community and voluntary sector services cited as being highly valued had included, safe space, peer support, drop-ins and volunteering opportunities.
- 24.5 In closing, the next steps to be taken in terms of action planning and reporting were set out. The Equality and Inclusion Partnership Trans Sub Group would be led this forward. All members had been asked to review the TNA recommendations which applied to them to enable set a timescale for action to inform the action plan which would then be developed further. The subgroup would monitor the plan and report regularly to Equip, it was intended that the final annual report on the outcome of the action plan drawn up after the Scrutiny report and next steps going forward would be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2016.
- 24.6 The Clinical Commissioning Group invitee, Geraldine Hoban welcomed the report which she stated highlighted that whilst good quality cross-cutting work was taking place with health partners and providers it was clear further work was needed in order to ensure that services were more accessible. The provision of specialist services was not at an acceptable level, especially in terms of waiting times and this needed to be addressed. Councillor Moonan, the Deputy Chair asked regarding the most appropriate means for the Committee to express its frustration that this issue needed to be addressed at national level and to feed that through in such manner that NHS England was held to account in. The Director of Public Health suggested that the most appropriate way forward would be for the Committees' observations be passed forward to the Health and Wellbeing Board with a recommendation that the Board carry this matter forward.
- 24.7 The Head of Communities and Third Sector, Emma McDermott explained that in addition to the work detailed in the report the council had been invited to join the Rainbow Cities Network, based in the Netherlands. The network was carrying out trailblazing collaborative work and would provide an opportunity to showcase the work carried out in the city whilst providing opportunities to identify a EU partner to bid for additional funding. Twenty European cities were currently members of the network and Brighton would be the first city in England to join the network. This represented an

excellent opportunity for the city and it was recommended that the Committee give approval to join this network.

24.8 Councillor Horan considered that it was important to acknowledge the cross-party work which had been carried forward over a number of years in order to arrive at the current position; a lot of hard work had taken place. Councillor Marsh also commended this excellent work.

24.9 The Chair, Councillor Daniel welcomed the input given also commending the excellent work that had taken place to date. The Chair put the recommendations to the vote including the additional ones put forward and all were agreed.

24.10 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes and approves the findings of the needs assessment;

(2) The Committee notes the role of the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP) Trans Subgroup in developing an action plan in response to the recommendations;

(3) The Committee gives approval for the city to join the Rainbow Cities Network; and

(4) That the Committees' concerns and frustrations in respect of waiting lists and access to health pathways especially in relation to specialist services be conveyed to the Health and Well Being Board requesting that that they seek to bring leverage to bear to facilitate innovative solutions by NHS England.

25 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

25.1 It was agreed that the following item would be forwarded to Full Council information:

Item 23 – “Prevent: New Statutory Duty” – report of the Director of Public Health.

Note: It was also agreed that a copy would be sent to all Committee Chairs for their information.

26 COMMUNITY VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

26.1 The community venues to be used for future meetings were noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject:	Petitions		
Date of Meeting:	23 November 2015		
Report of:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065
	E-mail:	penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward Affected	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- ⊗ taking the action requested in the petition
- ⊗ considering the petition at a council meeting
- ⊗ holding an inquiry into the matter
- ⊗ undertaking research into the matter
- ⊗ holding a public meeting
- ⊗ holding a consultation
- ⊗ holding a meeting with petitioners
- ⊗ referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ⊗ calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

Neighbourhood Policing

3.1 "We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to express support for 'Neighbourhood Policing' and to oppose decisions by the Police and Crime Commissioner, together with senior officers of the Sussex Police, to reduce the number of police officers delivering local policing. Brighton & Hove City Council is also requested to confirm its policy on, and commitment to, Local Action Teams (LATs) as initially agreed by Cabinet on 21 May 2009.

Justification:

Katy Bourne, Sussex's Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed there will be 700 police officers delivering local policing over the next 5 years, and a further 300 posts elsewhere in the force will go. In particular, Sussex will lose more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). 58 (out of 347) have already left and there are another 69 to go. The police often don't have the time to attend Local Action Team meetings and accountability to local communities is being lost. A significant change in policy is being implemented without consultation and against the clear wishes and needs of local citizens.

(252 signatures)

Subject:	City Neighbourhoods & Community Collaboration		
Date of Meeting:	NCE Committee 23rd November		
Report of:	Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Director, Children's Services, and Director, Public Health		
Contact Officers:	Name:	Ben Miles; Emma McDermott	Tel: 29-0336/1577
	Email:	Ben.miles@brighton-hove.gov.uk, emma.mcdermott@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief members on work to date by two complimentary programmes; City Neighbourhoods and Community Collaboration. These programmes are part of the council's corporate modernisation programme and report to the Corporate Modernisation Board. It also sets out next steps for each programme, including a joint governance structure to ensure they are aligned.
- 1.2 Both these programmes are key transformation strands that will help the council in the development and delivery of the proposed co-operative working approach requested by the Administration.
- 1.3 Learning from co-operative councils around the country has given us the understanding that our transformation work in progress is a starting point for creating a bespoke co-operative working model for Brighton & Hove.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 Note the work undertaken so far by the City Neighbourhoods and Community Collaboration programmes.
- 2.2 Agree proposals to develop neighbourhood hubs in the four shortlisted wards of phase 1 of the City Neighbourhoods programme and confirm it is appropriate to develop these based on the preferred option (section 4.3).
- 2.3 That members agree and support the work-streams in the Community Collaboration programme (section 3.6).
- 2.4 Agree the proposal to merge governance arrangements for the two programmes

- 2.5 Agree to receive update on the progress of the work programmes at appropriate times in their development and delivery, and as a minimum on year on.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following Co-operative Council Innovation Network (CCIN) principles will be used to guide the work in this report and act as a starting point for development of a BHCC co-operative working approach.

Social partnership: We will strengthen the co-operative partnership between citizens, communities, enterprises and Councils, based on a shared sense of responsibility for wellbeing and mutual benefit.

Democratic engagement: Supporting the active engagement of the full range of residents in decision making and priority setting.

Co-production: Developing systems that enable citizens to be equal partners in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.

Enterprise and social economy: Promoting community-based approaches to economic development that focus on supporting the creation of jobs and businesses and providing an environment for co-operative and mutual enterprises to thrive.

Maximising social value: Supporting the development of a framework and criteria for social value, which gives substance to the idea and which will give Councils the tools to ensure better local social and economic outcomes.

Community leadership and a new role for councillors: Exploring ways for councils to act as a platform for helping the community to contribute to local outcomes, and re-thinking the role of councillors as community connectors, brokers and leaders.

New models of meeting priority needs: In exploring new ways of meeting the priority needs of our communities we will encourage models, such as cooperatives and mutuals, which give greater influence and voice to staff and users.

Innovation: Embracing innovation in how we work with local communities to drive positive change.

Learning: We will capture and 'expand' the experience and learning from individual projects and approaches in order to encourage broader application of co-operative principles within the Council and across the Network.

- 3.2 City Neighbourhoods is an emerging programme with the main objective of establishing hubs in the heart of communities, bringing appropriate services closer to those who need them by forging stronger links with local people. The neighbourhood hubs will host a variety of services, based on the specific needs and context of the local area. They are to be delivered by council staff alongside

a range of partners, including statutory and third sector organisations. There is also an aspiration to develop this work in order to collaborate with communities, residents and volunteers to design, manage and deliver localised budgets, services and activities.

3.3 The City Neighbourhoods Programme Board agreed four Phase One areas to begin work. The decision was based on needs analysis and assets in particular existing infrastructure. The shortlisted areas are:

- Moulsecoomb & Bevendean (including Moulsecoomb Library)
- East Brighton
- Hangleton & Knoll
- Hanover & Elm Grove

These areas were chosen because they represent the range of 'need' across the city and have varying degrees of existing infrastructure, both from a community and property perspective. The next steps will be to produce a full and costed business case for creating hubs in these areas, working with service reviews across the council to ensure that services delivered from the hubs meets the needs of the local community, as well as encourages greater collaboration with them.

Four other areas were shortlist for a subsequent phase 2:

- Queens Park
- Hollingdean & Stanmer
- Woodingdean
- North Portslade

3.4 The Community Collaboration Programme is developing a clear direction and coordinated approach to working with residents and communities, enabling co-production, collaboration and making services more efficient by reducing dependency and demand.

3.5 It is developing internal and external culture change to support a 'can do' approach to collaborative working - to ensure we are using our own resources alongside the resources of communities and citizens to create collective solutions to the delivery of services. This way of working greatly complements the City Neighbourhood approach. The Community Collaboration programme has seven 'workstreams'

3.6 The seven workstreams are:

1. Developing a service within the council that co-ordinates community engagement and volunteering across all services to enable more communities and residents to be involved in council services and decisions
2. Updating the Community Engagement Framework
3. Creating a single volunteering toolkit for all council services that supports the principles of the City Volunteering Strategy
4. Ensure all council staff have the skills and behaviour to work collaboratively with communities and residents and are encouraged to do so

5. Promote messages and ask questions about how we can share responsibility for the city with residents, businesses and visitors.
 6. Make sure there are a range ways communities and residents can work with us that include digital options
 7. Make sure council processes and systems are designed to support collaboration with communities and residents, and do not unnecessarily hinder or prevent community activity
- 3.7 Both programmes are cross-council and city wide, and contribute towards a shared responsibility and changing relationship between citizen and state, allowing and supporting the move to a more cooperative model of service delivery.
- 3.8 Currently, although there is significant joint membership of each programme board, there are no formal governance arrangements linking the two programmes. We will join the two programmes together via one single board and individual working groups.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 Do nothing (City Neighbourhoods)

- 4.1.1 The need to make services more accessible to residents could be addressed solely by a digital channel-shift, supported by the Customer First in a Digital Age programme. This would risk digital exclusion for some, but also miss the opportunity of transferring some front-facing services to the community and voluntary sector.
- 4.1.2 The Community Collaboration programme is developing a strategy that brings consistency to the engagement work happening across the council. It would therefore benefit from a consistent infrastructure in the form of neighbourhood hubs. Doing nothing would not achieve this.
- 4.1.3 The new administration was elected under a mandate to develop a cooperative model for Brighton & Hove City Council. Doing nothing would not help the organisation towards achieving that.
- 4.1.4 The buildings affected by ongoing services reviews could be considered in isolation and withdrawn from in a piecemeal fashion. This would be the simplest option for those conducting the reviews, but would lose any holistic perspective, and lead to inefficient management of the corporate property portfolio.

4.2 Service review-led creation of hubs (City Neighbourhoods)

- 4.2.1 The shape of neighbourhood hubs could be dictated by the pace of the service reviews being carried out across the organisation that have an impact on the council's property portfolio. There would be opportunities to free up council owned buildings, bringing in revenue by leasing to the community, partners, other organisations or selling.
- 4.2.2 Any buildings no longer required will need to be reviewed under the council's asset management processes for alternative use and property performance to see whether the building is fit for purpose, requires significant investment or is surplus to requirement. This will determine whether the buildings/sites can be

leased to others to include community/voluntary organisations and /or released for disposal.

- 4.2.3 The risk of this approach is that the needs of the communities will largely be ignored; the kind of services delivered from each hub would be inconsistent and lack rationale, and may not give economies of scale.

4.3 Need-led creation of hubs (City Neighbourhoods - preferred option)

- 4.3.1 Neighbourhood hubs will be built around the specific needs of the local communities they intend to support. The services they deliver will be based on a community engagement exercise. This will be supplemented by data drawn from recent Public Health reports, as well as other intelligence provided by the services currently under review.
- 4.3.2 An audit of existing assets will be compiled for each area (ward-level to begin with). This will include council owned properties, but also non-council owned properties currently used by community groups. The level of need, results of engagement activities, and available infrastructure will be balanced to determine a suitable location for four 'first phase' hubs. Areas that represent a variety of needs have been identified for further investigation (see section 3.2 and Appendix A). This is to differentiate the creation of Neighbourhood hubs in a variety of contexts before rolling out more widely.
- 4.3.3 Any buildings no longer required to deliver council services would be subject to the same asset management process as outlined in section 4.2

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As part of the development of Neighbourhood Hubs there will be in-depth work with local residents, communities and ward members within the area. This will enable us to develop the services and activities to allow for the specific needs of the communities but also look at how to work collaboratively with the current community resources, the residents, communities and ward members within the area. A community engagement plan will be developed to support the process in due course. The Communities, Equality and Third Sector Team are leading on the Community Collaboration work streams and are integral to this work.
- 5.2 Following the establishment of a single board to cover the two programmes officers would like to establish a cross party ward members working group.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Progress of these two work programmes will be an important element to helping manage the budget saving challenge faced by the city council and achieve the step change in relationship between the council and people of the city. These are key programmes to building a more collaborative partnership with residents both in localities and as a council as whole. Cross party member support and involvement in how these are progressed is important to facilitating members' role in this changing relationship.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The main implications at the moment are the staffing costs which are not additional costs. We need to be clear that the options need to be fully costed with all risks and benefits identified and that independent Business Cases are prepared to demonstrate the viability, costings, resource funding, and whether the preferred option delivers savings. This will be provided in a full business case on a case by case basis for each neighbourhood.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen

Date: 6/10/15

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 In terms of legal implications, it is not clear at this stage what they would be but is something that would need to be kept under review. If existing services are being stopped, changed or moved, there are likely to be requirements for consultation with service users and staff that would need to be factored in to the timescales/project plans.

Lawyer Consulted:

Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 12/10/15

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 No EIA has been completed as both programmes are still in the emergent stage. These will be completed as part of the full business case and in relation to each neighbourhood hub that is proposed.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 Consolidating property assets will reduce the council's carbon footprint. One of the proposals within the City Neighbourhoods programme is to develop an asset transfer policy, which will contribute to the ongoing sustainability of community infrastructure in the city.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 Cooperative models in other authorities have realised significant savings. This has been due to their wholesale approach to change. If Brighton & Hove City Council is to realise similar savings, then it is vital we are not tentative about the scale of work involved, nor the significant shift in delivery it represents.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.6 The City Neighbourhood programme board has representation from the Community Safety team. Issues around crime and disorder will be addressed through the full business case and as further considerations are made by the board. Links will also be made with neighbourhood enforcement teams as these

develop following the 20th July 2015 NCE committee paper 'Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams'.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.7 High-level risks have been detailed in the outline business cases for both City Neighbourhoods and Community Collaboration (available on request). Full risk profiling will be completed through the proposed (joint) full-business case.

Public Health Implications:

- 7.8 The needs analysis that was completed when shortlisting first and second phase hubs was based on the Public Health reports on Resilience and Inequalities. The creation of Neighbourhood hubs intends to help address these issues.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.9 Both these programmes are key transformation strands that can help the council in the development and delivery of the proposed cooperative working approach requested by the administration

**NEIGHBOURHOODS,
COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES
COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 34

Brighton & Hove City Council

Appendix A: Needs Analysis Summary

The following table shows level of need across a variety of domains, at ward level in the city.

Domains	Education	Health	Material wellbeing	Strong and stable families	Belonging	Local economy	Public services	Crime and antisocial behaviour	Infrastructure	Community Infrastructure	Vulnerable Children	ASC client density
Brunswick and Adelaide	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	1
Central Hove	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	2
East Brighton	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	3
Goldsmid	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hangleton and Knoll	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	3
Hanover and Elm Grove	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Hollingdean and Stanmer	3	2	2	3	2	1	2		2	2	2	2
Hove Park	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2
Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	1
North Portslade	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	3	3	2
Patcham	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2
Preston Park	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
Queen's Park	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	3	3
Regency	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	1
Rottingdean Coastal	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	2
St. Peter's and North Laine	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	1
South Portslade	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
Westbourne	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	1	3
Wish	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	3
Withdean	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1
Woodingdean	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	3

A full definition of each domain is available on request. First and second phase areas for neighbourhood hubs were chosen to reflect a variety of need and existing property infrastructure across the city.

- 1 (green) = low level of need
- 2 (amber) = medium level of need
- 3 (red) = high level of need

Subject:	Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission Update		
Date of Meeting:	23 November 2015		
Report of:	Assistant Chief Executive		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Julia Reddaway	Tel: 29-1038
	Email:	julia.reddaway@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 In July 2015, The Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee received a report setting out the proposed details on the ways of working for the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission along with its draft terms of reference for consideration by the Committee.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee agreed to the proposed way of working and approved the terms of reference for the Fairness Commission.
- 1.3 This paper updates the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee on progress with the fairness commission since the previous meeting, and is for information only.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee note progress with the fairness commission to date.

3. CONTEXT

Key Themes for meetings in public

- 3.1 The Commissioners have decided that the following will be the 5 key themes for the monthly meetings to be held in public:

Date & time	Venue	Theme	Witnesses invited	Subject
26 November 2015, 6-9 pm	Moulsecoomb Great Hall – North	Strengthening Communities: building capacity & resilience	Pat Weller, Hangleton & Knoll Project	Developing services in communities
			Alison Marino, Community Works	Volunteering strategy
			Sam Warren, Brighton & Hove City Council	Community action case studies
			Warren Carter, The Bevy, Moulsecoomb	Developing social enterprise
			Extra Speaker (TBC)	Cooperative council approach
10 December 2015	Long Room, Sussex County Cricket Club	Children, Young People & improving life chances	TBC	TBC
20 January 2016	Whitehawk Library	Employment & Skills	TBC	TBC
18 February 2016	Friends Meeting House	Housing	TBC	TBC
16 March 2016	Portslade Town Hall	Older People & Wellbeing	TBC	TBC

- 3.2 Two or three commissioners have each taken the lead for one of the themes and are working to agree the lines of enquiry, who they wish to call as witnesses and how each witness should be briefed.

Gathering additional evidence

- 3.3 In addition to the evidence that will be gathered through the 5 main meetings, a series of visits, round tables discussions and other events are being put on with Commissioners. A summary of these is in Appendix 1.

Communications and engagement update

- 3.4 There are two objectives of the communications and engagement programme:
- Promoting the work of the fairness commission to as many residents and groups as possible, with an opportunity to contribute to the call for evidence;
 - Working with partners to support specific engagement activities to encourage feedback, personal experiences and solutions.
- 3.5 As part of ensuring that all residents hear about the Commission and how they can submit their views to Commissioners, a developing plan of engagement activity has been (or will be) undertaken:

- The Brighton Chamber of Commerce and The Business Forum are working together to engage with businesses – they are likely to have the Fairness Commission as one of their themes at a breakfast meeting and will make a film to show before the Employment & Skills meeting. Both organisations will put information and questions to businesses on their respective websites;
- Presentations have been delivered at the following AGMs: The Older People’s Council; Community Works; Trust for Developing Communities (and the Sussex Interpreting Services AGM on 19 November). These have reached over 300 people including the key voluntary organisations in the city who will disseminate the information;
- The Bus Company has put 400 posters up on all its buses for one month;
- A presentation will be given to the Youth Council at Cardinal Newman School on 17 November (100 pupils). Representatives of the Youth Council will cascade the information and questions for young people down through their respective years groups;
- A presentation was given to the Secondary Schools PSHE Teachers Consortium at their meeting on 30 September and Teachers will hold discussions on fairness in their PSHE classes;
- A BSL Film about the Fairness Commission will be made in November to ensure that the Deaf Community is aware of the work and how to engage with it. This will be posted onto the websites of Deaf organisations and You Tube;
- Talks to various Staff Teams at community and voluntary organisations have been arranged including to teams at: Friends, Families & Travellers; The Carers Centre; Age UK; The Brighton & Hove Youth Collective; The Trust for Developing Communities; The Advice Services Network; Brighton & Hove Healthwatch; St Johns Café (Cornerstone); The Early Childhood Project (Tarnier Children’s Centre). Groups will be encouraged to hold focus group meetings and workshops to gather evidence from their users;
- The Library Service has designed posters that are displayed in all neighbourhood libraries along with a ‘post box’ so that responses can be gathered and forwarded to the Policy Team. Librarians have all been briefed;
- Information will be disseminated to residents living in Council Housing and Seniors Housing Schemes via Peter Huntbach and the Tenant Participation Officers;
- Voluntary organisations that work with groups with protected characteristics and that were contracted through the Third Sector Commissioning Prospectus are directing much of their engagement work toward gathering evidence for the Commission. This work is now progressing.

Data analysis

- 3.6 Through CUPP (Community University Partnership Project) the School of Applied Social Science, University of Brighton, has offered to assist with data collection methodology and may also be able to assist with the analysis of residents’ responses.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. Gathering additional evidence

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Progress to date on the establishment of the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission, Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee, 05 October 2015

Appendix 1

Gathering additional evidence

Theme	Type of Event	Event Details	Date
City Employment & Skills Plan	Consultation event	Consultation Event to feed into the refresh of the plan 2015-2020	Tuesday 1 st December 5.30 pm (venue TBC – probably The Metropole Hotel)
Befriending – addressing isolation	Conference	'Celebrating Befriending' event at St John's (now called The Hop50+) – an event as part of National Befriending Week. Opportunity to hear case studies on the benefits of befriending	Friday 6th November. 2.30-4.30 pm
Housing	Round Table Discussion	Housing Round Table discussion with CEO of Hyde Housing; CEO of Brighton Housing Trust (BHT); BHCC Head of Housing	Date TBC
Advice Services & financial inclusion	Half Day Visit	IAG Frontline workers (Advisors), users. Round table discussion over lunch with service providers; evidence and personal stories from users; tour of The Bridge Community & Learning Centre in Moulsecoomb; presentation on MoneyWorks (Community Banking Partnership) and Social Welfare Advice Services in the City.	19 th January 2016 Times TBC but probably 11.30 am to 3 pm
Disability	Half Day Visit	The Fed Centre for Independent Living: round table discussion over lunch with workers; evidence and personal stories from disabled people; proposals for change from The Fed	11 December 1 pm for lunch to 5 pm The Friends Meeting House
Food and Food Poverty	Half Day Visit	Round table discussion with workers from The Food Partnership; visit to a food bank (where lunch is provided and cooking skills taught); personal stories and evidence from food bank users	15 th January 2016 11 am to 3 pm
Disability: The Deaf Community	Meeting on Fairness Commission	Monthly Meeting organised by Deaf COG for the Deaf Community. Presentation on the Fairness Commission and opportunity to hear from Deaf people	Tuesday 23 February 2016, 7-9 pm Queens Hotel
People living with HIV	Visit and talk to users	Lunch Positive is a weekly lunch club for people with HIV - a safe & supportive community space for improved health, well-being and peer support. Opportunity to meet with and hear from the volunteer team (20+ people) followed by lunch. Talk to service users from 2-3 pm.	Friday 19 th February, 12 noon – 3 pm

Subject:	Welfare Reform, responses to recommendations made by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion		
Date of Meeting:	23rd November 2015		
Report of:	Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Finance and Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	John Francis	Tel: 01273 291913
	Email:	John.Francis@Brighton-Hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the council's responses to the recommendations contained in the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion's (CESI) independent report into the impacts of welfare reform in Brighton and Hove. This report was commissioned by Public Health to provide detailed information on the impacts of welfare reform in Brighton and Hove to, inform commissioning decisions; help develop strategies to support citizens who have faced the most significant impacts of the changes; and, to provide context and information to inform policy development and budget decisions generally.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is also to set out the broader actions and activities the council is undertaking to respond to the issues raised by the Government's welfare reform programme.
- 1.3 The purpose of the report is also to highlight the key impacts and considerations resulting from the welfare changes set out in the July 2015 summer budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- 2.1 endorses the responses to the recommendations set out in the CESI independent report into the impacts of welfare reform in Brighton and Hove.
- 2.2 notes the current mitigation strategies which are in place to manage the impacts of welfare reform in the city.
- 2.3 notes the work of the council and partners around employment and apprenticeships

- 2.4 Directs officers to report to the City Management Board to highlight key impacts and considerations arising from the provisions set out in the Government's July 2015 budget and the CESI report to generate a city wide response. Subsequently the City Management Board's response be reported back to this committee.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Reform of the welfare reform system was a key area of policy for the coalition Government between 2010 and 2015.
- 3.2 The first phase of welfare reform involved making reductions and changes to nearly every working age benefit; localisation of Council Tax Benefit and Social Fund; the introduction of Personal Independence Payments to replace Disability Living Allowance; sanctions reform; and, the early introduction of Universal Credit in some parts of the country.
- 3.3 A further series of welfare changes were announced in the July 2015 national budget. These will have key regional impacts as well impacts in the City due to the high cost housing market in the south east. This will mean we will have to work with other local authorities, especially in the Greater Brighton area to manage this.
- 3.4 The CESI report sets out in detail how the impacts are affecting citizens whose benefits have changed or been reduced; and, sets out who is managing, who is struggling and who needs support. In turn the changes have had impacts across council services including Housing, Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Revenues and Benefits.
- 3.5 Brighton & Hove has particular characteristics which have exacerbated the impacts in some areas for the city.
- The city has recovered strongly in comparison with other areas of the country from recession with labour market near historic highs, however benefit receipt has not reduced proportionally.
 - Like many other seaside cities Brighton & Hove has a number of areas with high concentrations of disadvantage and deprivation. As a result some areas have a high percentage of households claiming out of work benefits.
 - The housing market in Brighton and Hove is characterised by high prices and high rents in the private sector and with very strong demand for limited stock in the public sector.
- 3.6 To plan and respond to these changes the council introduced a welfare reform programme to work with partners across the council and the city; to work with customers who have been most significantly impacted by the changes; to commission support for people affected by these changes from the community and voluntary sector (Moneyworks), to manage the localisation of services (Council Tax Reduction and Social Fund); to research and provide accurate

information about the changes and the impacts of the changes including commissioning the research undertaken by CESI; and to prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit.

- 3.7 Community and Voluntary Sector Partners providing advice and support have reported an increase in the level and complexity of demand for their services. The external funding context has made this particularly challenging them. (For example, in 2008-9 BHT and Citizens Advice Bureau were able to assist 3,416 residents with social welfare related issues under the Legal Aid scheme which provided financial support per case. By 2014-15 this number had fallen to 590 although overall demand and numbers through the door had increased).
- 3.8 Nevertheless there have been a number of successful new initiatives that have seen advice agencies work in partnership with each other and the council to respond to the changes. These include the development of the Council Commissioned 'Moneyworks' programme, which has integrated money advice, financial capability and skills and learning and the forthcoming 'Warmth for Wellbeing' fuel poverty programme funded by British Gas Energy Trust.
- 3.9 There are currently 15 food banks in the city most of which are run by community and faith groups, prior to 2012 there were 2.
- 3.10 The council has a programme in place to support customers who are affected by the benefit cap. This includes intensive one to one support provided by family coaches based on the troubled families model (locally stronger families stronger communities) for families with complex needs. At present this is funded until May 2016. Tenants affected by the social sector size criteria and the benefit cap who live in Council Housing accommodation have been visited. Other families and households are supported by discretionary funds and Moneyworks provides budgeting and finance advice in the community.
- 3.11 The Council works closely with the Job Centre to coordinate and provide employment support in the city

Recommendations from CESI report

- 3.12 A series of recommendations have been made as a result of the research into the impacts of the welfare reform in Brighton and Hove undertaken by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI). These recommendations drew particularly on workshops with Council staff and stakeholders undertaken during the period of research. The recommendations and responses are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.13 The recommendations and subsequent required actions meet council priorities and provide options for meeting financial pressures which may occur as a result of the changes in welfare benefits. Some current threads of work capture the recommendations and plans for new areas of work are also set out but these will be subject to budgetary approval. These work streams include:
 - Creating an early warning system for households who may face crisis in the future as a result of the welfare reforms and an increase in intensive

support for those families based on the model currently being used with families affected by the benefit cap

- Continuing the financial inclusion commission through until April 2017 when a comprehensive third sector commission will commence
- Enabling council staff and members of the third sector who work with households affected by welfare reform to have honest and open conversations about where they can afford to live and employment support
- Preparations for the introduction of Universal Credit
- Promotion of the CCG commissioned wellbeing service to customers affected by welfare reform
- Employment support at a strategic and practical level including partnership working with Job Centre Plus and other local partners.

Key considerations and impacts of July 2015 budget

3.14 The recommendations set out above were made in response to the first wave of welfare reform. In the July 2015 budget the government set out a further programme of reform. A full breakdown of these changes are in appendix 2, but the main areas and themes are:

- Freezing most working age benefits for four years from April 2016
- Reducing Social Sector Rents by 1% for four years
- Limiting benefits in general to the amount for a family with no more than two children from 2017. (Will not apply to families with more than 2 children born before April 2017)
- Reducing the benefits cap from £26,000 to £20,000
- Reducing Employment and Support Allowance for people able to do some work to the same rate as Job Seekers Allowance
- Reductions in Tax Credits and Universal Credit from April 2016 for working people (Further to a vote in the House of Lords on 26th October this is now subject to change, further information will be made available in the autumn statement, 25th November)
- An increase in the minimum wage (living wage) to £7.20 from April 2016 (currently £6.70) rising to £9 per hour by 2020.

(Announced separately Income Tax tax-free personal allowance is due to increase from £10,800 to £11,000 from April 2016)

3.15 The high cost of private sector rents and the relatively high percentage of private rents as a part of the housing market will mean that Brighton and Hove will be one of the most heavily impacted authorities in the country by the reduction of the benefit cap to £20,000 (In London authorities families will be capped by £23,000). It is currently estimated this will affect around 650 families in the city, families who are currently capped (120) will lose a further £120 per week, and other families will lose up to £120 per week.

- 3.16 Private sector rents have been increasing by approximately 10% a year in the city over the last four years. If this trend continues freezing LHA rates (housing benefit in the private sector) will mean the gap between rents and LHA will increase to between £500 and £600 per month by 2019/20. This is likely to mean that private sector rents are largely unaffordable to people on benefits and lower incomes.
- 3.17 High rents in the City mean it is becoming harder for Housing to secure accommodation in the City to house homeless people and the cap and the freeze on LHA rates will mean that this is likely to become an issue for large areas of the South East. A report was agreed at the Housing and New Homes Committee on 23rd September 2015 titled Allocation of Temporary Accommodation Policy which set out the council's approach to allocating accommodation within and outside the City. A copy of this report has been put in the members' room.
- 3.18 Any family who has a third or subsequent child after April 2017 will not receive an increase in benefits to reflect the extra outgoings that child will need. For cases affected this will mean a loss of at least £53 per week for the entire period of childhood. There are approximately 100 third or subsequent children born to families who are reliant on benefits a year in Brighton and Hove. It is currently unclear what the government is intending to do to publicise this change. It will be essential that this is clearly understood in the community by mid 2016. The council and partners may have to undertake a local communication drive to ensure this is the case and for that reason it is recommended a report is taken to the City Management Board to propose a plan for this.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The quality of life of residents and the life chances of their children as well as a drive to reduce inequality are central to the priorities of the council. In addition the implications of the changes to the benefit cap, the freeze in LHA rates and the restriction of benefit levels to two children from 2017 all have direct financial implications for council costs specifically around rent collection, homelessness costs and costs to children's services. Were the council not to put in place mitigations, including those based in the recommendations set out in the CESI report, then the costs are likely to be far greater than they would be otherwise. Due to the current financial situation and appropriate business controls a full business case will be undertaken for each area of work if extra resources are identified as being necessary.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The BHCC welfare reform programme team holds regular meetings with city representatives to share information and draw feedback about the impacts of welfare reform. The group represents the community and voluntary sector, advice services, Job Centre Plus, and social and private sector landlords. This allows the council to stay in touch with city groups as representatives of customers who are affected by the reforms and to understand the impact of the reforms from the perspective of people working directly with customers affected.

- 5.2 In developing policy responding to the changes around Council Tax Reduction and the replacement of the Social Fund the council has regularly undertaken extensive consultation with customers who may be affected by those changes as well as with groups and organisations which work with and represent those customers
- 5.3 The research from the Centre and Social and Economic Inclusion has provided in depth insight into the impacts of individuals in the community which has led to a greater depth of understanding about how customers are responding to these changes which have informed planned mitigating actions

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 As has been set out in the CESI report the impacts on citizens of the welfare reforms can be profound and specific groups have been identified as being at more risk than others in this analysis.
- 6.2 The practical impact of these changes can in the most significantly affected cases lead to families falling behind with rent and becoming at risk of homelessness. This in turn may lead to financial pressure to the council around rent collection and homeless costs.
- 6.3 The impacts of these changes may have broader impacts in terms of the overall economy of the city and the region if high housing costs impact of the ability of low paid workers to live within travelling distance of the City. Information about these changes are being shared with the economic development team so the potential impact can be analysed
- 6.4 The responses to the recommendations will continue to be developed, current service offerings will be aligned to meet these challenges and where the responses may require extra resources a full business case will be developed to support this.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The changes to welfare benefits have both direct and indirect implications for council budgets. The benefit cap means that a person's housing benefit is withdrawn which in turn creates a direct pressure on rental income for temporary accommodation and council housing. Significant reductions in housing benefit for other customers increase the risk of homelessness and hence service pressures on housing and social care services. The council has had access to limited discretionary funds and has had a programme of work in place designed to help households affected by these provisions which has been successful in reducing these costs to date.

- 7.2 Two of the major general discretionary fund allocations from the Government were reduced considerably in 2015/16. The budget for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) was reduced from £1.014m in 2014/15 to £0.611m in 2015/16 and the Local Discretionary Social Fund allocation was reduced from £0.629m to zero over the same period. This has restricted the ability of the council to provide support in these areas
- 7.3 The change in the benefits cap to £20k from Autumn 2016 has the capacity to increase the pressure on rental income and service costs significantly. Over time as housing benefit rates are frozen, and assuming the rental market continues to match recent inflationary trends these pressures will be exacerbated from 2016/17 and in future years.
- 7.4 A business case was agreed for the current intervention work. Any extension of the intervention programme to help people will require a revised business case to demonstrate a spend to save benefit of undertaking any further preventative work. This will be subject to normal budgetary approval and will need to be met from identified resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley Date: 22nd October 2015

Legal Implications:

- 7.5 The proposed responses to the CESI independent report in Appendix 1 are within the council's powers. Many of the actions can be linked to the prevention of homelessness. The council is under an express duty in Section 179 of the Housing Act 1996 to secure that advice and information about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness is available free of charge to any person in their district.

Lawyer Consulted: Name Liz Woodley Date: 23/10/15

Equalities Implications:

- 7.6 The CESI report identified particular household types who are more likely to have seen large reductions in their income as a result of the welfare reforms so far. It also identified household types who are more likely to be subject to crisis as a result of these changes.
- 7.7 The groups that have been specifically identified as being key affected groups are disabled people and people with health conditions; lone parent households and large families living in the private sector. Living in a private sector irrespective of which household type a person lived in makes it more likely that household will have faced larger reductions in benefits than those living in the social sector.

- 7.8 Of those affected the CESI report identifies those at risk as being disabled people, large families - particularly lone parents - and people with a range of factors including renting privately, mental health and poor networks.
- 7.9 People identified as being in crisis tend to be those who have been impacted by multiple reforms or combined factors often linked to health, housing, crisis and debt
- 7.10 This information is actively informing the approach of teams currently supporting those impacted by the reforms, it is also driving the preventative strategies currently in planning to manage the changes set out in the July 2015 budget.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.11 None

Public Health Implications:

- 7.12 The CESI report identified the link between the impact of welfare reform and health.
- 7.13 The majority of residents who participated in the research reported significant effects on their health and wellbeing including stress, anxiety and in some cases insomnia and low level depression. For those with pre-existing conditions, financial strains exacerbated these or made them harder to manage. The responses reflect these issues, for example by raising awareness of the NHS Wellbeing Service.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Centre for Economic Inclusion recommendation and responses.
2. A detailed breakdown of the July 2015 reforms and analysis

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Full copy of the CESI report
2. Copy of Development of a new City Employment & Skills Plan (2015-2020) report to Children and Young People & Skills committee 20th July 2015
3. Copy of Allocation of Temporary Accommodation Policy report to Housing Committee 23rd September 2015

Background Documents

None

Appendix 1

Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion recommendations and draft responses

1. A series of recommendations have been made as a result of the research into the impacts of the welfare reform in Brighton and Hove undertaken by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI). These recommendations drew particularly on workshops with Council staff and stakeholders undertaken during the period of research. The responses to the recommendations set out below describe the current work which is happening in the City around welfare reform and planning for future impacts. The ongoing work will be subject to budgetary approval.

CESI recommendation A

Consideration should be given to developing an ‘early warning system’ for identifying residents that are at risk of crisis or falling into crisis.

A more intensive, caseworker-led housing support for those affected by LHA reforms and at risk of eviction should be considered.

2. The decrease in the benefit cap to £20k and the freezing on housing benefit rates for four years will have a key impact in Brighton and Hove because of the proportion of households who live in the private rented sector in the City and because of high rents in this sector. These changes may lead to pressures relating to collecting rents in temporary accommodation and council housing and pressures on homeless services.
3. In preparation for these changes officers from relevant council services are developing an early warning and early intervention programme to prevent people falling into crisis with particular focus on rent arrears and prevention of homelessness. An initial workshop for these officers and representatives from the third sector was held on 15th October. Subject to further development and budgetary approval of any extra resources required the outcome of this work will meet recommendations A and C.

CESI recommendation B

The Moneyworks ‘community frontliner’ model and ‘Money Mentors’ in Council housing should be built on to try to engage residents earlier and to link them up with support services.

4. A report on Third Sector Investment to this committee on 20th July 2015 set out how a new Communities and Third Sector Commission would commence in April 2017. Subject to budgetary approval this report also sought agreement to extend the current Moneyworks commission until this date. The Communities and Equalities Team, the Welfare Reform Team and Moneyworks are working closely together to ensure key priorities around welfare reform are addressed. The learning from this work will be fed into the new full commission from April 2017 to build upon experience and best practice.
5. Using our European Learning Cities funding, Housing provided Money Mentor training for 25 staff from a wide range of agencies across the city to enable them to support and train volunteers to become Money Mentors. Working in conjunction with the Womens' Centre, Trust for Developing Communities and Brighton Housing Trust, the Housing Inclusion Team then advertised citywide and recruited learners for three x 10 week programmes from May to September 2014. These courses were accredited and externally verified by Toynbee Hall/OCN. All residents who completed the coursework/assessments passed and have received their certificates, providing a citywide cohort of Money Mentor volunteers who have used their new skills with neighbours, friends, and family. In addition, some have used their links in the community to help other residents eg at lunch clubs, food banks, school/playgroups, BHT drop in centre etc.
6. Housing were unable to sustain funding and co-ordinating the citywide Money mentor programme beyond the end of the Learning Cities project in September 2014. Moneyworks have continued to provide support to resident volunteers and are delivering a programme of financial capability through the community hubs.

CESI recommendation C

Raise awareness of the Wellbeing Service among those affected by reforms, and to improve signposting to support to deal with welfare reforms

7. The Clinical Commissioning Group commission the wellbeing service. The wellbeing service are currently undertaking pilot work with the Job Centre Plus to support claimants with mental health needs. The service can be accessed either via a referral from a GP or through self-referral, the service is undertaking a drive to promote self-referral. Information about the service and who it supports has been circulated to front line staff in the council who in

particular deal with customers who may be affected by welfare reform. This information will also form a part of new staff induction training. Awareness of the wellbeing service amongst the advice sector is good but information about the service has been re-circulated to ensure coverage is comprehensive.

CESI recommendation D

Residents at risk of homelessness from the private rented sector with shortfalls between Housing Benefit and rent should be encouraged to have difficult conversations earlier.

8. The recommendation refers to having difficult conversations with customers at an early stage around choice of where to live and how to sustain employment.
9. It has been identified in the CESI research that households affected by the reforms have not in the main seen moving as something they would do to counteract the impact of decreasing benefit levels. However with the gap between benefit levels and market rents likely to widen failure to consider this option at an early point made lead to hardship or crisis.
10. These conversations are already starting to be had in some services where these issues are key, particularly around housing. This is a significant shift in service provision and is clearly not an easy message to give or to receive. To be effective this message will have to be consistent across all services, including those provided by the third sector and other public statutory providers. To achieve this will require a cultural shift across the city in the way customer service is provided.
11. This will mean council staff and perhaps members of the third sector having honest and open conversations about how realistic the prospect of families being able to live in appropriately sized accommodation in the city over the period of the next few years if they are reliant on benefits. This may include providing advice about which areas of the country are affordable to live in.
12. The impact of the benefit cap at £20k and the freezing of LHA rates will mean that for many families living in the city on benefits will not be a financially viable option in anything other than the short term. Council staff will be central to promoting this understanding and therefore the organisation as a whole, including members, will need to understand the context in which this advice is being provided and understand that this level of cultural shift is likely to lead to an increase in customer dissatisfaction and complaints.
13. It is recommended this issue is addressed in a report to the City Management Board and monitored as a welfare reform impact thereafter.

CESI recommendation E

As part of preparations for Universal Credit rollout, a joint taskforce should consider how services may need to respond in order to improve triage, budgeting support, digital support and partnership working for residents entering the benefits system.

14. Universal Credit is due to start to rollout in Brighton and Hove on December 14th 2015. The rollout will initially be for a narrow segment of single customers only. It is not clear when the rollout will widen. Between December 15 and March 2016 between 500 and 1000 claims are expected to be made. Once Universal Credit has been fully rolled out it will be paid to at least 20,000 households in the city. The council has visited other authorities where the rollout has already started and met with representatives of the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) to understand the provisions which will need to be in place in the city to support people who will be claiming Universal Credit. This work is being overseen by the Welfare Reform Programme Board and the welfare reform city wide group. The work is on track to ensure triage, digital access and financial advice is available to claimants of Universal Credit when it goes live. This support will be funded by DWP, commissioned by the council and is likely, at least in part, to be carried out by the third sector.

CESI recommendation F

There should be consideration of joint commissioning of intensive employment support for residents that are out of work, want to work and affected by welfare reform.

15. There are a number of areas where Job Centre Plus (JCP) and Brighton & Hove City Council are working closely together and sharing resources in order to improve the employment prospects for people who have been affected by welfare reform.
16. JCP have provided funding to support the work of the team which supports people who have been affected by the benefit cap. One of the key outcomes that this team is set to achieve is to move people into work. JCP have also supported this work by providing visiting staff to assist in making contact with customers affected. Job Centre plus have also provided funding for the Moneyworks commission which covers community learning as well and employability as well as financial advice via community education service.
17. JCP have also provided funding for work focussed activities specifically for tenants of the council's housing stock.
18. The council is committed to maximising the number of apprenticeships it can offer as a large employer. To enable this JCP have provided funding for the council to employ an apprenticeship coordinator

19. JCP have provided two members of staff to work alongside the Stronger Families Stronger Communities programme to provide employment advice to families engaged with the programme and to fellow professionals within the programme itself.
20. More broadly locally the JCP and the City Council are committed to work in partnership with each other in order to meet their joint objectives of maximising employability in the City, the employment and skills agenda, accessing and helping vulnerable groups and issues relating to devolution. This has included members of JCP staff sitting on council commissions (drug and alcohol), working within the local economic partnership together and working to draw down funding focussed on third sector organisations to target hard to reach vulnerable groups who form a priority for both organisations. An example of this is a work club run for people on employment and support allowance (ESA) which is hosted by the library service in partnership with JCP, the Federation for Disabled People and the National Careers Service to assist ESA customers into work via digital inclusion and employability skills.
21. It should be noted that despite all of the above for those in low paid employment, with or without a residual element of benefit support, the conversation around affordability of the city (points 8 to 13) may still be relevant.

Work of the Third sector

22. Partners from the community and advice sector are active in providing employment skills in the community. Specifically the Community Learning Hubs The Bridge, The Whitehawk Inn and the Hangleton and Knoll project with funding via the Skills Funding Agency. Funding post March 2016 is as yet unconfirmed.

Council Approach to Employment and Skills

23. A report titled Development of a new City Employment & Skills plan (2015-2020) was taken to the Children and Young People and Skills committee on 20th July 2015. This report set out the council's main strategic approach to employment and apprenticeships. A full copy of the report has been placed in the members room. The new City Employment & Skills plan will have a particular focus upon actions which aim to eliminate long term youth unemployment in the city and create new apprenticeship opportunities across the city. The key priorities are:
 - Establishing an Employer Skills Task Force to provide the vital business leadership to support both the development and delivery of the new Plan
 - Exploring new delivery models for boosting the number of apprenticeship opportunities across the city and the Greater Brighton

city region, with a particular focus upon high quality skilled apprenticeships, for 16-24 year olds.

- Creating a step change in how the City Council creates apprenticeship opportunities as a major employer
- Explore initiatives which aim to eliminate long-term youth unemployment in the city through new ways of working in partnership with DWP, the council and the private sector, and ensuring that the City Council uses our procurement process to maximise employment, work placement and training opportunities ; and
- Supporting those marginalised from the labour market into jobs.

24. The last point is a key element in the plan which will focus on a number of areas including mitigating the impact of welfare reform and helping those who are affected by welfare changes to get closer to the workplace. This may be achieved through the individuals getting training, an apprenticeship, traineeship, work placement and/or education. This will involve working closely with the Fairness Commission to ensure that the new plan is aligned with wider initiatives that aim to promote fairness and equality in the labour market. It will explore how those marginalised from the labour market can access employment and better jobs through a number of pathways including Pre-employment entry, staying in work and in work progression.

25. The report also sets out the council and city wide approach to apprenticeships. The local authority currently employs 46 apprentices. 48 have completed their apprenticeship programme since November 2012. This includes some individuals who have progressed to advanced levels. 5 care leavers have become apprentices. A key element of the development of the new City Employment & Skills Plan will be working with the Employers Task Force and key supply-side partners to explore new models of delivering an increase in the apprenticeship opportunities across the city and wider city region.

European Funding

26. The Economic Development Team are also leading on European Social Fund (ESF) bids with other neighbouring authorities to create employment support training provision to be provided by training providers in the region. The outcome of this will be dependent on when the calls for the ESF are made.

26. A separate bid is being made in conjunction with European partners for Interreg funding. The basis of this bid is to create a longer term funding base to bring together different teams in the council which currently provide employment support and guidance.

Appendix 2

Summary and analysis of welfare measures announced in the July 2015 budget

Below is a table which sets out the detail of the budget as it relates to welfare reform and related issues.

The main themes of the budget in this area are:

- 1) Freezing most working age benefits for four years from April 2016
- 2) Reducing Social Sector Rents by 1% for four years
- 3) Limiting benefits in general to the amount for a family with no more than two children from 2017. (Will not apply to children born before April 2017)
- 4) Reducing the benefits cap from £26,000 to £20,000
- 5) Reducing Employment and Support Allowance for people able to do some work to the same rate as Job Seekers Allowance.
- 6) Reductions in Tax Credits and Universal Credit from April 2016 for working people
- 7) An increase in the minimum (living) wage

Group	Details	From
18-21 year olds:	Youth obligation 18-21s must be in work or training.	April 2017
Tax Credits and Universal Credit (note: A vote in the House of	Taper increased from 41% to 48% (the amount which is withdrawn in tax credits as income goes above minimum income threshold).	April 2016

Appendix 2: July 2015 budget welfare changes with local analysis
 Welfare Reform, responses to recommendations made by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion

<p>Lords on 26th October may mean some of the provisions relating to tax credits are changed or delayed. Detail will be known after the Autumn Statement on 25th November 15)</p>		
	Income thresholds in Tax Credits reduced from £6420 to £3850	April 2016
	Work allowances in Universal Credit will be abolished for non-disabled childless claimants, and reduced to £192 per month for those with housing costs and £397 per month for those without housing costs. Claimants earning below these amounts will retain their maximum award.	April 2016
	Child element of Tax Credits and Universal Credit will no longer apply to third or subsequent children born after April 2017 – there will be exceptions	April 2017
	The amount by which a persons income can change for tax credits before their award is adjusted will be reduced from £5000 to £2500	April 2016
	Family premium will no longer be awarded for new claims or new births	April 2017
<p>Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</p>	New claimants of ESA in the Work Related Activity Group will receive the same amount of money as people on JSA, a reduction of about £30 per week	April 2017
<p>Housing Benefits</p>	Family premium will no longer be awarded for new claims or new births	April 2016

Appendix 2: July 2015 budget welfare changes with local analysis
Welfare Reform, responses to recommendations made by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion

	Backdating restricted to 4 weeks	April 2016
	Working age HB rates frozen for four years	April 2016
	Child elements will no longer apply to third or subsequent children born after April 2017 – there will be exceptions	April 2017
	LHA rates frozen for four years	April 2016
(benefit cap)	Benefit Cap reduced from £26,000 to £20,000 in Brighton & Hove Reduced from £18,200 to £13,400 for single people	Not specified
	National Discretionary Housing Payment budget of £800million over five years. The national budget will be about the same as it was in 14/15 when the BHCC budget was £1.014million, however because the city is likely to be one of the most significantly impacted by the introduction of the £20k cap then the BHCC allocation may increase to account for that. Details are likely to be known in December 2015.	April 2016
Social Sector Rents	Will be reduced by 1% a year for four years	April 2017
	People earning over £30,000 will pay higher rents up to market rents	April 2017
Mortgage interest relief	Will become a loan	April 2018
Benefit upratings	Most working age benefits will be frozen for four years. Excludes some disability related and statutory schemes eg statutory sick pay	April 2016
National minimum wage/living wage	Increased to £7.20 for over 25s, £9 by 2020	April 2016 (2020)
Child Care	All 3 and 4 year olds will receive up to 30 hours child care per week	April 2017
	Parents of young children will be expected to undertake work readiness activities once the child is 2 and look for work when they are 3.	April 2017

Analysis

The reduction of the cap from £26,000 to £20,000

At present the cap set at £26k affects approximately 115 cases in Brighton and Hove. The full financial impact is approximately £335,000

When the cap is reduced to £20k we estimate this will affect around 650 cases which will face reductions in their housing benefit between a few pounds and £450 per week. The full financial impact of this is estimated to be around £2.3million. Of this just under 50% is likely to be a direct reduction in rental income to the council.

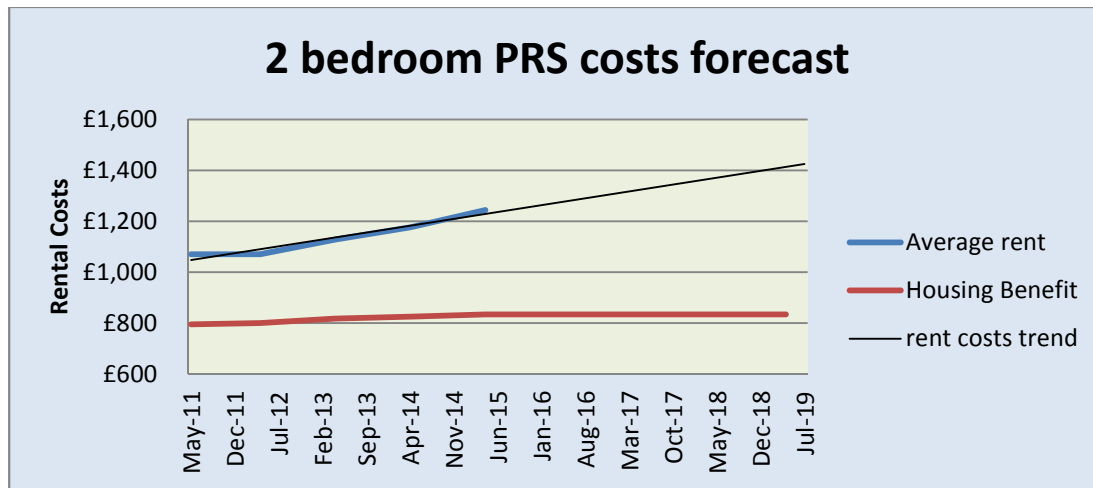
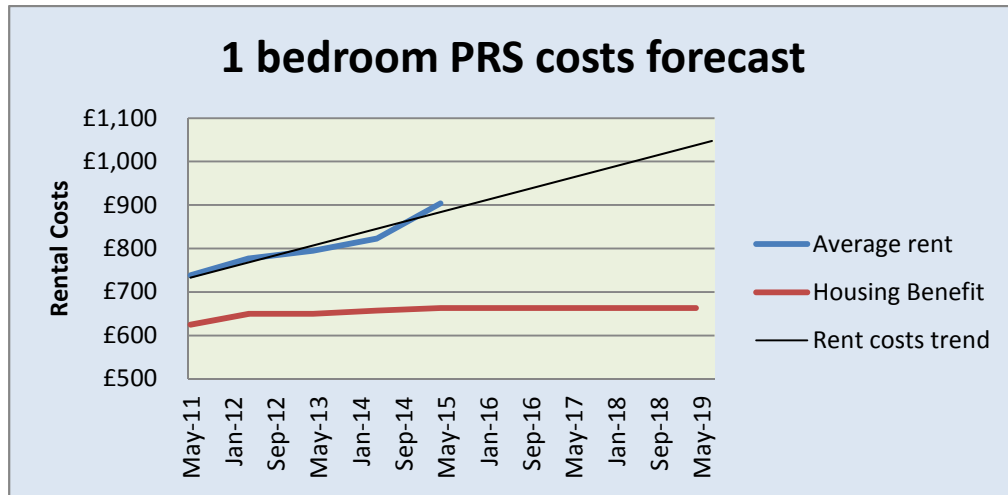
Freezing of working age benefits

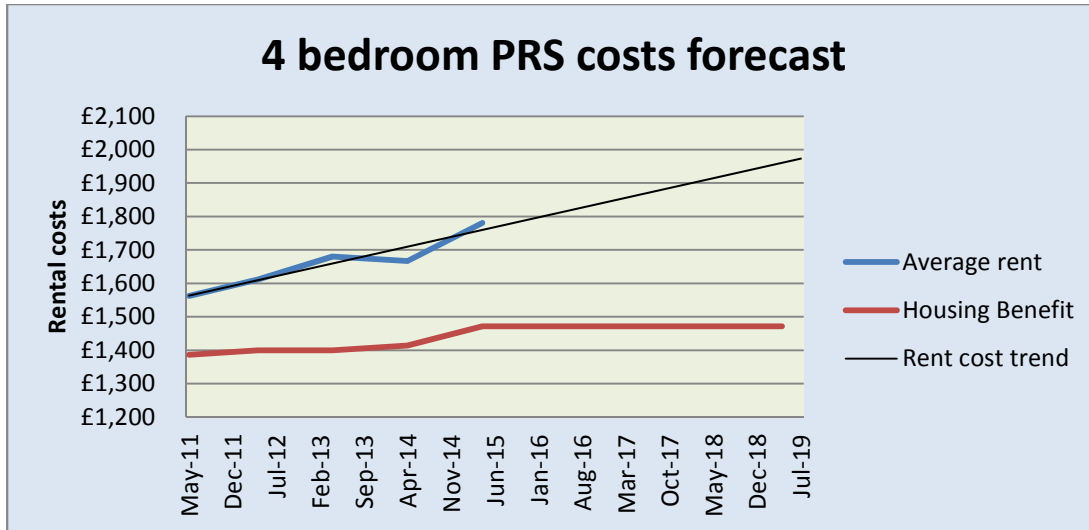
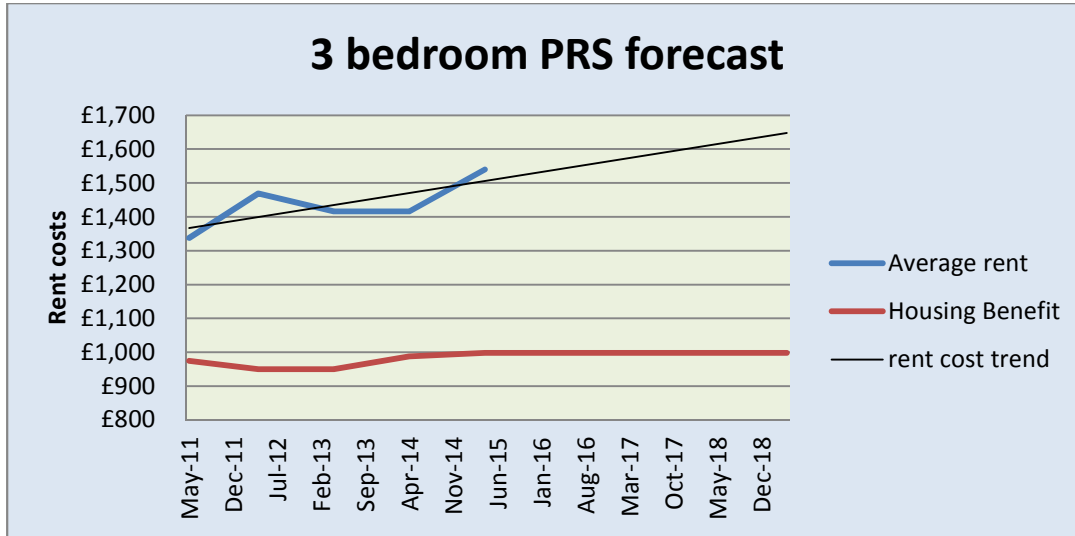
The freeze in working age benefits will affect 20,000 working age families who claim housing benefit from the council in the city, there are also a number of families who will be affected because they claim other benefits but not housing benefit for which the council does not hold figures. This will create pressure on the general cost of living for those families and assuming the private rental market continues to increase the city will become increasingly unaffordable for families who rent in this sector to live in. The report published by the Centre for Social Inclusion (CESI) looking at the impact of welfare reform in Brighton and Hove showed that the benefit freeze was one of the highest contributors to the overall relative reductions in income households faced during the first phase of welfare reform (2011 – 2015).

Freezing of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates

LHA is housing benefit in the private sector. LHA rates are due to be frozen over the next four years, the following graphs set out historic rent price increases and projections against LHA costs to demonstrate the impact this may have if these rent trends continue in the City (as the graphs demonstrate there is already a sizeable difference between average rents and LHA payable). There are currently 10,900 LHA claims in the city

(Source: BHCC Housing LHA rents report)





The consequences of this relationship between rents and benefit levels if they occur according to historical trend will mean that it will be increasing difficult to live in private sector rented accommodation if a person on household is on benefits or a low income,

Tax Credits and Housing Benefit will not increase if a third of subsequent child is born after April 2017

Approximately 100 third or subsequent children are born to families in Brighton and Hove who are living on benefits each year. The consequence of having a third or subsequent child will mean receiving £53 per week less in Child Tax Credit. It can also mean a loss of housing benefit if a household rents in the private sector of up to £100 per week (although in some circumstances LHA would not increase anyway).

Tax Credit and Universal Credit changes for people who are working (May now be delayed or amended, further detail will be given at the Autumn Statement 25th November 2015)

Around 4400 households in the City are estimated to be affected by these changes. These households are likely to see a reduction on average of £870 per year. The minimum (living) wage is due to increase from £6.70 to £7.20 in April 2016 and then to £9 by 2020.

ESA work related activity group

From April 2017 new claims for Employment Support Allowance who are in the Work Related Activity group will be paid at the same rate as people who claim Job Seekers Allowance. This means they will receive approximately £30 less per week than they would have done otherwise. In Feb 2015 there were 2520 people in the city in receipt of ESA work related activity group.

Discretionary Housing Payments

The Government has announced a national Discretionary Housing Payment allocation of £800million from April 2016 over 5 years. In Brighton and Hove this will mean funding is likely to rise to about that which it was in 2014/15 which was £1,014,000 and would mean there would be a sizable gap between need and provision given the new measures introduced in this budget. This will also depend on the distribution formula and could alter significantly. Some of the reductions will be able to be covered through these discretionary funds but this will only be a short term solution. Other mitigating actions are set out in the main report and in appendix 1.

Subject:	Adoption of the Food Poverty Action Plan		
Date of Meeting:	23rd November 2015		
Report of:	Director of Public Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Becky Woodiwiss	Tel: 29-6575
	Email:	Becky.woodiwiss@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The paper presents a Food Poverty Action Plan for Brighton & Hove which sets out how the city plans to prevent and alleviate food poverty. It is owned by strategic partners via Brighton & Hove Connected, including the City Council, CCG and the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership.
- 1.2 The Food Poverty Action Plan (FPAP) aims to;
 - focus the city's limited resources most effectively,
 - reduce the impact of food poverty on the health and wellbeing of local people,
 - mitigate against the likely impact of future health and social care budgets if food poverty is not addressed.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhoods Communities and Equalities Committee is being asked to approve this 3 year Food Poverty Action Plan (FPAP) as a strategic approach and commit the Council to delivery of relevant actions.
- 1.4 This is important as good nutrition supports both mental and physical health and evidence demonstrates the impact of nutrition on educational attainment in children. Poor diet is linked to 30% of life years lost and disability. It has been estimated that malnutrition costs UK health services up to £7.4 billion a year.
- 1.5 The FPAP is for the city as a whole and is both pragmatic and aspirational. It contains 80 actions, over half of which relate to Brighton and Hove City Council services or functions. Delivery of these is achievable within current resources. There are also other proposals where the work is being led by others, to which the Council is a partner. Additionally, there are aspirational actions where external funding will need to be sought. This Committee is only being asked to agree to facilitate those Council actions within the plan that can be delivered within identified resources.
- 1.6 Food is a cross cutting issue so a focus on food will contribute to other citywide priority outcomes around health, wellbeing and addressing inequalities.

- 1.7 The FPAP is recognised as national good practice building on the city's track record of pioneering food work and has led to Brighton & Hove being chosen as a national Feeding Britain pilot.¹

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Neighbourhoods Communities and Equalities Committee (NCEC) agree the Food Poverty Action Plan (Appendix 1) as a strategic approach acknowledging that food poverty is unacceptable and that action should be taken to prevent and address this issue in Brighton & Hove.
- 2.2 That the NCEC agrees to facilitate those Council actions within the plan that can be delivered within identified resources.
- 2.3 That a progress report comes back to the NCEC at the half way point and the end of the 3 years.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Food poverty is the inability to afford, or to have access to the food necessary for a healthy diet. Food poverty does not exist in isolation from other forms of poverty and inequality, nor do food prices exist in a vacuum from other household expenses such as rent, fuel and water. Food poverty is not just about no food – it is about difficult choices ('food v fuel'; 'skipping meals', 'trading down') and long term unhealthier food choices.
- 3.2 The citywide Brighton & Hove Food Strategy - Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper was adopted at Cabinet 8th December 2012. This has nine aims, a series of key objectives and an action plan. Aim Two - All residents have better access to nutritious, affordable, sustainable food, includes an action to improve the understanding of food poverty in the city; establish baseline data and take forward an action plan.²
- 3.3 Brighton & Hove Connected Sustainable Communities Strategy includes increasing equality as a key principle and improving health and wellbeing as a priority. In the Strategy (food section in the environment section) there is a commitment to taking both a strategic and frontline approach to tackling food poverty. At the Brighton & Hove Connected meeting on 8th September BHC agreed to support the implementation of the food strategy and food poverty action plan and encouraged partners to do the same in their own organisations.³

¹ <https://foodpovertyinquiry.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/food-poverty-feeding-britain-final.pdf>

See page 46 - recommends 12 national pilots.

² <http://bhfood.org.uk/downloads/downloads-publications/18-spade-to-spoon-strategy-2012-print/file>

³ <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/strategy/strategy>

- 3.4 *Look Inequality* – the Annual report of the Director of Public Health 2014-2015 focusses on inequalities in the City and includes a chapter on food and hunger. ⁴
- 3.5 This FPAP is an important step towards addressing the Food (and Fuel) Poverty element of the Council’s Financial Inclusion Strategy approved at Policy & Resources Committee 21st March 2013. ⁵
- 3.6 The national ‘Feeding Britain’ enquiry recommended a multi-sectoral approach to co-ordinate existing good practice and prevent duplicates or gaps in provision when tackling food poverty.
- 3.7 The production of this FPAP has been led by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership using funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation with support and input from a range of Council staff as agreed at Policy and Resource Committee in November 2014. Senior level staff participated in a food poverty round table meeting on 15th July 2015 and agreed the overarching principles and framework of the plan.
- 3.8 The city’s Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) sets out key information about food poverty and the importance of good nutrition;
- Poor diet is associated with conditions such as obesity, coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancers.
 - Evidence demonstrates the contribution of food and nutrition to mental wellbeing and the development, prevention and management of some specific mental health problems.
 - Data related to premature deaths in England shows that Brighton and Hove ranks 98th worst out of 150 local authorities.
 - Cancer, liver disease and heart disease are key contributors to premature deaths (2,185 deaths of under 75s). Poor diet and obesity are key factors in the causes of these deaths. ⁶
- 3.9 It is difficult to precisely estimate the number of people experiencing food poverty in the city, particularly those who are ‘coping but struggling’ . Research conducted in preparation of the FPAP identified groups most at risk of food poverty;
- Disabled People (including people with learning disabilities) and people experiencing long term physical or mental ill health.
 - Large families, single parent families and families with disabled Children.
 - Working people on a low income, especially younger working age people.

⁴ <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/health/public-health-brighton-hove/annual-report-director-public-health-2014-15>

⁵ <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/equality/financial-inclusion-brighton-hove>

⁶ <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/sites/bhconnected/files/jsna/jsna-6.4.6-Good-nutrition-&-food-poverty1.pdf>

- Vulnerable adults - including some older people - who are isolated or digitally excluded – or who are experiencing transition e.g. bereavement/ becoming ill/ leaving hospital and people moving from homelessness, offending or addiction.
- 16-25 year olds especially those who are unemployed, vulnerable and/or leaving care,.
- BME people and migrants who have limited recourse to funds.

3.10 Indicators of food poverty at the crisis level are;

- Food Banks - There are 15 food banks in the city collectively giving out 289 parcels to households a week. 'Basics Bank' Brighton's largest, report seeing up to 20 clients per day by referral, ranging from families with young children to pensioners. This is a 53% increase from 2012-2013 and reflects the national picture.
- The Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF), are payments for those on low income with an unforeseen emergency or financial crisis. In 2013-2014, 480 LDSF payments for food were made and a further 1140 made for cooking equipment.

3.11 Data on ongoing food poverty is reflected in the City Tracker which, in 2014 asked about local people's level of concern in meeting basic living costs in the next 12 months. Almost one in four of the respondents, (23%) disagreed with the statement that they 'will have enough money in the next year to cover basic living costs'. The groups most likely to strongly disagree were women compared with men, 18-34 year olds compared with 35-54 year olds, people with a long-term condition or a disability compared to those without. Additionally, 23% of callers supported by Moneyworks in 2014/15 said that they had had to skip or reduce meals in the last 6 months.

3.12 The solutions to food poverty are about more than simply providing food. A strategic approach is needed with longer term actions around employment, living wage, financial inclusion, action to reduce fuel poverty (cooking takes costly fuel) as well as cooking and shopping skills.

3.13 This FPAP provides a framework for an adaptable planning approach bringing together partners involved in work to prevent and alleviate food poverty. It identifies where resources (current, and those to be applied for in future) should be focused and brings together work across partners to maximise impact.

3.14 The principles of the FPAP are;

- To collectively agree that food poverty is unacceptable in Brighton and Hove.
- Reduce the impact of food poverty on the health and wellbeing of local people, leading to better mental and physical health, reduced obesity, higher educational attainment and longer, healthier lives.
- Mitigate against the likely impact on future health and social care budgets, if we do nothing about this issue.
- Focus the city's limited resources on the most effective solutions.

- Take a preventative approach and address the underlying causes of food poverty, even if this means thinking beyond food (e.g. employment, benefits, and housing and fuel costs).
- Recognise that food poverty is not just about food banks – focus on how people in ‘long term food poverty’ can avoid reaching crisis (though we still need emergency provision when things do go wrong.)
- Focus on groups which have been, locally and nationally, identified as the most vulnerable to food poverty.
- Involve people experiencing food poverty in the design of solutions.
- Ensure that food poverty is at the centre of policy making, not an ‘add on’.
- Commit to measuring and monitoring, so we know if food poverty is increasing and why.

3.15 The aims of the Food Poverty Action Plan are;

Aim1: Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in the city.

Aim 2: As a bare minimum, ensure that every child in the city can eat one nutritious meal a day. Ensure that every vulnerable adult can eat one nutritious meal a day.

Aim 3: Brighton & Hove becomes a city that cooks and eats together. This includes, access to cooking equipment and healthy affordable food, developing cooking skills as well as promoting the importance of shared meals.

Aim 4: When prevention is not enough – ensure there is a crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry in the city.

Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty so we know if we are being effective.

3.16 The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership have a comprehensive phased publicity strategy with the initial presentation to the public on Wed 11th November. The press release will be sent to local and national media, the Council’s press team, as well as Latest TV, Brighton & Hove Independent, social media networks and the national Sustainable Food Cities Network. It is intended that once the FPAP has been agreed by this Committee it will be officially ‘launched’ .

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 If the FPAP is not adopted there is an increased risk some of the city’s most vulnerable people will experience greater levels of food poverty. This will directly impact on their health, wellbeing and ability to learn. There may be increased demand for crisis services. As these are largely volunteer-led there is a risk that they are not able to cope with the additional demand. If the city felt confident that the total number of people in poverty was going to decline quickly then a food poverty plan might not be needed. With welfare reforms, continuing increases to housing costs, issues of under-employment / low wage levels and changes to the way statutory services are funded and delivered, it is more likely that there will be an increase in the numbers at risk of food poverty.

4.2 Should the FPAP not be adopted then a co-ordinated approach to addressing this issue in the city is not possible. It is likely initiatives would arise but without maximising the benefits of co-ordination and a partnership approach. There may be both duplication and gaps in support. At the ‘Round Table’ event there was a

recognition of the value of 'raising awareness' of food poverty as a relatively new problem for the city that needs additional focus.

- 4.3 The FPAP is 'stepped'/phased so that some actions are attainable within current resources. If the FPAP is not adopted then these actions may not happen thus missing an opportunity to proactively address inequality in the city.
- 4.4 Certain actions within the FPAP are identified as needing funding. Funding bids can be led by the Food Partnership or other third sector partners. If the FPAP is not adopted then applications for funding may be jeopardised given the frequent requirement to demonstrate strategic need and for evidencing support from other partners of strategic relevance such as the City Council.
- 4.5 There may be an increase in demand on key services in Adult Social Care from older people and disabled people experiencing food poverty; on Childrens Services from families experiencing food poverty; schools where children are struggling to learn due to hunger; advice services and the LDSF and on Food Banks.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This is a partnership plan with city wide ownership developed through two existing Partnerships: Brighton & Hove Connected and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, plus many delivery partners named in the plan.
- 5.2 The development of the FPAP included wide engagement and involvement of partners and of key stakeholder which include;
 - community, voluntary and faith groups
 - food banks - via the Food Banks network
 - shared meals /settings - via the survey and research project
 - advice services - via Advice Services Network & Partnership
 - organisations working with older people -via the research project
 - gardening projects - via Harvest Evaluation.
 - organisations working to alleviate poverty.
 - individual conversations were held with key stakeholders.
- 5.3 The following events and presentations took place:
 - BHFP initial Food Poverty Event (2013);
 - Acton Plan consultation session at Community Works conference (2015);
 - Food Poverty Round table (BH Connected LSP breakfast, 13th July 2015); attended by Director level Council staff.
 - Focus groups with people experiencing food poverty (3 took place in July / August 2015)
 - Presentations at Advice Services Network and Advice Services Partnership (2015);
 - Food Poverty Action Plan Stakeholder 'finalisation' Event (13 October 2015).

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Food poverty is unacceptable in Brighton and Hove.
- 6.2 It is an important issue as good nutrition supports both mental and physical health for all people especially the city's vulnerable populations.
- 6.3 The Food Poverty Action Plan is the starting point of addressing this issue.

7. **FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The Council actions identified in the plan will be met from within existing budget resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Michael Bentley Date: 29/10/15

Legal Implications:

Adoption of the Food Poverty Action Plan has no direct legal implications.

Lawyer Consulted: Name Judith Fisher Date: 26.10.15

Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 The Food Poverty Action Plan highlights population groups in the city's that are particularly vulnerable to food poverty. A full Equality Impact Assessment is underway and will be completed December 2015.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.3 The Food Poverty Action Plan includes a number of broader aims relating to sustainability and preventing the 'risk' for food poverty for delivery outside of this Action Plan. These include; promoting the living wage and the implications of welfare reform; matters to do with food production and food waste; impact of the current food system on ecology and environmental impacts.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Food Poverty Action Plan – actions for Brighton and Hove City Council

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Food Poverty Action Plan – full document

Background Documents

1. Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper. A food strategy and action plan for Brighton & <http://bhfood.org.uk/downloads/downloads-publications/18-spade-to-spoon-strategy-2012-print/file>
2. Brighton & Hove City Council Financial Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2016
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/equality/financial-inclusion-brighton-hove>

Appendix 2: Any Other Significant Implications;

Crime & Disorder Implications:

1.1 The 2008 Associate Parliamentary Food and Health Forum inquiry (an all-party independent forum for the exchange of views and information on food policy in the UK Parliament), concluded that poor nutrition is a significant contributor to the increasing rate of crime, aggression, depression and poor school performance. Food poverty is a direct contributor to poor nutrition. Raising awareness of the links between diet and behaviour and improving the access to decent nutrition for the most vulnerable of our residents is a key.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 Risk – that current City Council funding for work that contributes or can contribute directly to address and mitigate on food poverty is further reduced to such an extent that it is not possible to deliver on these actions.

Risk – that work to address the current levels of food poverty is not undertaken and the city has to deal with the long term costs of poor health to residents.

Opportunity – that Brighton & Hove continues to pioneer food work and other places continue to look to learn from the City's work.

Opportunity – through partnership working on food issues additional resources from outside the city continue to be brought into the city. For example; more than £700,000 has been brought into the city by the Food Partnership over the last three years.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 Access to basic nutrition is basic human need and food poverty is not acceptable in our city. The Food Poverty Action Plan is an essential aspect of protecting, improving and promoting the health and wellbeing of some of the most (potentially) vulnerable residents in our city. It also addresses each of the 6 policy objectives set out in the 2010 Marmot Report 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives',

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 Brighton & Hove Connected Sustainable Communities Strategy includes increasing equality as a key principle and improving health and wellbeing as a priority to which this contributes.

The FPAP addresses the Food (and Fuel) Poverty element of the Council's Financial Inclusion Strategy.

Brighton & Hove Food Poverty Action Plan 2015-2018

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“Food poverty is unacceptable in our city”

Food poverty is ‘the inability to afford, or to have access to the food necessary for a healthy diet’. Food poverty does not exist in isolation from other forms of poverty nor do food prices exist in a vacuum from other household expenses such as rent, fuel and water. Food poverty is not just about hunger – it is about difficult choices (‘food v fuel’; ‘skipping meals’, ‘trading down’) and long term unhealthier food choices. Food poverty results in diet related diseases including obesity, diabetes and heart disease. For most people, the main cause of food poverty is low income in relation to their household costs– not inability to manage money or food however for some people food skills and a lack of access to shops or equipment play a part.

Good nutrition supports both mental and physical health and evidence demonstrates the impact of nutrition on educational attainment in children.

“The first thing you have to say is that food poverty is not OK.”

We heard this time and again when developing this action plan. And so this statement became the first principle of the plan.

However what can you actually do when food poverty is such an overwhelming issue where the causes and solutions are intertwined and complex?

This three year plan answers this question by providing both a list of actions and a set of principles for guiding future decisions. This plan is a living document – it will change and develop over time.

As the city has proven before when it comes to delivering on ambitious food work, the success of this action plan will be as much about ‘how’ as ‘what’.

Delivered together. We cannot succeed if we leave all the ‘solutions’ to voluntary and faith groups nor can increasingly stretched health and social care services be expected to solve this alone. And at the heart there needs to be a focus on empowerment - ensuring that people who are experiencing poverty are engaged in designing the solutions and that their voices are heard.

Co-ordinate action and be willing to try new approaches. This plan is definitely not starting from scratch and brings coordination and focus to what is already going on at both a policy and frontline level. But it is also about being willing to try out new ideas and work in partnerships. Voluntary sector organisations have already begun to work more closely together (for example bringing advice services into food banks). Statutory partners have committed to rethinking their services through a food poverty perspective, which in the absence of additional money in budgets, means being genuinely willing to do things differently.

Food is about more than nutrition. Becoming ‘*the city that cooks and eats together*’ is an important theme of this action plan as we seek to support and build on almost half a million shared meals served every year in the city. Lunch clubs and ‘shared meals’ that quietly and with very little public recognition get on with not only providing healthy food at an affordable cost but reduce isolation and – we discovered – act as a gateway to advice and further support.

Seek to influence other agendas – so much of what needs addressing is not about food. It’s about housing, jobs or benefits. Some issues can only be addressed at a national level, whilst this plan is by definition a local one. We will use evidence from this work to respond where this is relevant; but focus what we can do locally; on what is within our control. We will share what is in this plan via the Fairness Commission and partnership boards. Nationally by submitting it as one of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger’s **Feeding Britain** pilots.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in developing this plan and has committed to working on delivery.

Vic Borrill

Vic Borrill, Director
Brighton & Hove
Food Partnership (BHFP)





Crisis food poverty

Food banks and hunger are just the tip of the iceberg

Long term food poverty

Our approach focuses on the **much larger** group of people struggling **long term** to eat a healthy diet, and aims to **prevent** them reaching crisis point.

Food poverty: A preventative approach

What prevents food poverty?

 **Cooking equipment**

 **LIVING WAGE**
BRIGHTON & HOVE

 **Employment**

 **Access to low cost healthy ingredients**

 **Cooking skills**

 **Benefits and pensions**

 **Financial inclusion (e.g. savings, money advice)**

 **Affordable housing, fuel, transport**

 **Healthy food in health/social care services**

 **Community networks**

 **Shared meals & eating together**

 **Crisis support for when prevention doesn't work**



Principles for food poverty work in the city

These principles encapsulate the collective thinking that went into developing the action plan, and partners are asked to make them a basis for planning future work in the city which addresses food poverty; and for prioritising resources when difficult decisions need to be made.

1. Collectively agree that food poverty is unacceptable in Brighton and Hove.
2. Reduce the impact of food poverty on the health and wellbeing of local people, leading to better mental and physical health, reduced obesity, higher educational attainment and longer, healthier lives.
3. Mitigate against the likely impact on future health and social care budgets if we do nothing about this issue.
4. Focus the city's limited resources on the most effective solutions.
5. Take a preventative approach and address the underlying causes of food poverty, even if this means thinking beyond food (e.g. employment, benefits, and housing and fuel costs).
6. Recognise that food poverty is not just about food banks – focus on how people in 'long term food poverty' can avoid reaching crisis (though we still need emergency provision when things do go wrong).
7. Focus on groups which have been locally¹ and nationally² identified as the most vulnerable to food poverty. [see right]
8. Involve people experiencing food poverty in the design of solutions.
9. Ensure that food is at the centre of policy making, not an 'add on'.
10. Commit to measuring and monitoring, so we know if food poverty is increasing and why.

People who are most vulnerable to food poverty

- a. Disabled people (including people with learning disabilities) and people experiencing long term physical or mental ill health (1a, b, c, d, e)
- b. Large families, single parent families and families with disabled Children (1b, d) (1b, d)
- c. Working people on a low income, especially younger working age people (1a, b, c, d)
- d. Vulnerable adults - including some older people - who are isolated or digitally excluded – or who are experiencing transition e.g. bereavement/ becoming ill/ leaving hospital and people moving from homelessness, offending or addiction (1d, e)
- e. 16-25 year olds who are vulnerably housed and care leavers (1b 1c ; discussions during research for this action plan)
- f. BME people and migrants who have limited recourse to funds (1d, discussions during research for this action plan)

1 Priority groups identified from the following:

(a) City Tracker survey (see BHFP briefing *Food poverty in Brighton and Hove*) (2014)
(b) Public Health's *The impacts of welfare reform on residents in Brighton and Hove* (2015) (c) *The Director of Public Health's report* for 2015
(d) BHFP's *Report on identifying food poverty in Brighton & Hove* (2013) (e) Public Health/ BHFP's Healthy Ageing and Food (2015-pending)

2 E.g. *Feeding Britain* – The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom (2014); *Walking the Breadline* (2013) and follow up *Below the Breadline: The relentless rise of food poverty in Britain* (2014); *Hungry for Change, The final report of Fabian Commission on Food and Poverty* (2015)



What is the extent of the problem?

There are 14 areas of Brighton & Hove in the bottom 1% for income deprivation nationally,³ yet it is an expensive place to live.

Data related to premature deaths in England shows that Brighton and Hove ranks 98th worst out of 150 local authorities. Cancer, liver disease and heart disease are key contributors (2,185 deaths of under-75s). Poor diet and obesity are key factors in the causes of these deaths.⁴

It is difficult to measure the exact number of people experiencing food poverty in the city as there is no fixed definition and food poverty can arise for different reasons. It is not just about money but may also be about food access, skills, equipment or be complicated by personal circumstances such as needing a special diet.

Food bank use is often used as a way to measure levels of food poverty but in practice only identifies the 'tip of the iceberg' – people in crisis or emergency food poverty – as most households will only use them as a last resort. There is a much larger group of people who are living in long term food poverty or household food insecurity – for example skipping meals, being forced to make unhealthier food choices, or having to choose to 'heat or eat'.

Indicators of food poverty at the crisis level are:

- The number of food banks has more than doubled in the last two years. New research by BHFP shows there are now fifteen food banks in the city which together give out an average of 289 food parcels a week, an 8% increase compared to 2014. Two thirds of food banks (67%) say that they have noticed an increase in demand over the last year.
- The Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF), provides payments for those on low income with an unforeseen emergency or financial crisis. In 2013-2014, 480 LDSF payments for food were made and a further 1140 made for cooking equipment.

Data on ongoing food poverty

- The Brighton & Hove City Tracker in 2014 asked about local people's level of concern in meeting basic living costs in the next 12 months. Almost one in four respondents (23%) disagreed with the statement that they 'will have enough money in the next year to cover basic living costs including food, fuel and water'. The groups most likely to strongly disagree were women compared with men, 18-34 year olds compared with 35-54 year olds, and people with a long-term health condition or disability.

- In 2015, 23% of people calling the Brighton & Hove Moneyworks helpline stated that they had to skip or reduce meal size in the last 6 months. Amaze, who work with families who have children with disabilities or special needs found in 2014 that 15% had reduced the size of meals or skipped meals during the last two months.

There is some good news however

Universal Infant Free School Meals mean that at least 7,200 pupils across the city now have a healthy lunch. Breastfeeding levels are the highest in the country⁵ and childhood obesity levels are below the national average (although again rates vary between more and less deprived households).⁶ Research by BHFP⁷ uncovered that almost half a million (462,334) shared meals take place each day, playing an important and largely uncelebrated role around food poverty. This plan seeks to recognise and build on some of these success stories

This is just a snapshot of extensive research undertaken to inform this plan – some references are included in the 'Research and Evidence' section.

⁵ <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/press-release/brighton-hove-best-breastfeeding>

⁶ <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/hcmp>

⁷ <http://bhfood.org.uk/downloads/downloads-publications/99-eating-together-report-final/file>

³ Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015

⁴ <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/sites/bhconnected/files/jsna/>

[jsna-6.4.6-Good-nutrition-&-food-poverty1.pdf](http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/sites/bhconnected/files/jsna-6.4.6-Good-nutrition-&-food-poverty1.pdf)

How the plan came about – and where it will go

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) led on the development, drafting and consultation using funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation with support and input from a range of council staff, Brighton & Hove Connected and voluntary, community and faith groups.

The plan, which sits under the city's food strategy⁸ was developed using a participatory approach to ensure wide ownership of the actions, and that the action plan is embedded in city policy and practice at different levels, including at senior decision making level. As well as a formal adoption by Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC), the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners, it will feed directly into the city's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Fairness Commission.

This plan was developed over a year following a city council commitment to work on a plan with partners in November 2014. As well as research into national good practice, we engaged with many local people and organisations via consultation events and also numerous individual conversations.

Key stakeholders are:

- Strategic decision makers and budget holders
- Community, voluntary and faith groups
- Food banks – via the Food Banks & Emergency Food Network
- Shared meals/settings – via survey and research project
- Advice services – via Advice Services Network & Partnership
- Organisations working with older people – via Healthy Ageing research project
- Gardening projects – via Harvest Evaluation
- Focus groups with people experiencing food poverty

This is a partnership plan and we would like to thank the many people who have been part of drafting the plan and who will be partners in delivering it. There are sure to be organisations and individuals that haven't been included and we urge you to get involved going forward.

Consultation events in 2015 included:

- Action Plan consultation session at Community Works conference
- Food Poverty Strategic Round Table with Brighton & Hove Connected
- Presentations at Advice Services Network (2015) and Advice Services Partnership
- Food Poverty Action Plan stakeholder 'finalisation' event

⁸ *Spade to Spoon, Digging Deeper: A food strategy for Brighton & Hove, 2012*

How will we know we have succeeded?

This plan has an overall aim: to **reduce food poverty**. However there are real challenges to knowing what success should look like. There is no one defined measure nationally or locally and there is a lack of data. Aim 5 of the action plan seeks to address this gap – but it is important to recognise the limitations, especially as food is rarely ‘a thing on its own’.

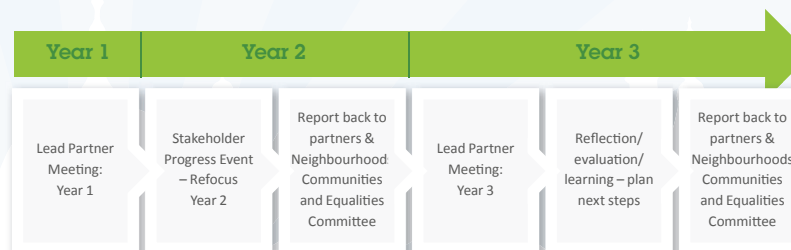
Additionally the external environment is changing. For example further welfare benefit changes and cuts, and a continuing increase in housing costs, might mean that success might actually be a **slower rate of increase in food poverty**, rather than an actual reduction, and the following measures should be seen in this context.

Overall aims (outcomes)	How it will be measured (subject to resources)
There is reduction (or slower growth) in ‘emergency’ or crisis food poverty i.e. the number of people experiencing hunger or seeking emergency assistance – and we are able to measure this.	Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) figures & collated food bank figures (see Aim 5)
There is a reduction (or slower growth) in long term food poverty i.e. the number of ‘coping but struggling’ people on a low income being forced to make unhealthier food choices, skipping meals or reducing portions on an ongoing basis – and we are able to measure this.	City Tracker figures; data from city services & voluntary & community groups (see Aim 4)
Food poverty awareness is embedded in policy and in service planning – especially in housing, fuel poverty, Public Health, social services, and hospital care and discharge – with a focus on prevention.	BHFP to monitor policy. Action plan partner to monitor their own service provision (see Aim 1)
Brighton & Hove becomes the city that cooks and eats together . ‘Shared meals’ are thriving and celebrated in the city, strengthening community networks which are themselves a resource in hard times. People are able to find out about and get to them; and new ways of sharing food are explored.	BHFP & Federation of Disabled People to monitor shared meals settings and alternative models.

How will we track progress?

All actions in the plan have identified a tracking or monitoring mechanism, and a lead partner. Subject to securing funding, BHFP will keep an overview of progress (alongside the city’s Food Strategy) and where possible will help to facilitate progress e.g. by bringing relevant partners together.

Stakeholders will be invited to come together half way through the 3 year plan to hear about progress; and refresh or refocus actions. Lead partners will also come together after year 1 and finally at the end of year 3, to report back and agree any evaluation plus next steps.



Brighton & Hove Food Poverty Action Plan

The plan has been arranged under the following five aims, although in line with our cross-cutting approach, many actions will add value in more than one of these aims i.e. there is overlap – which is a good thing!

Aim 1: Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in the city

Embedded in the principles for food poverty work, a preventative approach which focusses on the 'coping but struggling' with a view to avoiding the need for emergency food is key.

Aim 2: As a bare minimum, ensure that every child, and every vulnerable adult, can eat one nutritious meal a day

In some ways this is a shockingly low aim, but it would make a huge difference to many people in the city.

Aim 3: Brighton & Hove becomes the city that cooks and eats together

Having the skills and equipment to cook is vital to eating well on a budget. A thriving climate for shared meals contributes to reducing isolation, and number of people needing crisis support (as family and community networks are the first place we turn when our finances are under stress).

Aim 4: When prevention is not enough – ensure there is crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry

For when all the efforts at prevention do not work. This should not be reliant purely on voluntary, community and faith groups.

Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty so we know if we are being effective

We need to do this or we will not know if we are succeeding.

“It's such a treat to get food like this ... if you're living on a tight pensioner's budget there just isn't anything left to spend on good food”

– Hove Methodist Church lunch club attendee

“I wouldn't have survived without it ... all my money was being spent on my son's medical care”

– Food Bank Client

“I don't eat this well the rest of the week. I try to come every week if I can”

– Migrant English Project attendee

“I know I won't go to sleep hungry tonight”

– Participant at Young People's Centre



Summary of Actions *A full version is also available, with details of leads, partners & timescales*

Aim 1: Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in the city

1A	Actions which address the broader or underlying causes of food poverty
1A.1	Provide information relating to 'solutions' including a web page plus non-digital resources (e.g. leaflets) to guide both people experiencing food poverty and those who advise them.
1A.2	<p>Better integrate food poverty into money advice programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See where food can add value to advice or engage people e.g. food as a 'safe' way to talk about budgeting • Include food ordering/ budgeting/ preparation in other financial capability training sessions, digital inclusion programmes etc. <i>(See also 3A)</i> • Explore how lunch clubs / shared meals (as well as food banks - see below) can become a site for money advice
1A.3	<p>Paradoxically many people experiencing food poverty are working in the food industry; yet food has huge potential as an employment option. Explore the following opportunities <i>(See also 1B for broader employment actions)</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better/ fairer paid staff e.g. good practice on tipping in restaurants; reduced use of zero hours contracts; supermarkets becoming living wage employers • More apprenticeships with a food element <i>Initially arrange for BHFP to present this work to Learning, Skills and Employment Partnership to develop understanding of overlaps in work</i> • Primary and Special School Meals Service becomes a Living Wage Employer as a beacon for other large catering employers • A role for new apprenticeships e.g. in social care which include cooking skills (double win – increase employment in a shortage area/ better care for vulnerable people- see below)

1A.4	<p>Reduce the impact of benefit issues, which currently contribute to a large proportion of food bank use¹ /crisis food poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When there are delays/refusals/ sanctions, DWP automatically gives information about what the issue is and clear guidance on how to resolve it. DWP also provides information on hardship payments e.g. short-term benefit advances; and signposting to advice services and other support in the city • DWP to run awareness sessions on understanding hardship routes for Advice and Food Bank workers & volunteers, so they can better advise their clients
1A.5	Raise awareness in frontline workers and volunteers via food poverty awareness training/ sharing information. Also encourage two way process where 'intermediary' organisations share their information on food poverty issues with BHFP.
1A.6	Given the synergies with the Housing Strategy and the Food Poverty Action Plan, run a workshop with BHCC housing staff and BHFP to scope how to make the most of the overlaps in this work.
1A.7	Raise awareness of food poverty issues and this plan in other strategies, and in policy service planning – especially in housing, fuel poverty/ affordable warmth, Public Health, social services, and hospital care and discharge.
1A.8	Raise awareness and seek to engage further partners in development of this action plan, especially those who work with the groups identified above as most vulnerable to food poverty.
1A.9	Share the learning from developing this plan locally and nationally, and respond to both national and local campaigns and consultations.
1A.10	Submit the evidence which has informed this action plan to the Fairness Commission; and continue to liaise with Commissioners to ensure that food poverty is fully integrated as an issue.

¹Perry, J., Sefton, T., Williams, M. and Haddad, M. (2014). Emergency Use only: Understanding and reducing the use of food banks in the UK. <http://www.trusselltrust.org/resources/documents/press/foodbank-report.pdf>

1B	Broader 'bigger picture' actions - influencing elsewhere to ensure that people have an adequate income in relation to their household expenditure.
1B.1	Promote Brighton & Hove as a 'Living Wage City' at the level calculated by the Living Wage Foundation (£7.85 p/h in 2015). Encourage larger employers including national ones to sign up.
1B.2	Via delivery of Economic Strategy and Learning and Skills work develop a thriving economy with secure, living wage employment opportunities. Ensure people can develop the skills needed to access good employment – including disabled people and other 'at risk of food poverty' groups listed above. Deliver a programme of work on apprenticeships. <i>(see also 1A for actions linking employment and food)</i>
1B.3	Via delivery of the key priorities in the Housing Strategy – improving supply, improving quality and improving support - develop actions to increase the affordability of housing, reduce failed tenancies and reduce fuel poverty (food vs fuel pay-off major cause of food poverty) - especially in the private rented sector.
1B.4	Promote the local financial inclusion agenda and actions to tackle the 'poverty premium' whereby those on the lowest income end up paying the highest prices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice (see directly below) – including debt & benefit maximisation • Banking - access to cheaper means of payment e.g. direct debits • Credit - so people are not reliant on loan sharks or payday lenders, if an emergency occurs • Deposits - to allow a savings 'buffer' against things going wrong • Education including digital inclusion - to access food for home delivery and other goods at the best prices* (see also below) • Fuel poverty reduction/ energy efficiency – keeping fuel bills low* • Food – uniquely, Brighton & Hove includes 'food' under financial inclusion <p><i>*as food is the flexible item in people's budgets, reducing other outgoings helps to free up spend for food. Food and fuel poverty are interlinked.</i></p>

1B.5	Identify those who will be most affected by future rounds of Welfare Reform and prioritise for support (all tenures i.e. private rented as well as social housing tenants). Share information about the impact of benefit changes e.g. how the changes to working tax credit will affect eligibility for free school meals.
1B.6	Undertake research to better understand the poverty premium in terms of food shopping (for example to include the price difference of healthy / unhealthy food) and the impact of local shops vs internet shopping / large retailers.
1B.7	Ensure people can access advice about money at an early stage - <i>before</i> hitting crisis – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefit maximisation & debt advice• Building savings (to have a buffer in case of crisis)• Planning for later life (thinking now about how to have an adequate income in later years)

Aim 2 – As a bare minimum, ensure that every child, and every vulnerable adult, can eat one nutritious meal a day

2A	There is more creative use of existing support to parents of under 5s including breastfeeding, food poverty advice and Healthy Start vouchers & vitamins
2A.1	Continue existing good practice in achieving high overall levels of breastfeeding with continued focus on deprived areas.
2A.2	Improve healthy eating advice to families with young children and link to cookery/shopping skills. Increase uptake of Healthy Start vouchers amongst eligible families, by ensuring they are included in conversations with Health Visitors.
2A.3	<p>Increase uptake of healthy start vitamins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical lead to provide teaching session to Children’s Centre reception staff to increase awareness of importance of Vitamin D & Healthy Start scheme• Clinical lead to undertake audit of Health Visitor records to establish if Healthy Start vouchers and vitamins are being discussed• Guidance to be written for Health Visitors• Continue to work with Community Pharmacists and work towards distributing vitamins from them• Repeat update on vitamins (lunch-time seminar)



2B	A greater number of families with children eligible for free school meals are accessing them. Schools embed initiatives which help to alleviate food poverty including 'holiday hunger' schemes
2B.1	Provide information and training to schools about using breakfast clubs to alleviate food poverty. Share good practice information with learning mentors on using breakfast clubs to support learning. Support breakfast clubs to achieve the Healthy Choice Award to demonstrate that the food they are serving is healthy and age appropriate.
2B.2	Continue to deliver Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) at Silver Food for Life standard. Keep prices of school meals for other age groups low by keeping uptake high. Arrangements for school meal provision when contract changes in 2017 to consider food poverty issues.
2B.3	Increase uptake by those who are signed up for free school meals but don't choose to eat one (both UIFSM and FSM).
2B.4	Maximise the number of eligible families who are signed up to receive free school meals, learning from any developments in best practice nationally.
2B.5	Explore and share good practice on using pupil premium for healthy food related activity in schools.
2B.6	Raise awareness in primary schools of Chomp holiday lunch clubs for families, and improve referrals.
2B.7	Pilot a holiday lunch club taking place on at least one school premises (ideally in Portslade or Hangleton) via existing Chomp model and/or in partnership with school meals service.
2B.8	Contact projects providing food for children during term time to see if they are interested in expanding holiday provision.

2C	Vulnerable adults have their food needs automatically considered during assessments. There is meal delivery provision for those who need it – but people are able to choose alternatives out of the home such as shared meals. <i>See also 2.E for residential settings.</i>
2C.1	Explore if / how nutrition and hydration can be introduced to the checklist for Care Assessments as part of the Better Care agenda; and whether this can be an opportunity to give people info on ‘shared meals’ and other ways to access healthy food.
2C.2	Develop possibilities of shared food in terms of Adult Social Care services e.g. whether people can eat with a neighbour/ friend/family member/ at a lunch club as part of a care package; and/or whether eating together might allow people to combine their care packages allowing more time with care worker and/or reducing social isolation.
2C.3	Ensure that Community Meals are available, affordable and offer a range of options to meet and maintain people’s nutritional needs. Explore options for April 2016 (current contract end date March 2016) to ensure further choice and control for people using the service. Ensure that people are also aware of the alternatives (such as shared meals) which reduce social isolation and engage people back in communities.
2C.4	Adult Social Care is currently re-commissioning the Home Care contract provision - meal preparation to be considered as part of this process.
2C.5	Take steps to make nutrition and hydration a priority by mainstreaming into thinking and across contracting. Initial meeting with CCG / BHFP to understand what information there is already available about the scale of problem/ budget implications (including possible cost savings from preventative approach).
2C.6	Invite BHFP to give a presentation to the Home Care Provider Forum on nutrition and preparation of nutritional meals for vulnerable people.
2C.7	BHFP to offer the learning from developing this action plan into the Home Care re-commissioning process – e.g. the importance of including enough time for preparing a simple nutritious meal– not just microwaving/ ‘taking off the foil’; and importance of paid care workers understanding nutrition & having cooking skills.

2C.8	Explore provision of training for paid care workers on both nutrition and cooking - explore the 'cooking together' model (carer and client learn together).
2C.9	Ensure hospital discharge procedures include a 'nutrition and hydration' check i.e. that appropriate food arrangements are in place (e.g. someone will be able to help with shopping/cooking/special diet if needed). Ensure that hospitals provide information at discharge about food options including 'shared meals' such as lunch clubs and/or referral to befriending organisations if people need support to attend them.
2C.10	Explore whether 'food to go' bags' can be provided to people who won't be able to immediately access support with shopping (if needed) when they are discharged from hospital, so they don't go home to an empty fridge.
2C.11	Develop a trigger mechanism if a meal service for vulnerable people is under threat, i.e. ensure that a range of options is available so that people will have their needs met.

2D	Older people's experiences of food poverty are considered – including increased risk of malnutrition; and issues around food access. <i>For more detail see also Public Health/ BHFP's Healthy Ageing and Food report (November 2015)</i>
2D.1	Explore how older people can best be supported especially at key 'transition times' including hospital discharge (see above) and bereavement to prevent long term food issues / entrenched isolation developing.
2D.2	Fully embed the MUST (malnutrition screening) tool in hospitals and beyond e.g. in GPs, via health checks and in care homes (as many hospital admissions from care homes are related to malnutrition). Also engage with private sector home care agencies & discharge agencies around training/ embedding.

2D.3	<p>Noting lower levels of internet access / confidence amongst some older people, ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital inclusion courses for older people include food shopping (<i>see also 3A below</i>) • Information is provided non digitally –around changing nutritional needs with age, cooking in response to changed mobility, choosing a ready meal, home delivery of pre-cooked meals, how to find lunch clubs/ shared meals etc. (<i>see also below and 'Healthy Ageing and Food' report, November 2015</i>)
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2E	<p>Food in residential settings such as hospitals and nursing homes is palatable and nutritious, and where possible sustainable: reducing levels of malnutrition and improving clinical outcomes</p>
2E.1	<p>Improve hospital food at Royal Sussex County Hospital in terms of nutrition, sustainability and palatability, exploring the potential to work in partnership with other local NHS Trusts around a joint catering production unit.</p>
2E.2	<p>Adult Social Care and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to work together to explore how nutrition and hydration can be improved in care homes.</p>
2E.3	<p>Deliver training on nutrition and cooking skills to staff in care homes via the BHCC core training programme. Undertake programme of work to encourage wider uptake of the training.</p>
2E.4	<p>Promote the Healthy Choice Award to encourage good practice in residential settings; include as part of Adult Social Care audit/review process; share good practice at relevant forums/through relevant communications.</p> <p>BHFP to give presentation at the city-wide Care Home Forum on the Healthy Choice Award.</p>

Aim 3 – Brighton & Hove becomes the city that cooks and eats together

3A	Brighton and Hove becomes 'The city that can cook' : Part A <i>Skills</i>
3A.1	<p>Expand the number of classes on offer in cooking and shopping skills, for both general public and specific groups e.g. people with learning disabilities; single men; older/bereaved men ('Old Spice') and the groups identified above as at risk of food poverty including young working age people².</p> <p>Explore how budgeting, numeracy etc. can be embedded within cookery sessions.</p> <p>Explore how cookery sessions can be better linked with community cookery/shared meals groups e.g. Chomp holiday lunch clubs for children and families.</p>
3A.2	<p>Develop specialised training courses and/or written 'Tip sheets' – for people in particular circumstances (and those who support and advise them e.g. support workers, paid carers and family/unpaid carers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting cooking to disabilities/sensory impairments (plus how to access cooking equipment/ adaptations –see below) • Lacking cooking equipment e.g. in temporary accommodation or bedsits • Mental health condition (e.g. cooking in advance for bad days) • Cooking for one • Older people's nutritional needs (these change as we age) • Choosing a healthy ready meal in a supermarket/ options for home delivery (many people are reliant on pre-cooked meals)
3A.3	<p>Include food ordering/ budgeting/ preparation in financial capability training sessions.</p> <p>Also in 'getting online' training. e.g. How to set up a 'favourites list' for food shopping on-line.</p>

² See for example <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/16-to-24-year-olds-spend-more-on-food-than-any-other-age-group-says-research-a6678596.html>

3B	Brighton and Hove becomes 'The city that can cook' : Part B <i>Equipment</i> (fridge/freezer/cooker/saucepans/storage)
3B.1	Improve access to equipment that will help people with sensory impairments or other disabilities to cook, initially by exploring wider roll out of Independent Living Centre and/or re-ablement services similar to those available after a stroke.
3B.2	Explore whether Sheltered Housing refurbishments/ developments can include a fridge/freezer rather than a fridge with icebox as this is important for budget cooking for one or two people.

3C	Brighton & Hove becomes 'the city that eats together'. Shared meals are thriving, and people can find out about and get to them. Offers of new venues and storage spaces help keep costs low. <i>Sharing food is an effective means for people to eat well – including (but not only) those who are vulnerable e.g. don't have the mobility, equipment or skills to cook. They help strengthen community networks which are themselves a resource in hard times. Cost, access and (especially) transport are key factors in accessing them³.</i>
3C.1	Recognise the role that shared meals e.g. lunch clubs are playing in improving the health, nutrition and mental health of the city; increase their role as a site to deliver advice or be a 'safe place' to raise other issues. Ensure that projects can keep up with increasing demand e.g. explore creative commissioning arrangements (see also 'care packages' below) and/or new micro funding to test new models of provision/ meet gaps /increase sustainability. <i>NB - gaps are at evenings/weekends and in the East and North of the City –52% of people accessing shared meals live nearby</i>
3C.2	Explore whether existing projects can add <i>cooking and eating together</i> to their existing services - e.g. community groups; school holiday activities such as Playbus; 'trusted' providers such as food banks (See also Aim 4 below).

³ See BHFP's 'Eating Together' report for more detail about the role of Shared Meals in tackling isolation, food poverty and acting as a gateway to advice and support

3C.3	<p>Explore in-kind support for shared meals e.g. use of council premises for shared meals and/or for storage of ingredients/ surplus food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheltered / seniors housing (for residents also for wider community) • Schools and children’s facilities (for family meals and/or holiday lunch clubs) • Council storage spaces and community rooms e.g. in housing estates (especially ones with kitchens) • Faith groups/ community groups/ facilities in private sector e.g. care homes
3C.4	<p>Secure a premises so that a ‘pay as you feel’ meal is available 7 days a week - ideally own premises but if shared then focus on evenings & weekends (identified as a gap).</p>
3C.5	<p>Explore whether BHFP can support shared meal projects with recruiting volunteers and/or other development support e.g. around management/fundraising.</p>
3C.6	<p>Provide 3 x initial training sessions – including food safety and creative cooking with surplus foods/cooking for groups - as a cost effective way to support shared meal projects.</p>
3C.7	<p>Recognise the ‘infrastructure’ role of FareShare and grassroots surplus food distributors in supporting shared meal settings (plus food banks – see below – and other food services for vulnerable/ disadvantaged people) to keep their costs low and accessible – support via direct funding and/or in-kind support especially storage facilities for surplus food.</p>
3C.8	<p>Make information about shared meals more accessible via an easier search mechanism on the ‘It’s Local Actually’ directory and by non-internet methods e.g. printed list /radio – promote in other settings (e.g. hospital discharge, care assessments, via GPs and other health professionals, e.g. Community Navigators).</p>
3C.9	<p>Support initiatives which encourage neighbours to connect, with potential to share e.g. ‘Know my Neighbour Week’ May 2016; Neighbourhood Care Scheme.</p>

3D	It becomes easier access to low cost food in the city, whether this is ingredients or shared meals – making it easier to make healthier choices
3D.1	<p>Explore options to increase access to fresh low cost ingredients at a local level for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • link existing local grocers van or with food banks, lunch clubs; community venues • encourage new individual or community run low cost food outlets in community spaces or sheltered housing (offering free use of space to keep costs down) e.g. low cost veg; bulk buying clubs or food co-ops <p><i>See also digital inclusion – improving access to home food delivery</i></p>
3D.2	Deliver a programme of work with outlets to offer healthier options in restaurants, cafes and takeaways; including healthier cooking techniques and achieving the Healthy Choice Award.
3D.3	Explore how City Plan Part 2 and economic planning processes can encourage local shops and market stalls selling fresh ingredients; and encourage healthier takeaways.
3D.4	Recognise the role of community kitchens and venues in addressing the impacts of food poverty and explore protection through existing and future planning policy frameworks (e.g. City Plan Pt2).
3D.5	Via Transport Strategy ensure accessible affordable public and community transport is promoted and provided, enabling people to travel to local and main shopping areas and/or access shared meal settings. Transport is an important factor in food poverty, especially to those with disabilities.
3D.6	<p>Shared meal settings refer to the Federation of Disabled People's 'Out and About' guide for information about informal shared transport options and other useful examples and guidance on ensuring effective (free) insurance provision for volunteer drivers:</p> <p>http://www.thefedonline.org.uk/citywide-connect.</p>

Aim 4 – When prevention is not enough - ensure there is crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry

4A	Food Banks are supported to operate effectively as an emergency option and to widen their services to help address underlying causes of food poverty – and they are not the only option in a crisis
4A.1	Advocate and provide planning options for the continuation of the Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) or similar form of crisis support by a statutory organisation - so that people experiencing an emergency are not reliant purely on the voluntary/community or faith sectors. Options for continued funding are creatively explored before current provision ends in 2017.
4A.2	FareShare and other food surplus organisations continue to redistribute surplus food effectively, underpinning the work food banks do in the city. Focus on securing more fresh/ healthy food + expanding to meet demand - whilst acknowledging that food waste is never the 'answer' to food poverty. The debate around food surplus issues to be explored via food surplus network and future city waste strategies. <i>NB affordable surplus food also supports 'shared meals' as well as food banks– see above</i>
4A.3	Food Banks and emergency food providers ensure that people receive holistic support to tackle the underlying causes of the emergency including access to the city's advice services (either on site or by referral). Advice services continue to better integrate their services with food banks.
4A.4	Food banks continue to look at how they can offer longer term support which goes beyond emergency food/ is preventative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital access ideally with support • Shared meals / other 'longer term' options • 'Cooking and Eating Together' sessions and/or cookery classes • Access to low cost ingredients for cooking at home (e.g. food buying groups, link with local grocers) alongside healthier food within food banks
4A.5	BHFP secures funding to develop its work to support Food Banks & Emergency Food providers; and continue the food banks network as a collective space for food banks to work together and meet with advice providers and the City Council.

Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty so we know if we are being effective

5A	Existing monitoring mechanisms are used to gather better info on food poverty
5A.1	BHFP to continue to measure crisis or emergency food poverty by providing an annual snapshot of food bank use in the city.
5A.2	Continue to gather information on longer-term or chronic food poverty in the city; also on national good practice/ 'solutions'.
5A.3	Explore how information from MUST (malnutrition screening) can inform understanding of food poverty in the city, in parallel with wider use of MUST outlined in Aim 2.
5A.4	Use breastfeeding rate data to track rates of breastfeeding, taking note of trends in more deprived wards.
5A.5	Use child measurement programme data to track rates of childhood obesity in different income groups.
5A.6	Food banks commit to measuring the reasons people are accessing them, using 'Trussell Trust' categories so that the data can be compared.
5A.7	Organisations and services track food poverty levels amongst their service users using question(s) already piloted by BHFP or including the broader city tracker food/fuel question; or 'innovative' methods e.g. video/visuals - BHFP to collate data.
5A.8	Universities strengthen their research partnership with BHFP and/or Food Matters, including at least one joint project around understanding or tracking food poverty or food prices/availability in the city (See also Aim 1A).
5A.9	The City Council measures on-going levels of long term or chronic food and fuel poverty via a question in the annual weighted 'city tracker' survey, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/ BHCC explore whether contracts for health and social care services can help with measuring levels of food poverty (by requiring data collection); or whether they can share existing data e.g. from health visitor assessments.

Research and evidence

A huge amount of research went into developing this plan – most importantly talking to local people and organisations. These are just some of the some key documents

Research and evidence: Local (BHFP publications reports and research all downloadable at <http://bhfood.org.uk/resources>)

- BHFP overview briefing on [Food poverty in Brighton and Hove](#) includes data from the recent city tracker question on food and fuel poverty
- [The Director of Public Health's report](#) for 2015 includes a specific chapter on food poverty
- [The impacts of welfare reform on residents in Brighton and Hove](#) (2015) identifies the most vulnerable residents & also looks at food including coping strategies, importance of wider networks etc.
- BHFP's [Eating Together: Exploring the role of lunch clubs and shared meals in Brighton & Hove](#) (2015) explores the 'hidden' role of shared meals in generating community resilience as well as access to nutritious food
- BHFP's [Identifying Food Poverty in Brighton & Hove](#) looks at groups most at risk of food poverty using existing data

Research and Evidence: National

- [Feeding Britain](#) - The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom (2014) is a detailed analysis with recommendations. The development of this action plan is itself a 'Feeding Britain' pilot and will feature in the 'one year on' report due December 2015
- Sustainable Food Cities "[Beyond the Food banks](#)" national campaign (NB *Brighton and Hove is the country's only silver sustainable food city*) suggests actions to focus on with examples from [different cities](#); also has a comprehensive list of [resources arranged by topic](#)
- [Walking the Breadline](#) (2013) and follow up [Below the Breadline: The relentless rise of food poverty in Britain](#) (2014)
- (Church Action on Poverty and Oxfam) provides a detailed analysis of food poverty issues
- The [interim report from the Fabian Society's commission into Food and Poverty](#) has a range of evidence and is strong on 'trading down' and unhealthy food choices and the final report [Hungry for Change](#) is also strong on long term food poverty or 'household food insecurity' and recommends local authorities should create a food access plan (2015)
- [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) has just announced new Minimum Income Standards defining 'acceptable' income for different groups in the UK

Action Plan Partners

A huge thank you to the partners, many who have helped to develop, or committed to delivering, actions in this plan

Age UK Brighton & Hove
BHESCo (Brighton & Hove Energy Services Co-operative)
BHT (Brighton Housing Trust)
Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce
Brighton & Hove City Council⁴
Brighton & Hove Connected (Local Strategic Partnership)
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Brighton & Hove Living Wage Campaign
Brighton & Hove Strategic Housing Partnership
Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust
Brighton and Sussex Universities Food Network
Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project (BUCFP)
British Red Cross Brighton
Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove
Chomp lunch club
City College Brighton & Hove
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Community Works
Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) & Job Centre Plus
East Sussex Credit Union
Economic Partnership
FareShare Sussex Brighton & Hove

Federation of Disabled People (The Fed)
Food Matters
Food Waste Collective
Healthy Ageing Partnership/ Forum
Hove Luncheon Club
Learning, Skills and Employment Partnership
Lunch Positive
Mind
Migrant English Project
NEA
Neighbourhood Care Scheme
One Church Brighton
Private home care providers & discharge agencies
Prof Martin Caraher, City University (with thanks for chairing the Food
Poverty Round Table)
Real Junk Food Project
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Sustain
The city's advice services – individually and via Moneyworks, the Advice
Services Network & Advice Services Partnership
The city's befriending organisations
The city's food banks – individually and via the Brighton & Hove Food
Banks & Emergency Food Network
The city's lunch clubs and shared meal settings
The many other community & voluntary groups who are part of this plan

A longer 'delivery' version of this action plan is also available, which includes details of partners and timescales for each action

⁴ With particular thanks to:
Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Housing, including Seniors Housing, Planning,
Policy, Public Health, School Meals Service, Transport, Welfare Reform



