





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

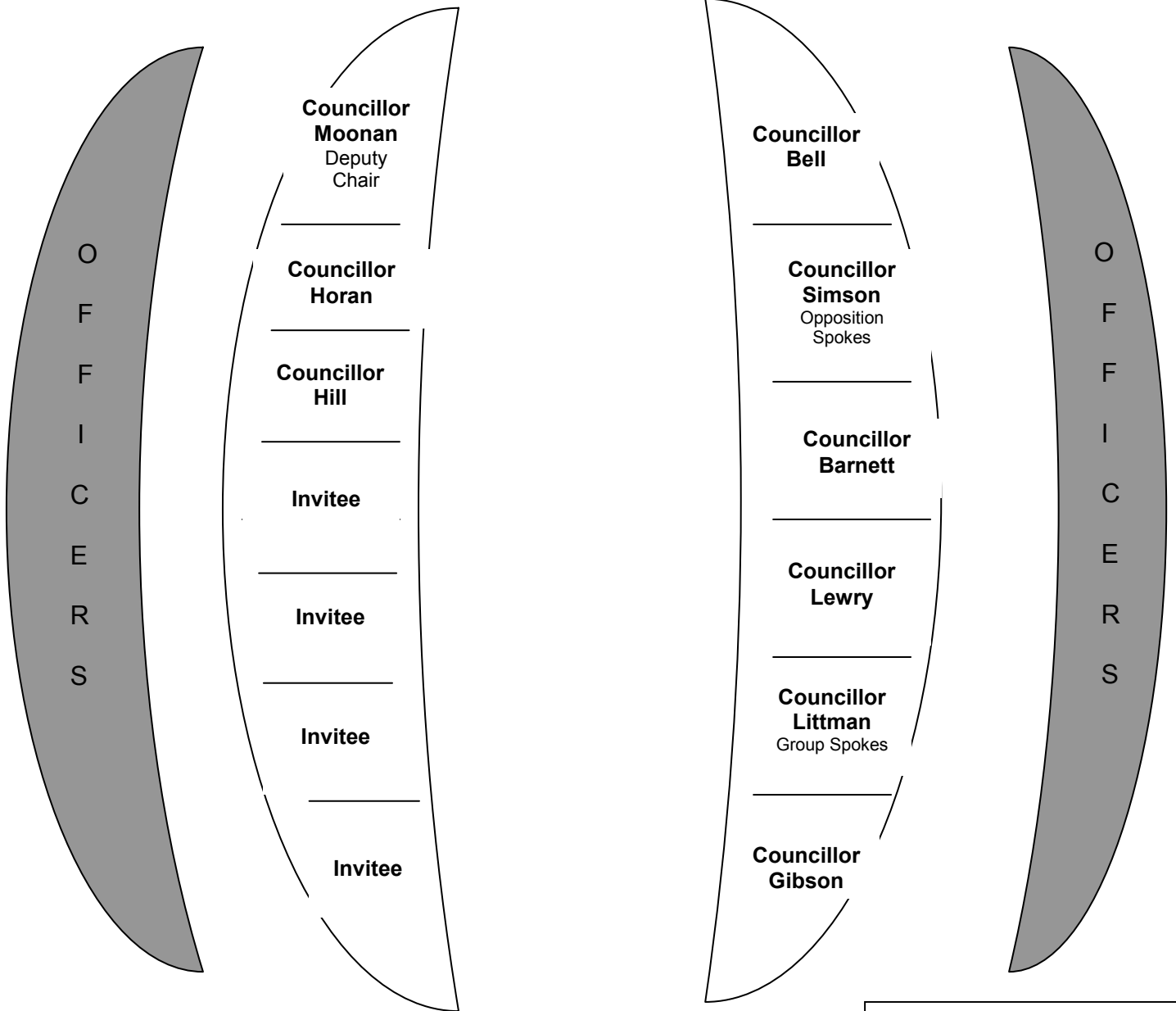
Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee

Title:	Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee
Date:	25 January 2016
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	South Portslade Community Centre, Church Road, Portslade
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; Joanna Martindale and Superintendent James Collis, 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

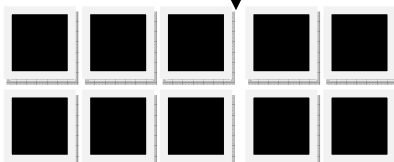
Legal Officer	Assistant Chief Executive	Councillor Daniel Chair	Democratic Services Officer
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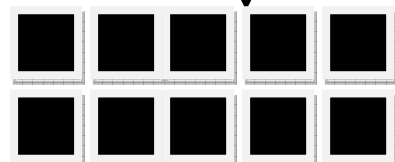
Press

Public Speaker Public Speaker

Public Seating



Public Seating



AGENDA

40 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.

41 RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: COMMISSIONING AND PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES - PRESENTATION & REPORT 1 - 18

Before proceeding to the formal business of the meeting there will be a presentation focusing on the domestic violence and abuse, rape sexual violence and abuse.

It is intended that the presentation will provide information about “The Portal”, a newly commissioned service which was launched in January 2016 and is provided by RISE in partnership with Survivors’ Network and CRI, which will be delivering services directly to victim/survivors of these crime types. The Committee will also hear about commissioning and partnership priorities and other service providers regarding their experiences in delivering services.

It is anticipated that the running order for presentations and contributions on this item will be as follows:

- (a) Madelaine Hunter, survivor of domestic abuse, community activist and fundraiser for RISE;
- (b) James Rowlands, Strategic Commissioner will introduce and speak to the report entitled “Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Commissioning and Partnership Priorities” – Report of the Director of Public Health (copy attached);
- (c) Contributions/presentations by Gail Gray (CEO, RISE) and Fabia Bates (Director, Survivors’ Network)

During the presentation and at its conclusion there will be the opportunity to ask questions after which there will be a short break before proceeding to the remaining business of the meeting.

Contact Officer: James Rowlands Tel: 01273 291032

42 MINUTES 19 - 32

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2015 (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Penny Jennings Tel: 01273 291065

43 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

44 CALL OVER

- (a) Items (47 – 48) 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.

45 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

33 - 36

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:
 - i) **Settlement of Syrian Refugee Families in Brighton & Hove** - Petition from Ms Senker referred from the full Council meeting held on the 17 December 2015, together with an extract from the minutes of that meeting (copy attached)
- (b) **Written Questions:** To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 18 January 2016.
- (c) **Deputations:** To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 18 January 2016.

46 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by Members:

- (d) **Petitions:** To receive any petitions referred from Full Council or submitted directly to the Committee;
- (e) **Written Questions:** To consider any written questions;
- (f) **Letters:** To consider any letters;
- (g) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Full Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

47 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME IN BRIGHTON & HOVE - INFORMATION UPDATE TO NOVEMBER 2015

37 - 50

Information update report of the Director of Public Health (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Ruth Condon

Tel: 01273 291103

Ward Affected: All Wards

48 THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING

51 - 78

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Sam Warren

Tel: 01273 296821

Ward Affected: All Wards

49 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

To consider items to be submitted to the 28 January 2016 Council meeting 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 (13 January 2016) 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.

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, 15 January 2016

Subject:	Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls: Commissioning and Partnership Priorities		
Date of Meeting:	25 January 2016		
Report of:	Director of Public Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	James Rowlands	Tel: 292607
	Email:	James.rowlands@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 summarise work in relation to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and Rape, Sexual Violence and Abuse (RSVA), describing the extent and impact of these crime types in the city and commissioning and partnership priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes that current work in the city in relation to DVA and RSVA.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes that the reporting of DVA and RSVA is increasing and that:
- While a re-commissioned specialist service is in place this is likely to operate within a reduced joint commissioning budget and will require outcomes to be prioritised
 - There is a risk to the sustainability of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Strategic context

- 3.1 The City has a Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy which sets out the approach to DVA and RSVA, as well as other forms of VAWG. This is consistent with the approach taken by HM Government's in their action plan '*Call to End Violence against Women and Girls*'.
- 3.2 The overarching outcome of the strategy is that residents and communities are free from VAWG crimes, specifically by: Increasing survivor safety; Holding perpetrators to account; Decreasing social tolerance and acceptance; Increasing people's ability to have safe, equal, violence-free relationships.

Extent and impact

- 3.3 DVA and RSVA have a significant impact in the city.
- 3.4 *With reference to DVA:* Using the Home Office Ready Reckoner tool, and 2013 mid-year population estimates, 6,435 women and girls and 4,110 men and boys aged 16-59 are estimated to have experienced DVA in the last year¹. In 2014/15 there were:
- 4,357 domestic violence crimes and incidents were recorded by the police
 - 467 victims judged to be at the highest risk (of serious injury or homicide) were referred to the MARAC process
 - 635 victim/survivors were referred to RISE's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service.
- 3.5 *With reference to RSVA:* Using the Home Office Ready Reckoner tool, and 2013 mid-year population estimates, 1,813 women and girls and 467 men and boys aged 16-59, are estimated to have experienced some form of RSVA (including attempts) in the last year. In 2014/15 there were:
- 561 sexual offences were recorded by the police
 - 137 victim/survivors were referrals to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
 - 165 victim/survivors were referred to Survivors' Network Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service.
- 3.6 In relation to both DVA and RSVA there has been a strong upward trend in incidents coming to the attention of Statutory and/or Voluntary & Community sector (VCS) services. While this is positive (see 3.7 below), this has and will continue to have an impact on capacity, particularly on specialist services like RISE and Survivors' Network, which have seen a corresponding increase in demand:
- *With reference to DVA:* in 2014/15, compared with 2013/14, there was an increase of 18% in crimes and incidents recorded by the police, with the number of referrals to RISE's IDVA service increasing by 22%
 - In the first half of 2015/16, compared to the first 6 months of 2014/15, numbers are continuing to climb, with this at a slower rate for crimes and incidents recorded by the Police (which have increased by +3%), although referrals to the IDVA service have increased by 28%
 - *With reference to RSVA:* in 2014/15, compared with 2013/14, there was an increase of 47% in offences recorded by the police, with the number of referrals to Survivors' Network's ISVA service increasing by 10%
 - In the first half of 2015/16 numbers are continuing to climb, with this at a slower rate for crimes and incidents recorded by the Police (which have increased by +16%), although referrals to the ISVA service have increased by 13%.
- 3.7 The two main reasons contributing to these upward trends are likely to be:

¹ In interpreting these estimates, it is important to note that while both women and men experience incidents of inter-personal violence, women are considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of violence.

- Increased confidence in victims/survivors to report RSVA following the exposure of high profile offenders e.g. as part of Operation Yewtree
 - Improvements in police processes resulting in more crimes/incidents being identified and recorded with a subsequent increase in the number of onward referrals to specialist services.
- 3.8 It is likely that these increases will continue: e.g. the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ('the Goddard Inquiry') will be providing survivors of child sexual abuse with opportunities for bear witness. In relation to RSVA, this may mean there is increased demand by adult survivors for talking therapies, or support through the criminal justice process.
- 3.9 DVA and RSVA have a number of commonalties: they often constitute criminal offences, are under reported, have low conviction rates and high levels of repeat victimisation. In addition, they have a significant impact on victim/survivors, their children and the wider community. Impacts can include: physical injury, as well as the impact on mental and emotional wellbeing, employment and education, social capital, health, behaviours and homelessness. There can also be longer term impacts such as poor school achievement, reduced economic prospects, behavioural problems, substance abuse, poor mental, sexual or physical health, and the risk of further violence.
- 3.10 Using the Home Office Ready Reckoner tool, and 2013 mid-year population estimates, these crime types have a significant financial cost: per year, the individual, economic and social cost of DVA and RSVA to the city is estimated to be at least £35 million (increasing to £112 million including the human and emotional costs).
- 3.11 There are also a number of other crime types included with the VAWG definition, including Harmful practices (such as Female Genital Mutilation, so called 'Honour-Based' Violence and Forced Marriage), as well as a number of other associated crime types like Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse and Modern Slavery.

Commissioning specialist DVA and RSVA services

- 3.12 In 2015 the city council undertook to procure a new DVA and RSVA specialist service, with a focus on redesigning provision to make sure people receive the best help, in the right way, when they need it, while also ensuring the most effective use of resources. The requirement was for community based interventions, specifically IDVA and ISVA functions, across Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. Additional functions in Brighton & Hove included the provision of interventions to support prevention and recovery, as well as housing related support such as refuge.
- 3.13 The contract (valued at just under £1.2 million, of which approximately £730,000 is committed by the city council) is supported by a pooled budget with the geographic scope including Brighton & Hove and East Sussex (with the County Council being an Associate Commissioner). There were a number of additional Associate Commissioners including: Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC); the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and the Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

- 3.14 This aim was to bring together provision for victim/survivors in order to support more people, with a key feature being a single point of access to make it easier to access help and support. Some of the other features included a continued commitment to women only provision, reflecting the importance of support that is provided in safe, separate women only spaces, while making sure that victim/survivors from BME communities, as well as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) and Trans (T*) people and heterosexual men, are able to access tailored support.
- 3.15 In designing the procurement process, the local authority recognised the importance of provision by the VCS which are identified as providing best practice interventions, reflecting national guidance and victim/survivor feedback. Other benefits from inviting bids from the VCS include:
- *Social Value*: ability to demonstrate a track record of Social Value to bring 'wider benefits to society from how the service is delivered'. As an example, both RISE and Survivors' Network recruit and retain volunteers.
 - *Added Value*: ability to secure funding from other sources, which is invested locally to add additional capacity to city council funded provision. As an example, both RISE and Survivors' Network raise significant additional funds from grants and trusts, other statutory providers and other sources (including community fundraising).
- 3.16 Following the conclusion of a competitive tendering process by the city council, the contact was awarded to a partnership led by local domestic abuse charity RISE, along with the organisations CRI and Survivors' Network, working together under the specialist service identity 'the Portal'. Delivery commences in October 2015, with a formal launch due in January 2016.

Other activity: service development

- 3.17 The city council is working with the CCG to develop the provision of talking therapies. This process has involved the transfer of commissioning responsibility for counselling and psychotherapy provision from the Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) (which previously providing funded totalling £52,500). The intention is to develop a more consistent service response, as part of a wider 'trauma pathway', as well as ensuring that interventions are sited within an appropriate clinical governance structure. Significantly, this trauma pathway will release additional resource, made up of a contribution from the CCG and NHS England, totalling just over £300,000. Commissioning responsibility was transferred to the CCG from April 2015, although the PCST is managing these contracts until the new pathway is in place, with this expected to be in April 2016.
- 3.18 The city council has also undertaken other activities, this includes:
- Piloting a 15-month Gay, Bi and Trans* supported accommodation project for men who are 18+ and who have experienced DVA, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government
 - Participating as an Associate Commissioner in the provision of a Sexual Assault Centre (SARC) for Sussex.

- 3.19 The city council has also developed strong working relationships with other commissioners including East and West Sussex County Councils, the PCC and Sussex Police, this includes leading on a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community engagement project, which aims to create safe spaces, networks and referral routes for BME women and girls who are experiencing, or at risk of violence and abuse
- 3.20 Work is also on-going to develop a model that embeds proportionate responses to DVA, RSVA and other forms of VAWG into commissioning activity. The aim is to integrate domestic abuse and sexual violence and other VAWG crime types into commissioning approaches so that at the start of a procurement process, potential requirements can be identified and built into tender documents (sometimes referred to as 'horizontal commissioning').

Other activity: awareness raising

- 3.21 There are a range of activities locally that involve and encourage the community and individuals by raising awareness or promoting specific issues like understanding healthy and respectful relationships, consent or and where to seek help and support. These are delivered by Statutory and VCS partners with support from the city council, examples include:
- The 16 Days of Action (www.safeinthecity.info/16-days-of-action);
 - Learning Together to Safeguard the City (www.safeinthecity.info/16-days-of-action)
 - The SICK! Festival (<http://www.sickfestival.com>) which in 2015 included events relating to DVA and RSVA e.g. the 'Consent in the City' campaign.
- 3.22 Reflecting these activities, Brighton & Hove achieved re-accreditation as a 'White Ribbon' City in November 2015. The White Ribbon award is for organisations that demonstrate their commitment to involving men and boys as ambassadors in the mobilisation of entire local communities to engage in awareness raising activities, addressing and altering social norms leading to violent behaviour against women and girls; and providing services aimed at reducing the incidence towards anyone at risk of interpersonal abuse and violence.

Other activity: preventative education

- 3.23 A key action in the local strategy has been to ensure that there is age appropriate information about DVA, RSVA and VAWG in sex and relationships education (SRE) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons. In 2015, the city council published 'Relationship and Sex Education Guidance for Educational Settings' which includes specific information on DVA and information about other topics and issues that are relevant to the wider agenda of VAWG. In addition, the Standards and Achievement Team provides teacher training and resources to support the delivery of effective relationships and sex education which aims to prevent DV, SV and VAWG. Recent resources have included:
- Fantasy vs Reality Second Edition which supports learning about e-safety, sexting and pornography for secondary age students

- Feeling Good, Feeling Safe developed in partnership with Safety Net which supports primary age learning about safe touch, consent, abuse and getting help.
- 3.24 There are also a number of other projects underway to develop specialist for provision for children and young people further, including:
- Between April 2015 and March 2016 the City Council is piloting a work programme to up skill the Educational Psychology and Community CAMHS teams to be able to delivery interventions after April 2015 supporting primary school age pupils affected by domestic violence & abuse
 - A one year project (commencing from January 2016) as part of Phase 2 of the Stronger Families Stronger Communities programme, to support families through a family coach model delivered by a specialist DVA worker
 - The PCST is leading on a pilot project developing interventions Children and Young People affected by DVA or RSVA, the PCC and Sussex Police. The overarching aim of the activity is to pilot a model of work with this cohort.

Emerging risks and issues

- 3.25 Moving forward, commissioning a new specialist service will release some efficiencies by bringing providers together, sharing back office functions and facilitating opportunities for partnership working. This will help meet some additional need. However, these changes are not sufficient to meet the overall increase in demand when considered in the context of the upward trend in reporting (see 3.6). Consequently there is considerable pressure on the new service.
- 3.26 In addition, there are financial risks:
- Brighton & Hove currently benefits from the two Home Office grants of £20,000 provision of IDVAs (awarded to the city council to disburse) and ISVAs (awarded directly to Survivors' Network). These grants were originally awarded for three years and were extended for a further year in 2015/16. This funding is unlikely to continue in 2016/17, with a reduction in funding totalling £40,000
 - A reduction in housing related support funding, which was deferred in 2015/16, comes into effect in 2016/17, totalling £41,000.
- 3.27 If this funding is not renewed or replaced, this will impact on specialist services, specifically the capacity of IDVA, ISVA provision, as well as refuge.
- 3.28 The impact of a reduction in capacity is heightened because of wider service pressure resulting from increasing demand (see 3.6). Combined, the impact is likely to result in an increase in waiting lists, an increase in eligibility threshold, as well as a reduction in accessibility of the specialist services (including dropped calls, outstanding actions or the capacity to offer pro-active engagement to complex or hard to reach clients). There are also indirect impacts, including the ability of specialist services to contribute to wider case management (including

participation in other areas, e.g. in child protection case conferences or professional meetings).

- 3.29 From April 2016, there is a specific funding risk in relation to MARAC provision, the forum through which highest risk victims of DVA are managed. Brighton & Hove currently benefits from a Home Office grant of £15,000, which supports the delivery of this process by the PCST and Sussex Police. This grant was originally awarded for three years, was extended for a further year in 2015/16 and is unlikely to be continued in 2016/17. If it is not replaced, it will impact on the capacity to deliver a risk management process for the highest risk victims of DVA.
- 3.30 These reductions present a risk in terms of victim outcomes (such as safety, coping and recovery) and more broadly in terms of the likelihood of those cases occurring that result in the most serious injury or death. There is a broader risk if the indirect or direct impact on children is considered.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 To manage the reduction in funding commissioners will have to negotiate with the provider to identify further efficiencies, however any savings will be insufficient and there will be reductions in service provision. It is likely that the commissioner will have to prioritise victims at the greatest risk or with the highest needs, meaning that the threshold for services are raised and / or any reductions directed towards preventative services, which principally support children and non-abusive parents. The PCST will have to work with other commissioners to identify mitigating actions in relation to specialist service funding and also identify alternative funding solutions with Sussex Police to sustain the MARAC process.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A number of consultations have taken place, including the Domestic Violence Needs Assessment in 2011 as well as a VAWG Equality Impact Assessment in 2014.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Specialist services will be required to respond to increased reporting of DVA and RSVA within a reduced financial envelope unless alternative funding is identified. This means that service provision in the city will reduce.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The reduction anticipated in 2016/17 is £81,000 against a total joint budget of nearly £1.2 million. This funding reduction relates specifically to the city council investment (approximately £730,000), and within this, the funding for components related to IDVA, ISVA and housing related support provision (just over £530,000). The contract with the provider will need to be reviewed in order that the required prioritised outcomes can be delivered within the joint funding available in 2016/17.

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 As the committee with responsibility for discharging the Council's functions regarding community safety and crime and disorder, the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee is the appropriate committee to receive this report. At this stage, there are no significant legal implications arising from this report which is for noting. However, this will need to be kept under review.

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court Date: 8th January 2016

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has already been carried out, as part of the development of the wider VAWG action plan. This EIA is a live document that will cover all areas of the project.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 In the medium to longer term the reduction in funding will impact on the capacity of the specialist service to reduce the impact of DVA and RSVA, including repeat victimisation or recovery, with a consequent impact on other services within the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.5 In the short term the reduction in funding means that service provision, including the risk management process for the highest risk victims of DVA and the specialist support for victims of DVA and RVA, will reduce increasing the impact of crime and disorder.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Portal: New Specialist Service Presentation

Slide 1



Stronger Together



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

1

Slide 2



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

2

Slide 3



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

3

Slide 4



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

4

Slide 5



Vision

Freedom from abuse and violence

Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

5

Slide 6



2020 Mission

Our mission is to make ending Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Abuse everyone's business by:

- Enabling Survivors to be active agents in their own life-changes and to lead change for others;
- Co-producing a whole community response;
- Providing a parity of service across all areas; and
- Holding perpetrators to account

Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

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Slide 7



2020 Mission

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- Holding perpetrators to account

Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

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Slide 8



Aligning with VAWG strategies and the Police and Crime Strategy

- Increasing survivor safety;
- Holding perpetrators to account;
- Decreasing social tolerance and acceptance; and
- Increasing people's ability to have safe, equal, violence-free relationships.

Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

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Slide 9



A transformational specialist service



- Pooled resources
- Shared learning
- Removing silos

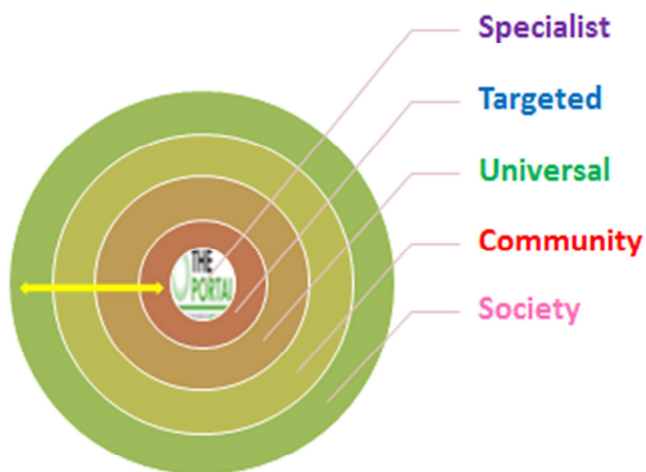
Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

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Slide 10



The whole Onion



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

10

Slide 11



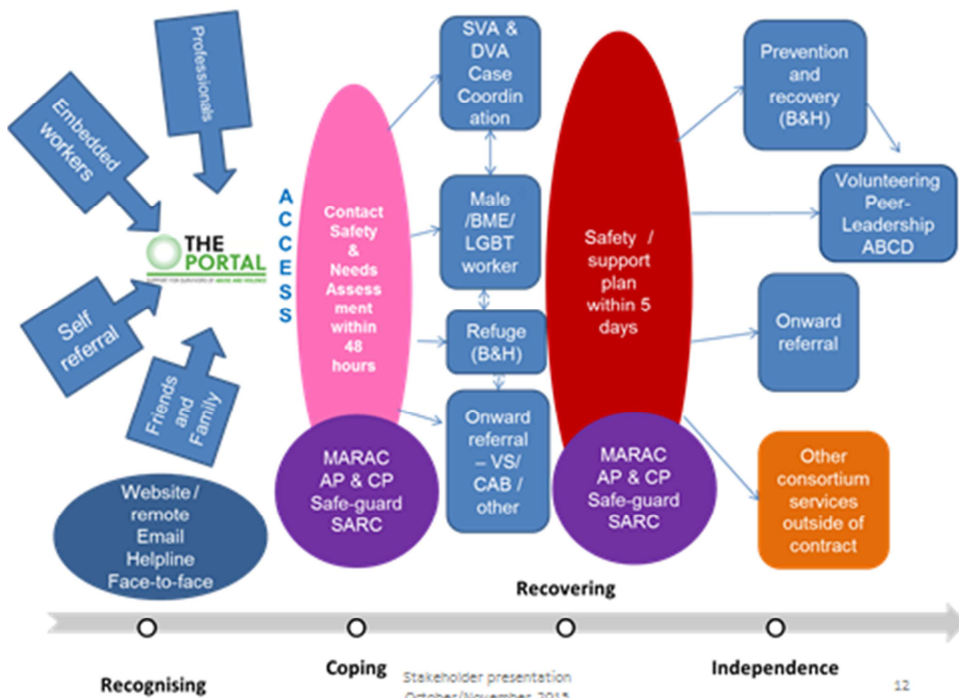
Meeting Diverse Needs

- Gender Specific Services
- BME Worker
- Male Worker
- LGBT Worker
- Children and Young People's Worker (B&H)
- Support for families with complex needs

Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

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Slide 12



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

12

Slide 13



- Integrated DV and SV service
- Single point of contact/ access
- Web based /remote access
- Triage
- Allocated Case Co-ordinators
- Comprehensive needs and risk assessment
- Single Case Management System

*Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2013*

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Slide 14



Key Messages

You are not alone

We understand

We believe you

Slide 15



THE PORTAL
SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

About Us   [CLICK TO LEAVE](#)

VOLUPTATE CON EIUM, SIT OMNIST, VENIMAIO EIUM HARUM REICILIST, SEQUAT. VIDIS CONSE ET RE.

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THE PORTAL
SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Slide 16



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2013

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Slide 17



Phased approach



Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

17

Slide 18



Achieving Our Vision Together

**Ending Domestic Violence,
Sexual Violence and Abuse is
everyone's business**

Stakeholder presentation
October/November 2015

18

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS, COMMUNITIES AND EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 23 NOVEMBER 2015

ST. RICHARD'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, EGREMONT ROAD, HOVE

MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Barnett

PART ONE

27 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

27a Declaration of Substitutes

27.1 Councillor Taylor was in attendance in substitution for Councillor Barnett.

27b Declarations of Interest

27.2 There were none.

27c Exclusion of Press and Public

27.3 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.

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

28 PRESENTATIONS**28a Presentation – Hangleton & Knoll Area Representatives**

- 28.1 Pat Weller MBE, Chair of the Hangleton & Knoll Project was in attendance accompanied by Helen Bartlett and Sophie Murphy and Jack Stanford of the Hangleton & Knoll Youth Manifesto Group.
- 28.2 Helen Bartlett stated that she welcomed the opportunity to address the Committee about the community based important work going on in Hangleton & Knoll. This ward was large with a mixed demographic including areas of affluence and also of deprivation, a number of children deemed to be living in poverty and a concentration of the elderly too. It lay between Hove Park and the railway line and bordered to the north by Portslade and took about an hour to walk round on foot. Her work included the area as a whole but was focused on responding to areas of identified need. Generally, a relatively high number of young people left school with few or no qualifications which gave rise to unemployment and in some instances a propensity for mental health issues.
- 28.3 Ms Bartlett explained that a number of those she worked with were looked after children and or had caring responsibilities and having struggled at school had become disengaged and then became non-attenders which could in turn give rise risk taking/negative behaviours which in turn had a negative impact on the community in which they lived. This project linked into projects within the wider community and had assisted in raising funding for local schemes and in helping young people to become involved in the community in which they lived.
- 28.4 Jack Stanford and Sophie Murphy gave their perspectives based on their involvement with the Hangleton Youth Manifesto Group. Both commended the confidence they had gained and the opportunities that they had had as a consequence of their involvement with it.
- 28.5 Pat Weller, Chairman of the Hangleton & Knoll Project, commended the work of this project which had had a positive impact on the lives of many young people in the area and positive outcomes for the area as a whole. Joana Martindale commended the work undertaken whilst stressing that once such schemes were put into place there was a need for on-going support as was the case here in order for such valuable work to be sustained.

28.6 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the presentation be noted.

28b Presentation – Brighton & Hove Interfaith Community Representatives

- 28.7 The Revd. Martin Poole, Chair of Brighton and Hove Faith in Action (BHFA), was in attendance accompanied by Lev Eakins, BHFA Co-ordinator and Anthea Ballam Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Interfaith Contact Group.
- 28.8 The Chair, the Revd Poole and Lev Eakins, BHFA Project Coordinator explained that the “Inter Faith Audit had recently been published (copies to be circulated to Members of the Committee with the minutes from this meeting). This inter-faith charity had been established in February 2014. It’s purpose was to support and coordinate social welfare

(food banks homeless shelters and debt advice) and community facing services (parent and toddler groups, support for the elderly and youth groups) delivered by faith groups in the city.

- 28.9 It was further explained that the group worked to bring different groups together in order to work with some of the broader networks in the city with a focus on helping those in need without taking an overtly “religious” approach.
- 28.10 The Chair thanked all those who had attended for their interesting and informative presentations the contents of which were noted.

29 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015 as a correct record.

30 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

- 30.1 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:

Transgender Day of Remembrance

- 30.2 The Chair explained that 20 November had been Transgender Day of Remembrance; a day set to remember and honour those who were killed due to hatred or prejudice towards their gender identity and gender expression. It was a matter of pride for the city that whilst remembering those who had died the city was not being passive but was forging ahead with actions to increase inclusion and equality for Trans people and to ensure their right to safe, healthy and happy lives.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

- 30.3 On the 8 November, Remembrance Sunday and on 11, Armistice Day: the contribution and loss of British and Commonwealth military and civilian lives in the two World Wars and sorrowfully in the many conflicts that had followed had been commemorated and remembered.

Response to Recent Attacks in Paris

- 30.4 The Chair stated that with great sadness she considered that it was highly appropriate to refer to the abominable tragedy which had occurred in Paris on 13 November which was not the first and unhappily was unlikely to be the last loss of innocent life due to ideological hatred. The response by people in Paris, in France and all over the world had been humbling and uplifting - the resilience, the unity and the solidarity. In fact the standing as one regardless of difference had been an overwhelming message. One already reflected here in the city through the One Voice Partnership which, the most recent meeting of which had taken place on 19 November.

30.5 The Chair explained that these recent events had caused her to reflect once again, on the “why” of this committee and the need to champion and make changes that:

increased equality,

that supported all our communities to be strong and confident in their own identities, that fostered a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity, and a genuine willingness to embrace that diversity; and

finally that no-one should live in fear of violence because of another’s hatred or prejudice be that based on religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or gender.

30.6 As part of making that change the Chair informed committee members and the public that she had asked for the committee to receive a report on community safety issues and crime trends every six months starting from our January committee meeting. This would enable the committee and the community to regularly hear and consider an accurate and up to date picture of performance and risk and will help us to make informed decisions about how to manage community safety issues in the city to keep people safe from harm.

30.7 The January meeting of the committee would have a particular focus on domestic and sexual violence against women and girls. Information would be provided about “The Portal”, a newly commissioned service set to launch in early January delivering services directly to victims. The meeting would also hear from other service providers and would have the opportunity to ask questions and learn from their experiences in delivering services.

30.8 Additionally, in December the council will be holding, what had become well established and extremely useful challenge sessions on the equality impact assessments that accompany the council’s budget proposals for 2016/17. Community and voluntary sector organisations had been invited to an open event to comment and feedback on these EIAs. The session would begin with a brief introduction to the budget context and would refer to the significant reductions in council funding, with the bulk of the session given over to very robust round table discussions about the EIAs. The feedback received would then be considered as part of finalising the EIAs ready for budget debate and decision making at full council at the end of February 2016. Invitations had already gone out to the community and voluntary sector but as a reminder:

The sessions would be taking place in the morning on Tuesday 15 December at Community Base and in the afternoon on Thursday 17^h December at the Brighthelm Centre. Detailed information could be obtained from the Communities, Equality and Third Sector Team.

30.9 **RESOLVED** – That the Chair’s Communications be received and noted.

31 CALL OVER

31.1 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

32 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**32a Petitions**

32.1 The following petition which had been presented at Council on --- 2015 was considered.

“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.” (292 signatures)

Mr Parry the lead petitioner was invited by the Chair, Councillor Daniel to speak for 3 minutes in support of the petition, Nev Kemp of Sussex Police was also invited to respond following which the response set out below was given:

“The police locally will have to change the way they work in neighbourhoods to achieve the savings required to meet their reduced budget over the next four years. Significant redesigns are also underway in all other areas of policing. Neighbourhoods will be prioritised where there is the great need or vulnerability.

This does mean that some areas will see a reduction in visible neighbourhood policing. There will however be a named officer for each area although they will often be responsible for a bigger geographical area. Conversely in areas of greatest need visible presence will be maintained by neighbourhood officers. All areas will continue to receive a 24 hour response and secondary investigative service.

By focusing on vulnerability, threat, risk and harm they will be able to ensure those most in need of a service continue to do so. The role of Police Community Support Officers will be enhanced, they will be expected to focus on problem solving with communities with relevant partners whilst maintaining a patrolling function.

Local Action Teams are key partners in delivering safer communities. The police, together with the council fully support LATs. We have renewed or relationships with LATs and are keen to work collaboratively to ensure that LATs fully understand how services operate and can work with us to ensure our communities remain safe. “

32.1 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the petition and response given be noted.

32b Written Questions

32.2 Notification of the question had been received from Riziki Milanzi a local Youth Trustee:

“One of the ways to strengthen communities to cope with the current financial challenges is to skill up young people for the future. So they have ownership of their community, are able to run things for themselves and voice what they need. But one model of youth work being discussed in the City at the moment is the idea of having ‘hubs’ of youth work, where target areas get youth work and others don’t. Are some young people more deserving than others and is this fair? Will ‘naughty’ kids get lots of input whilst everyone else gets nothing?

By ‘communities’, are we including communities of identity (such as BME and LGBTQ) as well as geographical communities? Having hubs in particular places might exclude equalities group from that frame of reference.”

32.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, invited the Executive Director of Children’s Services to respond and then responded herself in the following terms:

“Thank you for your question. I do agree that, as you say, ‘skilling up young people for the future’ is a really important way of strengthening communities to cope with the challenges they face. As you know one of the reasons this committee has been set up is to look at ways of enabling young people to play a full role in their communities, running things for themselves and making sure their voice really is heard and listened to. Last Monday we were both part of the debate about the 2015 Youth Work Review at the Children, Young People and Skills Committee. That review, and the recommendations officers made to committee were based on the idea of a ‘flexible continuum’ of joined up services from open access provision for disadvantaged neighbourhoods and communities, to targeted interventions for the most vulnerable young people and opportunities for all young people to have fun in spaces welcoming to them’.

We don’t think that some children and young people are more deserving than others, but we do recognise that some face greater challenges and have greater needs. Because of this the Children, Young People and Skills Committee has agreed four priorities which includes to: ‘Ensure that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children receive the council’s support, consolidating services where possible, and targeting resources at those most in need’ The financial challenges the council faces means we have to prioritise how we spend our money, and that often means making difficult decisions. That is why we are targeting services on communities and individuals with the greatest need.”

32.4 **RESOLVED** – That the question and response to it be noted.

32c Deputations

32.5 There were none.

33 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**33a Petitions**

33.1 There were none.

33b Written Questions

33.2 There were none.

33c Letters

33.3 There were none.

33d Notices of Motion

33.4 There were none.

34 CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD'S AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

34.1 The Committee considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Director of Children's Services and Director of Public Health intended to brief the committee on the work carried out to date by two complimentary programmes in the city; City Neighbourhoods and Community Collaboration. These programmes both formed part of the council's corporate modernisation programme and reported to the Corporate Modernisation Board. The report also set out the next steps for each, including a joint governance structure to ensure that they were aligned.

34.2 Both of these programmes were key transformation strands which would help the council in the delivery of the proposed co-operative working approach required by the administration. Learning from co-operative councils around the country had provided those involved with an understanding of the level of work required in order to create a bespoke co-operative model for Brighton & Hove. It was explained that the City Neighbourhoods Programme Board had agreed four Phase One areas in order to begin this work. The shortlisted areas were:

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

34.3 These areas had been chosen because they represented the range of "need" across the city and had varying degrees of infrastructure, both from a community and property perspective. The next steps would be to produce a full and costed business case for creating hubs in these areas and working with service reviews across them to ensure that services delivered from the hubs met the needs of the local community, as well as encouraging greater collaboration with them. Four other areas were currently listed for a subsequent Phase Two:

- Queen's Park
- Hollingdean & Stammer;
- Woodingdean; and
- North Portslade

- 34.4 The Executive Director of Children's Services, explained that these areas had been decided on the basis of the needs analysis, assets and in particular existing infrastructure assessment which had been carried out. This represented steps towards a completely new way of working which would make the best use of assets, buildings, people and communities themselves rather than being "council" based. How that would be delivered and would differ depending on need, diversity and geographical mix of an area and would arise from detailed consultation and involvement of stakeholders and would include input from Ward Councillors.
- 34.5 Councillor Gibson sought confirmation regarding how this would be rolled out and how across the city and how areas had been chosen, also seeking assurances that individual councillors would be fully involved and properly briefed. The Head of Communities and Equality, Emma Mc Dermott, explained that robust arrangements would need to be place and in some instances difficult conversations would need to take place. The "shape" of the programmes/hubs was likely to be very different depending on the needs of different areas and would reflect that in future these would need to be very different in the face of the fact that there would be far fewer council staff to deliver services directly. The Community Collaboration Programme was delivering a clear direction and coordinated approach to working with residents and communities in order to allow co-production, collaboration and making services more efficient by reducing dependency. It was developing an internal and external culture change to support a "can do" approach and complimented the City Neighbourhood approach.
- 34.6 Councillor Simson stated that she was very supportive of the "piloting" suggested approach which sought to build on existing networks within communities across the city. Councillor Taylor concurred in that view.
- 34.7 The Executive Director of Children's Services, confirmed that the role of Ward Councillors would be very important in performing an "auditing" role in giving their input and in ensuring that the process was properly held to account. This would involve a lot of work which was why an incremental approach had been decided upon rather than trying to implement this city wide in one go. The Head of Communities and Equality, Emma Mc Dermott, re-iterated that implementation in different neighbourhoods would be different and it was important that no assumptions were made and that development was based on a full understanding of the needs of an area and the knowledge that the necessary skills set was in place.
- 34.8 Councillor Littman stated that he was broadly supportive and was aware that there was cross-party support for the approach being adopted.
- 34.9 The Chair, Councillor Daniel commended both the report and the approach being suggested which was intended to manage the shrinking pool of resources that would be available to the council effectively and efficiently whilst seeking to build stronger communities using and improving on the skills sets they had whilst mitigating potential detriment as a result of diminishing resources.

34.10 RESOLVED –

(1) That the work undertaken so far by the City Committee Neighbourhoods and Community Collaboration programmes be noted;

(2) That agreement is given to develop proposals for neighbourhood hubs in the four shortlisted wards of phase 1 of the City Neighbourhoods programme and confirm that it is appropriate to develop these based on the preferred option set out in section 4.3 of the report;

(3) That members agree and support the work streams in the Community Collaboration programme set out in section 3.6 of the report;

(4) That the proposal to merge governance arrangements for the two programmes be agreed; and

(5) That it is agreed to receive update on the progress of the work programmes at appropriate times in their development and delivery, and as a minimum year on year.

35 BRIGHTON & HOVE FAIRNESS COMMISSION UPDATE

35.1 The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive detailing progress made to date in establishment of the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission. At its meeting in July 2015 the Committee had 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. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress that had been since the Committees' previous meeting.

35.2 It was noted that the five key themes for the monthly meetings to be held in public had now been agreed as had the venues at which the meetings would be held. Councillor Gibson enquired regarding how the meetings would be structured and it was explained that each of the meetings had been arranged to consider specific identified issues and that those addressing the Committee would be providing information and asking questions focusing on those specific areas. It was explained that individuals/groups could feed into the process via the website. Details of the discussions which had taken place at each meeting would be available on the council website immediately after wards.

35.3 Councillor Simson was pleased to note that the meetings had been widely publicised on buses in Brighton & Hove.

35.4 **RESOLVED** - That the progress made with the Fairness Commission to date be noted.

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

36.1 The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Finance and Resources the purpose of which was to set out the council's response to the recommendations contained in the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion's (CESI) independent report into the impacts of the welfare reform measures which were due to take effect. This work had been undertaken in order to inform commissioning decisions and development of strategies to support those citizens who would face the most significant impacts as a result of the changes, also, to provide context and information to inform policy development and budget decisions generally.

36.2 It was explained that purpose of the report was also to detail the broader actions and activities the council was undertaking in order to respond to the issues raised by the Government's welfare reform programme and to highlight the key impacts and considerations resulting from the changes set out in the July 2015 summer budget. In summary the changes would be as follows:

- 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(would not apply to families with more than 2 children born before April 2017);
- Reducing the benefit cap from £26,000 to £20,000 outside London;
- Reducing the 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 (subject to change, more detail would be known after announcement of the autumn statement on 25 November 2015).

36.3 Tony Wilson was in attendance from the CESI and gave a presentation highlighting the key impacts arising from welfare changes which had already occurred which had been identified in relation to Brighton and Hove. Households claiming benefit would be on average £2,300 per year (£44 per week) worse off which represented one of the largest impacts outside of London, a break-down of the financial impact by ward was also included. It was explained that three distinct areas of impact had been identified, financial; going without, cutting back, borrowing, arrears, health and well-being, anxiety and stress: and family and community which could be both strengthening but could also create divisions and tensions. Details were also given based on the feedback received of how those who were/would be affected were responding to date.

36.4 Mr Wilson explained in response to questions that so far there were structural barriers in terms of access to affordable housing, increasing demands on the council's own housing stock, stable employment and flexible employment. Those who were likely to be impacted could be categorised as those who were coping/struggling; (most of those impacted), often working households with smaller losses, those at risk; disabled people, large families (particularly lone parents) and or with a range of contributory factors, private renter, mental health or with poor networks and those in crisis; where multiple reforms or factors combined often linked to health/housing issues, crisis/debt. Measures were being put into place to monitor the impacts of the changes and to identify key

groups in order to communicate effectively with those at the greatest risk to provide targeted support to manage and mitigate the impact of the reforms, also to seek to build resilience into longer term responses, financial employment and housing.

- 36.5 In conclusion, the Head of City Services (Revenues and Benefits), Graham Bourne, explained that responses to the recommendations would continue to be developed and current service offerings aligned to meet those challenges. Where responses required additional resources a full business case would be developed to support that process.
- 36.6 Councillor Taylor broadly welcomed the measures being undertaken in order to mitigate people into work in so far this was practicable. Universal Credit had in his view helped to remove barriers to work. He also considered that more should be done to assist and encourage home ownership. He certainly did not consider that the picture was “all doom and gloom”.
- 36.7 The Chair, Councillor Daniels stated that many of those who were coping/struggling were from working households, high rents and the shortage of affordable housing in the city presented a major challenge. The cost of housing available under right to buy/shared ownership schemes was such that even when discounts were applied it remained beyond many people’s financial means.
- 36.8 Councillor Moonan was in agreement that access to affordable housing was a key factor and asked for confirmation as to whether this report had been presented to the Housing Committee given its integral role in helping to facilitate future provision. The Welfare reform Programme Manager, John Francis, explained that information was provided to the Housing Committee periodically, however, the information contained in the report before the NCE Committee contained the most up to date information available. In response Councillor Moonan stated that she considered it appropriate for the report to go to the Housing Committee and proposed that copies of this report accompanied by an extract from the minutes be forwarded to the Housing Committee for their information and note. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Gibson, the Committee also indicated their agreement that this would be appropriate.
- 36.9 Councillor Moonan also referred to the potential knock-on impact of the reforms on homelessness in the city and to the forthcoming Rough Sleeping summit which was due to take place considering that this information and details of proposed mitigation measures needed to feed into that forum too in order to inform any debate there.
- 36.10 Jo Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project referred to measures being undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector to dovetail with other measures being put in place across the city. For example, following their encouragement British Gas would be making £395,000 available to be paid out in the form of crisis loans over the coming winter months.
- 36.11 In answer to questions the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, confirmed that that the Committees’ Terms of Reference had been drawn such that they permitted referral to other Committees.
- 36.12 Following the presentation and Members’ initial discussion in relation to the report the following amendment was put by Councillor Littman on behalf of the Green Group and

seconded by Councillor Gibson. It was noted that the amendment, circulated immediately prior to the meeting had been amended further to reflect the fact that as this fell outside this committees' financial responsibilities it was unable to make a direct recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee on this matter related to the budget setting process. It was proposed that an additional recommendation be added as follows:

“2.5 That, in the spirit of fairness, the Policy and Resources Committee be requested to consider the possibility of recommending to Council that it limits the percentage increase in Council Tax paid by the City's poorest households to no more than that faced by the City's other households to the extent it is permitted by law and having regard to available resources.”

- 36.13 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, responded that she did not support the addition of a further recommendation referring this matter to Policy and Resources Committee, given that all aspects of the 2015/16 budget would be considered fully at that Committee by those who were members of it. It would be far more appropriate for the Green Group representatives who sat on that Committee express their views directly at the relevant meeting, particularly given that this fell outside the budgetary responsibility of NCE Committee. Councillor Daniel also considered that it was very important to point out that the Council had not imposed these changes or removed funding from any individual.
- 36.14 Councillor Simson agreed wholeheartedly with the Chair that comments relating to the budgetary process should to be raised directly at Policy and Resources Committee as part of the debate and decision making process.
- 36.15 Councillor Littman whilst noting all that had been said expressed concern that the impact of these changes which would have a deeply negative impact on large numbers of people across the city needed to be highlighted fully. A reference from this Committee would in his view give this issue greater prominence.
- 36.16 A vote was taken on the proposed Green Group amendment but it was lost on a vote of 8 to 2.
- 36.17 The Chair then put the substantive recommendations set out in the report to the vote including the request by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Moonan that the report also be circulated to the Housing Committee. Members voted unanimously that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed and also that a copy of the report accompanied by an extract from the minutes should be forwarded to the Housing Committee for information and noting
- 36.18 Councillor Gibson also requested that the report and accompanying extract also be forwarded to Full Council for information.
- 36.19 **RESOLVED** –
- (1) That the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee endorses the responses to the recommendations set out in the CESI independent report into the impacts of welfare reform in Brighton and Hove;

(2) Notes the current mitigation strategies which are in place to manage the impacts of welfare reform in the city;

(3) Notes the work of the council and partners around employment and apprenticeships;

(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; and

(5) That a copy the report accompanied by an extract of the minutes from this Committee be forwarded to the Housing Committee for information and noting.

37 ADOPTION OF THE FOOD POVERTY ACTION PLAN

37.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health which presented a Food Poverty Action Plan for Brighton & Hove setting out how the city planned to prevent and alleviate food poverty. It was owned by strategic partners via Brighton & Hove Connected, including the City Council, CCG and the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership.

37.2 A joint presentation was given by the Health Promotion Specialist, Becky Woodiwiss and Vic Borrill and Emily O'Brien of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership detailing the underlying issues and the measures which were to be put into place to address them. It was recognised that good nutrition supported both mental and physical health and evidence demonstrated the impact of nutrition on educational attainment in children. Poor diet was linked to 30% lower life expectancy and disability. It had been estimated that malnutrition cost UK health services up to £7.4 billion a year.

37.3 The Food Poverty Action Plan (FPAP) aimed to:

- focus the city's limited resources most effectively;
- reduce the impact of food poverty on the health and well being of local people; and
- mitigate against the likely impact of future health and social care budgets.

37.4 The Committee were being asked to approve this three year FPAP as a strategic approach which would commit the council to delivery of relevant actions.

37.5 Councillor Hill, commended this excellent piece of work and the work which underpinned it and wholeheartedly supported the approach proposed.

37.6 Councillor Taylor concurred in that view, the FPAP represented a positive approach and way forward which represented a practical approach to this issue.

37.7 The Chair, Councillor Daniel also welcomed this report which sought to address and respond to the underlying issues surrounding food poverty and to realise practical and achievable solutions. The focus on the broader context and to ensure that every child in the city had at least one hot meal per day was important and could not be overstated.

- 37.8 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the Neighbourhoods Communities and Equalities Committee (NCEC) agree the Food Poverty Action Plan (Appendix 1) to the report 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) That the NCEC agrees to facilitate those Council actions within the plan that can be delivered within identified resources; and
- (3) That a progress report comes back to the NCEC at the half way point and the end of the 3 years.

38 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

39 COMMUNITY VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject:	Petitions		
Date of Meeting:	25 January 2016		
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. PETITION(S)

Settlement of Syrian Refugee Families in Brighton & Hove

- 3.1 The following petition was submitted at the meeting of Council held on 17 December 2015:
- 3.2 "We the undersigned are pleased to hear that 5 Syrian refugee families will soon be arriving in Brighton and Hove. But Given the scale of the current refugee crisis, we could do much more. We have the experience of welcoming 79 Oroma refugees in 2006 and an upsurge in offers of help from individuals and existing and new organisations working with refugees. We urge Brighton

and Hove Council to bring in far greater numbers of Syrian refugees as soon as possible.

(916 signatures)

(Extract from the meeting of Council on 17 December 2015 attached as an appendix)

Subject: Syrian Refugees - Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 17th December 2015

Date of Meeting: 25 January 2016

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **29-1006**
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee:
To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration:

Recommendation:

That the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee give consideration to the petition's request.

COUNCIL

**4.30 pm 17 December 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

DRAFT MINUTES

PART ONE

Present: Councillors Hyde (Chair), West (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barradell, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Inkipin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Penn, Phillips, Robins, Simson, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

58. (B)SYRIAN REFUGEES

58.14 The Mayor then invited Ms. Senker to come forward and present a petition requesting that the Council take 50 Syrian Refugees into the city.

- 58.15 Ms. Senker thanked the Mayor and stated that she wished to present a petition on behalf of Eve Mathis which had a total over 2,000 signatures. She also had a similar petition with over 900 signatures giving a combined total of over 3,055 signatures in favour of extending the number of refugees to be accommodated within the city.
- 58.16 Councillor Daniel thanked Ms. Senker for presenting the petitions and stated that they clearly showed how Brighton and Hove was a city with a big heart. She fully supported the aspirations behind the petitions and noted that in order to be able to offer places there was a need to get private landlords on board to put forward potential homes. She also noted that the Council had agreed to take in 5 families and thanks to the hard work of officers; it was recognised by the Home Office for its work which was being recommended to other authorities as an example of good practice.
- 58.17 Councillor Simson stated that the Conservative Group fully supported the petition being referred to the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration.
- 58.18 Councillor Littman welcomed the petition and stated that there was a need to continue to push the authority to take action. He was also concerned about the number of unaccompanied children entering the country and the pressure this put on neighbouring authorities and hoped that a report would be forthcoming on the resources available to tackle this.
- 58.19 Councillor Daniel noted the comments and hoped that further discussion could take place at committee level.
- 58.20 The Mayor thanked Ms. Senker for attending the meeting and noted that the recommendation was to refer the petition to the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee for consideration and put it to the council to agree.
- 58.21 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be referred to the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

Subject:	Community safety and crime in Brighton & Hove: Information update November 2015		
Date of Meeting:	25 January 2015		
Report of:	Director of Public Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Ruth Condon	Tel: 29-1103
	Email:	ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report describes recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy. It also provides statistical updates for key crime groups for 2015/16 up to November 2015.
- 1.2 This is the first such report to the Neighbourhoods Communities and Equalities Committee. The intention is to produce a similar report every six months. Feedback regarding the content and style of this report will be used to shape and develop future reports to ensure they are of value to the committee.
- 1.3 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2011 to November 2015 are also provided. These show recent data in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS – That the Committee notes the information provided in this report and is invited to:

- i) Agree the content and general structure of the report as a template for future reports to the committee.
- ii) Comment on and commit to the actions in the report (where they are within the council's remit) which contribute to the management of crime reduction and community safety priorities for the city.

3. INFORMATION:

Overview of police recorded crime

- 3.1 Total police recorded crimes in 2014/15 increased by 4.5% compared with the year before. In addition to this, the first eight months of 2015/16 recorded 15,950

crimes (Apr to Nov 2015), a further increase of 3% compared with the same months in 2014/15.

- 3.2 The slight upward trend in overall crime follows a long sustained period of crime reduction with overall recorded crime falling nationally and locally each year for the past ten years. Within overall recorded crime, crimes which cause the most harm, including domestic violence, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and hate crime have been rising. These crime types are now more accurately recorded and there are better support services and outcomes for victims. This results in improved trust and confidence and further increases in reporting although it is widely recognised that further improvements to increase trust and confidence can be made.
- 3.3 There was an inspection of all police forces carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in 2013/14, to audit the crime recording practices. As a consequence, there were improvements made within forces including Sussex Police and from 2014 this resulted in crimes, particularly violent crimes, being recorded more effectively. This has had an impact on some of the types of crime reported here, including violence against the person, domestic violence and hate crimes, as well contributing to the number of total crimes recorded. An explanatory note from Sussex Police, in Appendix 3, at the end of this report.
- 3.4 Appendix 2 provides data for key crime types for 2015/16 to date and how this compares to the same months in 2014/15. In summary, crimes of violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences are showing an increase (further detail elsewhere in this report), while criminal damage offences and acquisitive crimes have reduced.

Strengthening local communities

- 3.5 Active Local Action Team (LAT) consultation and collaboration is ongoing with local residents and LAT Chairs to identify current capacity, priorities and needs. The LAT structure, contacts and resources will help improve activity and community resilience within local neighbourhoods and will promote closer collaboration across the delivery of a range of support services.
- 3.6 The overall aim of this work is to support LATs in the most appropriate and efficient way to enable communities to take a bigger role in progressing local issues and help meet local needs. Early intervention and prevention activity in both public health and community safety should benefit from this approach.

Action: Complete next phase involving embedding a more formal city-wide LAT structure and constitution.

Drugs and alcohol misuse

- 3.7 Preliminary data for the first 8 months of 2015 indicates 12 drug-related deaths, suggesting a pro rata improvement on the published 2013 total of 36 and a local estimate of 27 for 2014. Of the latter 27 deaths, 46% were in the age range 45 – 54, double the national average, evidencing our ageing cohort of predominantly opiate users. From October, 2015 a wider range of people (including agencies

and friends/family/carers) are permitted by law to supply naxolone which can be administered to counter the effects of opiate overdose.

Action: Health Promotion have produced and are distributing a leaflet encouraging people witnessing a suspected overdose to take appropriate steps, both in terms of first aid and in contacting the ambulance services which is sometimes avoided due to fear of arrest.

- 3.8 There have continued to be a high number drug litter finds, including in public parks/gardens and in the grounds of high-rise blocks which are associated with injecting street dealing. Service users and services have interpreted this as being due to increased numbers of street homeless and the injection of NPSs.

Action: The Drug Litter Group have revised their action plan around managing and reducing drug litter. A newly located static needle exchange at Morley St Homeless Healthcare is planned, with Pavilions, the new community substance misuse treatment service, undertaking publicity of this new location via a number of routes.

- 3.9 Pavilions have continued to develop their treatment services, making strong links with homeless services, and undertaking particular interventions for those vulnerably housed. This includes the street drinking population who have considerable health care needs.

- 3.10 There has been a drop for both alcohol and drugs in the number of those who have successfully completed treatment as a percentage of all those in treatment.

Action: The reasons for reductions in the numbers completing treatment are being looked at and Pavilions are seeking to address this decrease.

- 3.11 There has been a downward trend in alcohol-related hospital admissions since October 2011. Numbers recorded in 2014/15 were 9% lower than in 2013/14 and show a further decline of 4% in the first seven months of 2015/16 compared with the same months in 2014/15.

- 3.12 Crimes of violence against the person in 2013/14 were 8% fewer than in 2012/13. However, as referred to earlier, at the beginning of 2014 changes to police recording of violent crimes were introduced so that they are now being recorded more extensively (see note at the end of this report for more details). In particular, this has had an effect on statistics on violence against the person, domestic violence and hate incidents and this is the main reason behind a 63% increase in police recorded violence against the person crimes in 2014/15 compared with 2013/14.

Action: Work continues to develop Safe Space and related medical support, including training for security staff from clubs and bars and medical outreach teams. Training of bar staff to recognise signs of vulnerability has also been rolled out. Funding for further development is being sought.

- 3.13 Exploration of the possible implementation of a Late Night Levy imposed on licensed premises in Brighton & Hove to help fund additional services to manage

the night time economy late at night is being undertaken. This is taking into account the experience of other areas which have already implemented the levy and are reporting positive outcomes.

Action: Police and council licensing officers to continue to provide information to Licensing Committee to enable a decision to be made on the Late Night Levy for the city.

Reducing offending

- 3.14 Acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) in 2014/15 were 14% lower than in 2013/14 and this decrease has continued with the number in the first 8 months of 2015/16 being 7% lower than in the same months in 2014/15. There were 500 domestic burglaries recorded between Apr and Nov 2015, 11.5% fewer than in the same period in 2014. There were 978 vehicle crimes in the same period, down by 14%.
- 3.15 The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system in 2015/16 continues the downward trend with 23 new young offenders from Apr to Sep (incl.) 2015. Latest published data (data up to Dec 2013) shows a continuing upwards trend in the percentage of offenders who reoffend and in the average number of offences per reoffender. This is likely to be a reflection of this smaller cohort of offenders being those with more complex or challenging issues and circumstances. Reoffending data for adults show a similar, but more moderate, picture.
- 3.16 Resettlement of offenders is now a function for SEETEC (the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company) who are responsible for the supervision of short sentenced prisoners and increased 'through the gate' support for prisoners. SEETEC services are located in HMP Lewes, HMP Ford and HMP Bronzefield, delivering resettlement services to all prisoners, including those on remand and those allocated to the National Probation Service.

The work focuses on the delivery of support with accommodation, finance and debt, employment and support for those who have been the victims of domestic and sexual violence and sex workers. Securing accommodation for the most complex and chaotic offenders can be a challenge within the city.

Action: Senior police, SEETEC and Community Safety Officers are meeting early in 2016 to consider the most effective way of working strategically in partnership to ensure performance in managing re-offending. The focus will be on how to work collaboratively to retain service delivery during a time of austerity.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents

- 3.17 In 2014/15 there were 3% fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police than in 2013/14 and the number has continued to drop in 2015/16 (down a further 15% in the first eight months).

Action: New joint working arrangements for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and hate incident casework between the Casework Team, police and housing providers in

the city, are being developed, clarifying the responsibilities of the lead agency and Single Point of Contact for each case.

- 3.18 The local authority successfully applied for a Closure Order in Sept 2015, providing a means to tackle the anti-social behaviour associated with activities taking place in a 'party flat'. This is the first time this type of order has been used locally since introduced as part of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 3.19 The potential implementation of Public Space Protection Orders to address ASB in city parks and open spaces is at the consultation stage.
- 3.20 A Restorative Practice Development Officer has been in post since Aug 2015. A Restorative City Action Plan was launched during International Restorative Justice Week in Nov 2015.
- 3.21 Data for the first half on 2015/16 suggest that, while reports of hate crimes continue to increase, there is a drop in the rate at which crimes are detected by the police compared with 2014/15 and preceding years. Also, 87% of finalised prosecutions for hate crimes (incl. racist and racially-motivated, homophobic, transphobic and disability) in the first half of 2015/16 resulted in a conviction; this is down from the 92% achieved in 2014/15.
- 3.22 Terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut and Nigeria may have had a negative effect on community tension locally. In the past in similar circumstances people who are or appear to be Muslim have experienced increased tension, racism and Islamophobia. One Voice held a 'quick time' meeting immediately after the Paris attacks to give local people an opportunity to express their concerns and offer support to each other. A statement was made and released to the media.

Action: The Community Safety Team, police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have been working together with an organisation called Witness Confident. Witness Confident have developed an app that enable smart phone users to quickly document what has happened to them and then either store evidence on the app or pass to police or community safety to take action. This was launched in October 2015 and will initially be promoted to hate crime victims.

Prevent

- 3.23 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent in February 2015. It is now a duty (the 'Prevent Duty') for local authorities and other specified partners to give 'due regard' to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism while carrying out their functions. The multi-agency 'Channel' approach for supporting vulnerable individuals from becoming drawn into terrorism is now also a statutory duty. A Prevent Board has being set up to oversee work. The Home Office is providing financial support to help co-ordinate Prevent work and fund activities.
- 3.24 Following a number of attacks in Paris on 13th November 2015, the threat level to the UK continues to remain at 'Severe' (meaning an attack is highly likely - raised to this status in Aug 2014). Travel to the conflict zone and risk from

returnees, online influences, and a risk of 'lone actor' attacks continue. Developments in Syria, Iraq or the conflict zone and internationally will continue to present risks for inter-community relations and community cohesion.

- 3.25 A Prevent Action Plan that is proportionate to risks responds to local analysis through engagement with partners and communities.

Action: Projects that are currently just starting include a Young Leaders Programme (which aims to empower young people to become leaders, use their voice and skills to counter extremist narratives/messages, and build resilient communities) and the Web Guardians project (to increase women/mothers' capacity to understand the online risks, grievance and narratives that can be exploited by extremist/terrorist groups to recruit young people).

Violence against women & girls

- 3.26 The first six months of 2015/16 has seen a further increase in domestic and sexual violence crimes and incidents recorded by the police, this is in addition to a significant increase in 2014/15. The position half way through 2015/16 is that 1067 domestic violence crimes have been reported and 234 have been detected (21.9%). 318 sexual offences have been reported and 58 detected (18.2%)¹. This compares with final figures for 2014/15 of 27.9% and 21.7% respectively.
- 3.27 Prosecution rates for domestic violence offences in the first half of 2015/16 are fairly stable at 73.0% (73.4% in 2014/15), while prosecution rate for sexual offences is currently 73.6% (68.3% in 2014/15).

Action: The new domestic violence & abuse, rape and sexual violence & abuse specialist service 'The Portal', which covers both Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, commences in January 2016. However, with the ongoing increase in reports to services of domestic violence and sexual offences, the ability to sustain funding in the current financial climate for core services, including Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and refuge provision, is important, but a challenge.

Action: The Safeguarding Adults Board, the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Safe in the City Partnership Board are coming together for the first time to consider safeguarding issues and will look at opportunities for working together more effectively.

Modern slavery

- 3.28 The Modern Slavery Act was passed in March 2015. The main difficulty at present is a low volume of intelligence on which remedial action can be based. It can also be difficult to gain the confidence of victims who are identified

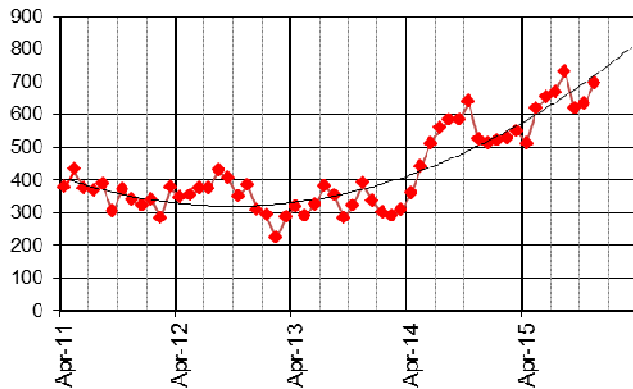
¹ This calculation is based on the number recorded during the period and on the number solved during the period.

Action: Work continues to raise awareness among partners and in the community of signs of modern slavery. An example of this is the addition of information in taxi drivers' 'blue book'. Opportunities to work regionally to address modern slavery are being explored

3.29 The UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, has published his first Strategic Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-anti-slavery-commissioner-strategic-plan-2015-to-2017>.

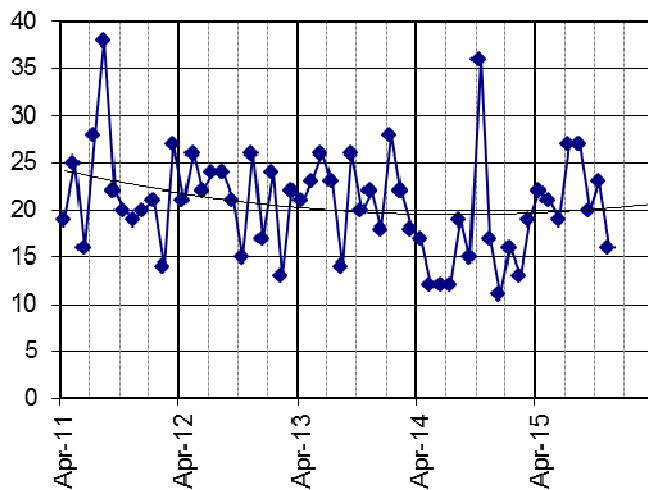
3.30 **Action:** We will consider how best we can incorporate the priorities in this plan in our local context, especially around victim care and partnership working.

Violence against the person
Apr 2011 to Nov 2015



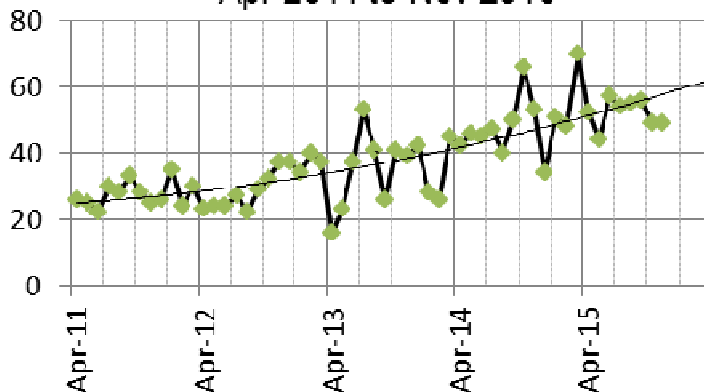
4.3 The long term trend up to the end of Mar 2014 was downwards. Although a seasonal increase would be anticipated in the summer months, the particularly steep increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police recording practice (see Appendix 3). The increasing trend continues into 2015/16.

Total Robbery, April 2011 to Nov 2015



4.4 Robberies in the city tends to fluctuate between 10 and 30 per month. There were fewer robberies in 2014/15 than in previous years (although there was a spike in Oct 2014³), but the monthly average in 2015/16 to date is higher than in 2014/15. A few robberies are business robberies, with most being personal robberies.

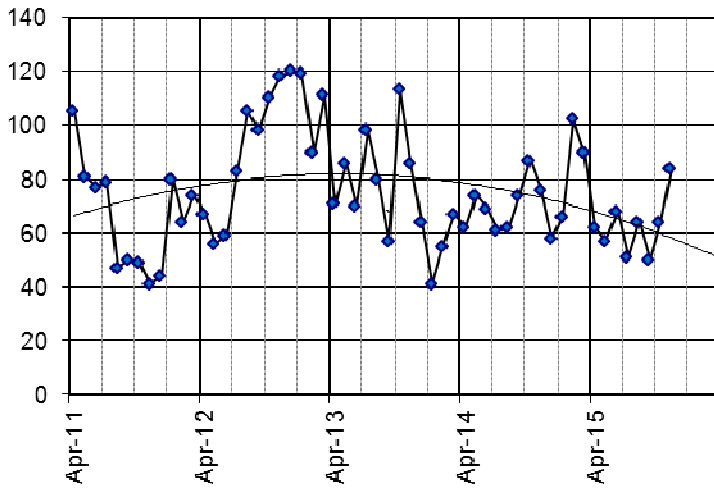
Sexual Offences,
Apr 2011 to Nov 2015



4.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend. This is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have also had an effect on recorded numbers.

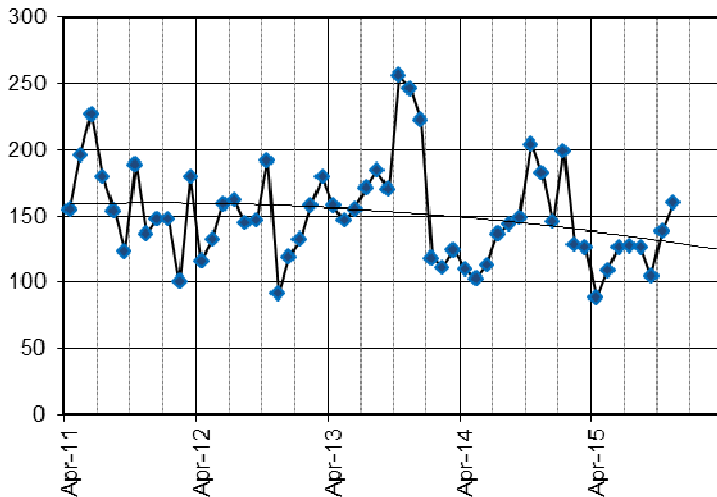
³ A robbery with 8 victims and another series of 4 crimes perpetrated by a single offender contributed to the spike seen in Oct 2014

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2011 to Nov 2015



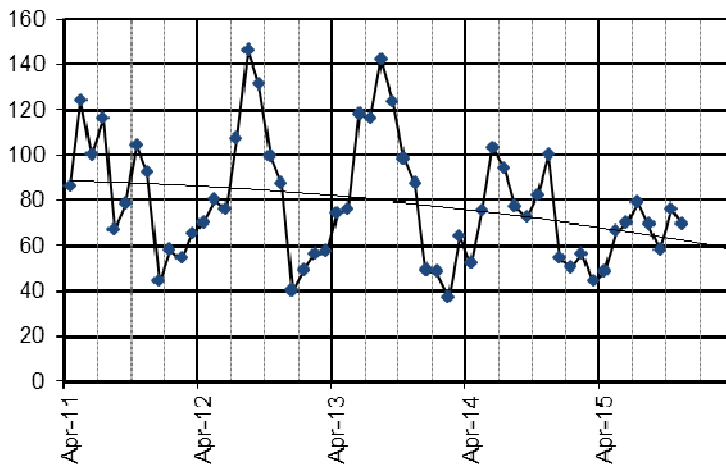
4.5 The number of domestic burglaries has broadly speaking been declining since a peak in the winter of 2012/13. Between 50 and 70 per month were recorded in the summer 2015 months, but numbers rose again to over 80 in Nov.

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2011 to Nov 2015



4.6 The number of vehicle crimes have generally been on a long term decline. Following a spate of vehicle crimes between Oct and Dec 2013, numbers resumed a relatively low level again. Some further spikes in the autumn of 2014, and in Jan 2015 have also been seen.

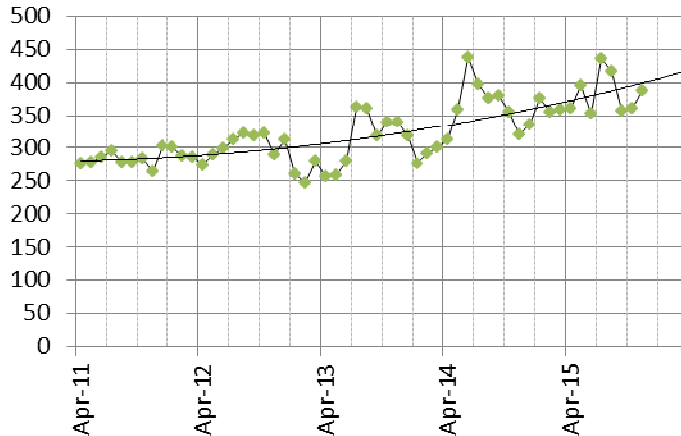
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2011 to Nov 2015



4.7 A strong seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. However, cycle thefts rose less in the summers of 2014 and 2015 than in previous years.

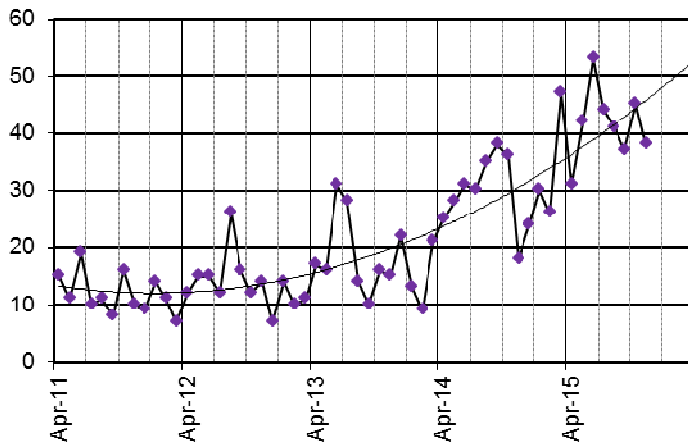
Police crime data presented in this report only reflects those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

**Domestic Violence Crimes & Incidents,
Apr 2011 - Nov 2015**



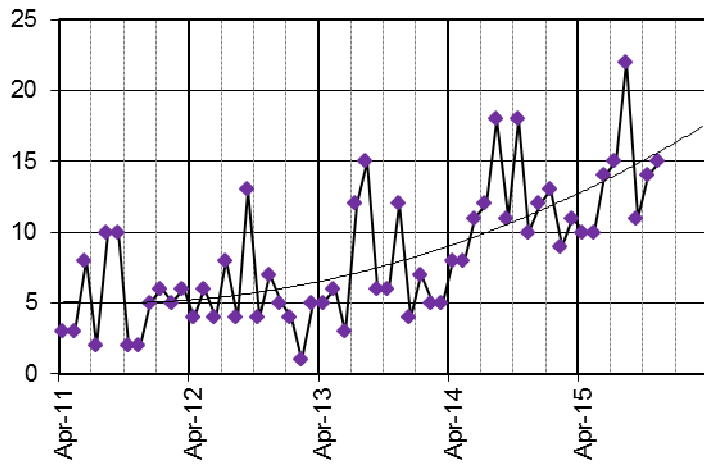
4.8 Point 3.2 and 3.3 earlier in this report explain issues with recording practices and positive work in relation to these crime types which result in more crimes being recorded.

**Racist Crimes and Incidents
(police data), Apr 2011 to Nov 2015**



See above

Homophobic Crimes & Incidents
(police data), Apr 2011 to Nov 2015



See above

Appendix 2. Crime statistics 2015/16: position at November 2015

	number of crimes Apr – Nov 14	number of crimes Apr – Nov 15	rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ⁴ .
Police recorded crimes			
Total crimes	15492	15950	11
Criminal damage	1881	1870	9
Violence against the person	4192	5118	13
Robbery	140	175	12
Sexual offences	389	416	n/a ⁵
Domestic burglary	565	500	5
Theft from/of a motor vehicle	1139	978	8
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	6761	6240	12
Pedal cycle theft	655	535	9
Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents			
Domestic violence crimes and incidents ⁶	2939	3067	n/a
Racist crimes and incidents	241	331	n/a
Religiously-motivated crimes and incidents	51	47	n/a
Homophobic crimes and incidents	96	111	n/a
Transphobic crimes and incidents	14	19	n/a

⁴ Interim data. Brighton & Hove is matched for comparative purposes with 14 other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) according to a range of socio-demographic and geographic variables. A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst; 8 is the middle position. Data reflects the ranking for the most recent six months. The city is grouped with: Bournemouth, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Eastbourne, Exeter, Hillingdon, Houslow, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Southend, Trafford, Watford and Worthing.

⁵ In comparison with our benchmarked group, we rank 11 (interim data) for sexual offences. However, because sexual offences, DV and hate crimes are subject to under reporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other CSPs based on the number of police recorded crimes.

⁶ This includes incidents where the victim is of any age, not just 16 and over as in the national definition, so will be a slight overestimate.

Disability hate crimes and incidents	20	55	n/a
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Appendix 3. Note from Sussex Police on violent crime data in 2014/15

Overall we've seen a reduction in the number of violent incidents in the City. However the number of recorded crimes has shown an increase. This is because of work which has been done across Sussex and for all forces nationally to ensure that all crimes are accurately and correctly recorded and that incidents are correctly classified. This is a statistical trend replicated across Sussex and the country.

The City is not becoming a more dangerous place. Compared with the same period last year, we have solved more violent crime within the City – this means we've caught and brought more people to justice. However, percentages show a reduction in our solved rate due to this increased recording of violent crime.

The highest increases in recording have been of minor injury assaults, many of which occur during the night time economy where victims are sometimes reluctant to provide details to the police. These types of incidents are now being accurately recorded.

In addition, the number of calls which we've received in relation to violent crime has shown a significant drop (of approximately 17%). This is a strong indication that the rise is due to better recording and more offenders being brought to justice.

Sussex Police is doing all it can to protect vulnerable victims, bring offenders to justice and keep the public safe. The increase in recorded crimes means that we are able to give victims the support they need, and have trust and confidence in our service when they report a crime to us.

Subject:	The Power of Volunteering		
Date of Meeting:	25 January 2016		
Report of:	Assistant Chief Executive		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Emma McDermott	Tel: 29-1577
	Email:	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 the report is for the city council to agree and sign up to 'The Power of Volunteering' the new volunteering pledge for the city. It has been developed by the citywide volunteering champions group on behalf of Brighton and Hove Connected (the city's Local Strategic Partnership). The group consists of representatives from across the public and community and voluntary sector and was responsible for the city's previous volunteering strategy 'Joining the Dots'.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That committee agree to sign up to the Partnership Pledge ('the Pledge') included in 'The Power of Volunteering' document (page x of appendix 1) on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council
- 2.2 That committee endorses the council's involvement in the Volunteering Champions Group to support the co-ordination and promotion of volunteering across the city.
- 2.3 That committee notes that a further report will be bought to committee by the Assistant Chief Executive on council plans to support and develop volunteering activity as part of the action plan developed from the Pledge.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The previous volunteering strategy 'Joining the Dots' was developed in 2010 and provided a detailed understanding of the volunteering situation and priorities within the city.
- 3.2 The 'Power of Volunteering' aims to build on that work, and to act as a call to action for public service organisations, voluntary sector organisations as well as businesses and individuals to engage with volunteering.

- 3.3 The Power of Volunteering aims to encourage and boost the commitment to volunteering within the city and to provide examples from a range of organisations and sectors to highlight the benefits of volunteering to individuals, organisations and businesses and the city as whole.
- 3.4 The people of Brighton and Hove already demonstrate a strong volunteering ethos. For example, there are an estimated 27,600 volunteers engaged in the voluntary and community sector (2013), B&SUH NHS Trust had 469 volunteers supporting staff in one month (June 2015), in wards, office and reception areas. Recent (2015) research into the number of volunteers engaged with the council found 1858 volunteers engaged across a wide range of council services. Moreover, in November 2015 as part of its annual survey of city-wide residents (called the City Tracker Survey) Brighton and Hove Connected found that 15% of residents surveyed had been involved in some form of local activism during the previous 12 months. National figures indicate that 8% of the population (England) get involved in this way – well below the figure reported for Brighton and Hove residents.
- 3.5 The Power of Volunteering is not intended to capture or develop the more detailed plans which are being developed by a wide range of organisations city wide.
- 3.6 Five key commitments are included within the Pledge. These are:
- **Raise awareness** of volunteering across Brighton & Hove - by regularly bringing volunteering to the attention of cross sector partners, the media and the public
 - **Increase the number** of people committing to volunteer from all communities - through attracting more volunteers from diverse communities across the city
 - **Enhance recognition** of the value that volunteers bring to the city - through regular promotion of the triple impact of volunteering for the city, business and organisations, and individuals
 - **Improve accessibility** of volunteering opportunities- by creating more high quality, well supported, accessible volunteering opportunities
 - **Promote good practice** in working with volunteers, including adequately resourcing volunteer management and support. - Through continuing support of the cross sector Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum and endorsement of the need to adequately resource volunteer management and support.
- 3.7 As well as the Pledge the 'Power of Volunteering' document has three other sections. Firstly, the 'Benefits of Volunteering (an explanation of the 'Triple Impact' of volunteering)', Secondly 'Volunteering in Context' including estimated numbers of volunteers in the city, safeguarding around volunteering and volunteering activities. Lastly, a snapshot section outlining the different forms that volunteering can take and how people can get involved either through formal channels or casually:

- § Enabling & Empowering People
- § Building Resilient & Inclusive Communities
- § Peer Support & Mentoring
- § Employer Supported Volunteering
- § Environment & Sustainability
- § Sport, Culture and Leisure
- § Governance
- § Raising Funds

- 3.7 The final design of the document will bring these areas to life through the use of info-graphics. The document and other associated material will contain a link to more information and further examples included on the Brighton & Hove Connected website.
- 3.8 The signed document will be launched at the Community Works Conference on 3rd March 2016 to which committee members, council officers and colleagues from other statutory partners will be invited.
- 3.9 Following the launch, the Volunteering Champions Group will develop and implement an action plan in response to the commitments. Further detailed information regarding the various aspects of volunteering and the strategy will be added to the Brighton & Hove Connected website.
- 3.10 A further report will be presented to committee on the actions the council is taking to increase and improve volunteering opportunities within the local authority.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 An option to do nothing was considered and instead continue under 'Joining the Dots'. However Joining the Dots was considered by the Volunteering Champions Group (VCG) to be out of date. Also in its current format was a difficult document to use to promote the power and significance of volunteering to organisations and individuals.
- 4.2 A second option considered was to produce a more detailed strategy document including an action plan. It was decided by the VCG that this would take considerable time to produce and use valuable time that could be spent on developing and delivering actions to respond to the commitments in the Pledge. It was felt that developing a pledge that was easy to engage with, that could be signed up to relatively quickly would make best use of time and resources and provide the right platform to launch activities from.
- 4.3 Consideration was also given to producing a promotional document that could be circulated to residents, groups, and organisations to encourage them to volunteer and/or develop volunteering opportunities. Whilst viewed positively it was felt that this should be action from the Pledge. Furthermore, it was necessary to identify time and resources to design, produce and disseminate a document that would have the appropriate impact.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

In December 2015 The Power of Volunteering was been presented to the City Management Board for comment and sign up. It was discussed and endorsed at the Equality and Inclusion Partnership on 19th January 2016 and will be presented to Brighton & Hove Connected for agreement in March 2016.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Committee is being asked to sign up to the Pledge on behalf of Brighton and Hove City Council to demonstrate the Council's commitment to and recognition for volunteering. Work is already underway through council's community collaboration work programme to look at how the number and breadth of volunteering opportunities with the city council can be increased. The Community Collaboration Programme will be developing a single Volunteering Policy and toolkit for the Council to ensure a consistent approach for both services and volunteers.

6.2 Moreover, at Policy and Resources Committee 3rd December the Council signed up to the Accessibility Volunteering Charter which fits well with the commitment in the Pledge to "Improve accessibility of volunteering opportunities- by creating more high quality, well supported, accessible volunteering opportunities". Working under the pledge and through the VCG the ambitions of the council are likely to have greater impact.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 As activities to respond to the pledge are developed they will need to be costed and appropriate approvals sought.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Michael Bentley Date: 15/12/15

Legal Implications:

7.2 At this stage, there are no legal implications identifiable from signing the Pledge which is a commitment to enhancing volunteering in the Coty without specific projects or actions by the Council identified. As specific projects are brought forward, legal advice will be required.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 21st December 2015

Equalities Implications:

7.3 A key commitment in the pledge is to increase accessibility of volunteering for all. Consideration will be given to equality implications as responses to each of the commitments are developed. This will ensure that equality impacts are considered under each commitment.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 The 'triple impact' of volunteering is well articulated and understood in terms of contributing and building individuals, organisations and cities resilience.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Other Implications
2. The Power of Volunteering: A Vision for Brighton and Hove

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 There are significant volunteering opportunities within the Criminal Justice system from Magistrates to victim support to peer mentors for individuals leaving prison and young offenders. Kent, Surrey and Sussex Rehabilitation Company and Sussex Police have signed up to the Pledge.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 Having a more combined effort across the public and third sector to volunteering should produce more diverse, accessible and better quality volunteering opportunities for people in the city. A concerted effort to grow the city as a 'city that serves' will not only benefit individuals and organisations but add to the swell of community and voluntary activity that exists in the city. At a time when public sector organisations are making significant changes to their services and demand is either going unmet or shifting to voluntary sector enabling more people to volunteer in their community, in local organisations, at one-off civic activities is critical.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3.1 There is a long tradition of volunteering in health and social care either in public or third sector organisations, ranging from helping out on hospital wards to befriending schemes to volunteering as a part of supporting individuals' health and wellbeing, and/or recovery.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019 states that "In order to respond to the challenges and to meet our purpose, by 2020, our council will:

- become a smaller, more efficient organisation, working as one, with a reduced budget, fewer employees and fewer services provided directly by us;
- collaborate more with other public services, the community and voluntary sector and businesses to find common and jointly owned solutions;
- **positively enable more citizens to play an active role in the creation and provision of services for their local community;**
- create a more connected council with more shared services, with other providers and other places".

In addition, the recommendations of this report support the council's corporate principle of active citizenship by "Promoting the social and economic value of volunteers and community groups, creating more volunteering opportunities in the city and supporting more people to volunteer" (page 16 BHCC Corporate Plan 2015-2019).



THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING: A VISION FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

Triple Impact graphic

Volunteering benefits

- *The city*
- *Organisations and businesses*
- *Individuals*

VOLUNTEERING VISION

Brighton & Hove, a city which champions volunteering: valuing the contribution that volunteers make; striving to ensure positive volunteering experiences; and recognising the impact of volunteering on the economic, social, cultural, leisure and environmental life of the city.

Commitments ...

- **Raise awareness** of volunteering across Brighton & Hove
- **Increase the number** of people committing to volunteer from all communities
- **Enhance recognition** of the value that volunteers bring to the city
- **Improve accessibility** of volunteering opportunities
- **Promote good practice** in working with volunteers, including adequately resourcing volunteer management and support.

PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE

Brighton & Hove Connected brings together the business, public and voluntary & community sectors to work in partnership to address the key economic, social and environmental challenges facing the city. It is guided by two key principles of increasing equality and improving engagement. Volunteers across the city make an invaluable contribution to the achievement of these principles across all partner organisations. Their input cuts across many city-wide policies. Volunteers contribute to building stronger, more resilient communities through a vast range of activities. They bring added value to services through their skills and life experiences and they improve the environment of the city in which we live and work.

We understand the principle of volunteering as being freely undertaken and not for financial gain. Working together as partners we commit to:

- **Raise awareness of volunteering across Brighton & Hove** - by regularly bringing volunteering to the attention of cross sector partners, the media and the public;
- **Increase the number of people committing to volunteer from all communities** - through attracting more volunteers from diverse communities across the city;
- **Enhance recognition of the value that volunteers bring to the city** - through regular promotion of the triple impact of volunteering for the city, business and organisations, and individuals;
- **Improve accessibility of volunteering opportunities** - by creating more high quality, well supported, accessible volunteering opportunities;
- **Promote good practice in working with volunteers** - through continuing support of the cross sector Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum and endorsement of the need to adequately resource volunteer management and support.

We endorse this document, which celebrates the contribution of volunteers and its commitment to volunteering in Brighton & Hove. We hope that it will harness the potential of volunteering in our city and attract many more people to make a contribution as a volunteer, in whatever capacity.

Each partner is progressing plans to develop volunteering activity and we will work with the Volunteering Champions' Group to support the co-ordination and promotion of volunteering across the city.

We are committed to the ongoing development of good practice in volunteering, increasing the quality of volunteer placements and promoting the contribution that volunteers make to the life of the city.

Signed by all partners:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group

Brighton & Sussex University Hospital Trust and other Trusts

Business – Chamber of Commerce or Economic Partnership

Community Works – for the voluntary & community sector

University of Sussex

Brighton University

Brighton City College

Police

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company Limited

Department of Work & Pensions

THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

The 'triple impact' of volunteering benefits the whole city; individuals, community groups, voluntary organisations, public sector bodies and businesses, all benefit from volunteering. Volunteering also contributes to people's wellbeing, empowerment and inclusion, helping to build resilient communities and improving the quality of life for volunteers and those they support across the city.

For **individuals**, volunteering can be empowering, embedding an ethos of self-help and a sense of self-worth. Volunteers bring skills, knowledge and experience, as well as having an opportunity to develop new skills which can be a route to employment or a chance to try something new that improves life chances. Volunteering also has social benefits, as a way of socialising and meeting new people and an opportunity to get to know the local community.

Volunteers enable **organisations** to provide vital services across sectors, bringing a wealth of skills and knowledge to their roles and increasing capacity to allow organisations to deliver their services. The majority of voluntary & community sector organisations, where there is a 4:1 ratio of volunteers to paid staff, would be unable to provide their current level of service without volunteers. **Businesses** gain through their involvement in the community, achieving greater alignment, impact, value and visibility for their community activities. It also provides benefits to their employees in terms of job satisfaction, better morale and skill development.

The impact of volunteering on the **city** is economic, social and environmental. The added value of volunteer activity and the potential employment pathways contribute to the city's economy; delivery of services to people in need increases wellbeing; engagement in local communities helps improve people's lives and builds resilience; practical work improves the environment for all.

The Triple Impact of Volunteering

- **for the city as volunteers improve the quality of life for many individuals and bring economic benefits**
- **for business, organisations and community groups through increasing capacity and reaching out into communities**
- **for individuals who experience an increase in wellbeing and a sense of social meaning**

VOLUNTEERING IN CONTEXT

Volunteering involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that benefits the environment, groups or individuals in the community. It can be formal activity helping organisations, as well as informal community participation. Volunteering is a valuable resource in the city and contributes to helping those who are vulnerable and less engaged by providing accessible services, advice and support, and sharing skills. Volunteers support the development of resilient communities, both geographically and across communities of interest, and contribute to maintaining the environment. Volunteering also contributes to the economy and for some, can be a route to paid employment.

Understanding Volunteering

Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship, founded on the giving of time to benefit society and the community, for mutual benefit. Everyone should have the opportunity to volunteer and be recognised for their efforts. Volunteers should not, however, be used to substitute for paid work, fill unpaid internships or be coerced into employment programmes. Volunteers bring something additional to a role; Volunteering England has a joint charter with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to strengthen relations between paid staff and volunteers, emphasising that the involvement of volunteers should complement and not supplement the work of paid staff.

How many volunteers are there in Brighton & Hove?

Estimates suggest that there are 50,000 volunteers in Brighton & Hove across the public, business and voluntary & community sectors. There is insufficient research to give exact numbers but it is known that many instances of volunteering go unrecorded.

What activities do volunteers engage in?

Volunteers are engaged across the city in a rich variety of roles, from supporting and befriending vulnerable people, in the governance of organisations, fundraising, to sports coaching and helping in community gardens.

What safeguards are in place to protect volunteers and the people they work with?

All volunteers working with vulnerable people have to be properly vetted and trained to ensure that proper safeguards are in place.

Volunteering impacts on

Wellbeing – volunteers and the people they work with report an increase in wellbeing

Empowerment – volunteers and the people they work with feel empowered

Inclusion- volunteers and the people they work with are representative of the whole community.

<p>There are an estimated 27,600 volunteers engaged in a wide variety of roles in the voluntary and community sector.</p>	<p>Volunteers help deliver 1265 daily meals in the city, with benefits for health and nutrition, and reducing social isolation.</p>	<p>B&SUH NHS Trust had 469 hospital volunteers supporting staff in wards, office and reception areas, during one month last year.</p>
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‘JOINING THE DOTS’

Volunteering Strategy for Brighton & Hove, 2010-2015

‘Joining the Dots’, the city’s first volunteering strategy, put volunteering on the agenda by raising its profile and introducing the concept of impact. There have been a number of initiatives in the past five years as a result of the strategy, which champion and recognise the contribution of volunteers, across all sectors.

These initiatives include:

- developing high quality volunteering opportunities and experiences for volunteers, through investment in volunteering programmes;
- establishing the Volunteer Co-ordinators’ Forum, which shares best practice in working with volunteers;
- developing accessible volunteering opportunities for those with additional support needs, through the Better Futures project, managed by Impetus, and The Fed Centre for Independent Living;
- raising the profile for business volunteering within voluntary & community organisations, through brokerage by Community Works volunteer centre services;
- setting up the cross sector Volunteering Champions’ Group (VCG), which encourages shared learning amongst key stakeholders and offers a strong leadership voice on volunteering;
- the inclusion of volunteering as a valuable resource in a range of city-wide plans and strategies, supporting the city to achieve better outcomes for people and communities;
- recognition by local commissioners across the public sector of volunteering as an important element of ‘social value’, which is a key assessment criteria for awarding funding and contracts;
- increasing and successful use of social media to recruit volunteers and broker volunteering opportunities.

The city now regularly **celebrates** the contribution made by volunteers during **Volunteers’ Week** in June: Community Works, through its volunteer centre services, organises city-wide celebrations; and individual organisations including Brighton & Hove City Council organise specific events for their volunteers.

<p>In the last academic year there were 2382 students volunteering their time from the Universities of Brighton and Sussex.</p>	<p>Jenna volunteers as the work experience co-ordinator for Sussex Police, dealing with enquiries from schools, parents and students and liaising with staff. She wants to start a career in</p>	<p>Over 30 organisations have already signed up to the Disability Action Alliance Volunteer Charter, led by The Fed Centre for Independent Living, pledging to provide accessible volunteering opportunities for disabled</p>
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	the police and this experience gives her a better understanding of the force.	people to volunteer their time, skills and experience.
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A SNAPSHOT OF VOLUNTEERING IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

The following pages take you on a journey through the rich assortment of volunteering activities that take place in Brighton & Hove; there are so many exciting volunteering opportunities in the city and it would be an impossible task to describe them all but here is a snapshot.

ENABLING & EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Commitments: enhance recognition and improve accessibility

Volunteering enables and empowers volunteers and the people they work with. There is a long tradition of volunteering in health and social care, whether within the NHS, the local authority or through voluntary & community groups.

Practical support such as visiting and befriending, helping with activity groups, running tea bars and helping on the wards at hospitals, helping at day centres, providing transport, giving practical help such as gardening and re-ablement.

The **Brighton & Hove Befriending Coalition** estimates there are at least 600 volunteers visiting and supporting 800 older people, people with physical and learning disabilities, and those with cancer across the city.

<p>There are 54 Independent Visitors who volunteer for BHCC, visiting children and young people in care, spending quality time with and befriending a young person who is living in a children’s home or foster placement.</p>	<p>Carla, a mother of two, was a volunteer on the midwifery ward at the RSCH where she gained skills and experience to work as a Maternity Care Assistant and is now planning to train to pursue her dream of becoming a midwife.</p>	<p>Amy, 87 years old, is one of around 230 older and disabled people across the city who is visited by one of 200 volunteer befrienders from Neighbourhood Care Scheme. "I look forward to her visits. If I'm feeling low she always cheers me."</p>
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Providing information and advice, counselling, mentoring & coaching, mediation and advocacy:

43 volunteers provided assessment, information and advice services to 7326 clients in Brighton & Hove for **Citizens’ Advice** last year

<p>There are 15 Community Navigator volunteers working in 16 GP surgeries who</p>	<p>Speak Out volunteer advocates support individuals with learning disabilities to learn</p>
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facilitate referrals from patients to services, groups and activities that can help meet their needs and support their health and well-being.	new skills and lead more fulfilling and independent lives. Volunteers need to have an open mind and be able to think of creative solutions to support people who may be trapped in a rut.
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Representing the public's views:

There are 175 volunteer users involved in The Fed Centre for Independent Living's Getting Involved Group (GIG) , which aims to ensure disabled peoples' voices are heard when services are planned or changed in Brighton and Hove.	An estimated 300 patient volunteers are involved with 30 Patient Participation Groups . Using a variety of means they give feedback and suggestions to their GP practices, ensuring that the patient voice is at the heart of decision making on health services in the city.
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"I am totally blind and Thomas, my guide dog, gets me safely around cluttered streets. As a member of **The Fed Centre for Independent Living 'Getting Involved Group'**, I have been involved in various consultations around street design especially the new redevelopment of the Brighton station and the Seven Dials redevelopment." Diane

BUILDING RESILIENT & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Commitments: increase numbers and enhance recognition

Volunteering is a key part of building resilience in local communities. People frequently become involved in community-based organisations through their friends or neighbours or because they want to meet new people. In areas with high levels of community involvement there are benefits to the wellbeing of both those involved and to other people living in the area. Communities of interest come together through their identity, whether it be race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief; people are able to support each other and share experiences, engage in activities and build their confidence.

There are 19 active **community and residents associations** across the city with over 300 estimated volunteers and activists.

Rainbow Chorus is a Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) choir based in Brighton offering the opportunity to sing together in an enjoyable, safe, and affirming environment. It plays an active role in the cultural life of the city performing at charitable events and fund raising. Volunteers also help with front of house as well as back stage with sound and lighting.

Banyan Tree is a local all-female BAME theatre company bringing children's BAME musical theatre to young audiences. The women needed access to affordable childcare, so they applied for and received funding to train members to run a crèche, enabling them to rehearse and perform together or attend meetings to represent their community. The crèche is also available to other community groups.

PEER SUPPORT & MENTORING

Commitments: increase numbers, enhance recognition and promote accessibility

Volunteering helps keep people active, contributing to physical health and mental well-being. But it is not just about care recipients being provided with support; service users themselves volunteer to help maintain their independence and provide mutual support. This can be particularly the case in mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and homelessness.

<p>Mothers Uncovered is a creative support network for new mothers who are struggling in their role, offering arts workshops where they can share their feelings and experiences with existing mothers, so offering women control, self-esteem and enduring friendships.</p>	<p>Role Models is a University of Sussex project whereby students are trained and supported to deliver peer-led workshops on food and body image, mental health and wellbeing, and personal relationships to school students at BACA , inspiring and empowering young people in the local community.</p>	<p>Cascade Creative Recovery is a new, community centre and cafe in the city, run by and for people with experience of active recovery from drug & alcohol addiction, providing a supportive peer-led space, information, and a range of courses & social activities for people who want to recover.</p>
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EMPLOYER-SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING

Commitments: raise awareness, increase numbers and promote good practice

Employer-supported volunteering is one element of a company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) towards the community and environment in which it operates, and connects businesses with community needs to achieve financial, environmental and social solutions. As well as giving something back to the community, volunteering is a personal development opportunity for employees. Studies have identified a clear link between volunteering and learning and skills development: employees develop 'people skills', gain new ideas and understanding of how others live.

Employer-supported volunteering can take a number of forms; from the taking on of employee challenges, such as the Beach Clean Up, to the adoption of specific projects, such as decorating a youth centre, or the giving of professional advice to voluntary organisations on a pro-bono basis.

200 volunteers from corporate sponsors have helped The Martlets with one-off sessions in their garden and warehouse.	Community Works brokered 24 businesses to support 40 voluntary & community organisations with skills including web design, HR and legal advice.	7 staff from Amex trained as volunteer befrienders for Neighbourhood Care Scheme and staff from Bupa Global also helped NCS with a leafleting campaign to recruit volunteers.
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University of Brighton Momentum and BME Education mentoring programme matches students with volunteer mentors. The mentors come from local business and public sector as well as university staff. The programme encourages students to continue studying and engage more fully with their course, as well as supporting personal development and career planning.	Several local businesses including American Express, Brighton & Hove Hoteliers' Association, Brighton & Hove Buses and Legal & General , joined forces with Brighton & Hove City Council to clean up an estimated 25 tons of waste left on the city's beaches after the bank holiday.	Brokerage by Community Works enabled Dabapps , a local business, to help Amaze develop an app for their Compass Card, allowing parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to access offers and activities which are searchable while they are on the move.
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ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Commitments: raise awareness, enhance recognition and improve accessibility

Voluntary activity contributes enormously to making our city a better place to live, from small groups looking after their local parks and community gardens, to campaigning groups, such as Friends of the Earth and Surfers Against Sewage; all residents benefit from these volunteers' efforts. Volunteers are also involved in sustainability issues – such as food growing and composting, food waste reduction and climate change.

<p>There are more than 4,000 community garden volunteers across the city supported by B&H Food Partnership 'Harvest' project.</p>	<p>BHCC Park Rangers manage 200 volunteers who carry out a variety of tasks from site improvements and access work, to habitat management, including coppicing, conservation grazing and keeping checks on grazing sheep.</p>	<p>Over 2,000 volunteers support nearly 70 environmental organisations across the city focussing on conserving wildlife, maintaining parks and allotments, as well as food waste, energy and transport issues.</p>
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<p>"I've volunteered with the Moulsecroomb Forest Garden & Wildlife Project for two years. It reaches some of the most vulnerable people in a deprived area, including those with physical and learning disabilities, refugees, children who are excluded from school, and older residents. On workdays there can be up to 30 people in the garden, cooking and eating together and building up valuable social skills that help support them in their lives." Susie Howells</p>	<p>Feeding the 5000 in October 2015 involved 250 volunteers serving 5,000 free curries made from over a tonne of surplus food donated by local businesses and farms. The volunteers came from across the city as well as The Food Partnership, BHCC, FareShare, Friends of the Earth, The Real Junk Food Project, The Food Waste Collective and university students. The event raised awareness and stimulated public action on food waste.</p>
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SPORT, CULTURE & LEISURE

Commitments: improve accessibility and promote good practice

Sports and culture impact on all our lives in different ways and volunteers are crucial in maintaining this aspect of life in the city – from organising local sports teams and sporting activities, to assisting at and putting on cultural activities, be it concerts, plays or stewarding. Artists’ Open Houses, a key aspect of the Brighton Festival, started with artists voluntarily organising together to open their homes and show their work. Most activities for children and young people outside of school would not exist without the active engagement of dedicated volunteers. Not only do residents benefit but so do the volunteers, through enhanced health & wellbeing, social interaction and engagement.

<p>In the last ten years B&H Healthwalks has trained nearly 300 volunteers, who have given 30,000 hours of their time providing over 6,000 walks, in and around the city, for well over 1,000 people, who have walked 250,000 miles. That's around the equivalent of walking to the moon!</p>	<p>103 volunteers support the Royal Pavilion & Museums helping with the collections, supporting the learning & engagement team, cleaning exhibits, and gardening.</p>	<p>781 secondary school and college students, have helped organise and support interschool sports competitions through BHCC’s School Games programme. These volunteering hours then contribute to the Sports Leader’s qualifications that some of them are taking.</p>
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<p>Paul Gillett has a visual impairment and recently launched a ‘sound tennis club’ at the King Alfred. “I was excited to find a sport that was accessible giving a chance to learn a new skill, get some exercise, improve mobility and co-ordination ... and share this with others. I know what it is like to face the challenges and frustrations of living with poor sight. I also hope that I can show that it is possible to live a full, positive and independent life. I recommend volunteering to anyone.”</p>	<p>“Being a volunteer for the library home delivery service has been a wonderful experience. I've met some truly inspiring people, and been impressed by the extensive amount of support available to the residents of Brighton & Hove. I know the clients find it invaluable. For a lot of housebound residents, it's an important connection not only to the outside world but also to their community.” Amy</p>	<p>Jason is artistic and creative but has Autistic Spectrum disorder and finds meeting new people difficult. He has been supported by Warren at Better Futures to volunteer at Fabrica art gallery, showing people around and explaining the exhibits. Jason’s confidence has grown rapidly and he is now independent in his role ...”as long as I know what my job is then I’m happy with whatever Fabrica throws at me. I really enjoy working there.”</p>
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GOVERNANCE:

Commitments: raise awareness and enhance recognition

Volunteers play a huge role in the governance and management of public bodies and voluntary & community organisations, through their roles as governors, user representatives, trustees and management committee members. Good governance is key in all sectors and is vital in ensuring that organisations are held to account. Volunteers may be active on public bodies as school governors, patient representatives, and experts in particular fields. All voluntary & community organisations are governed by trustee boards or management committees that are made up of volunteers; trustees have an important responsibility to demonstrate leadership and manage their organisations in a way that ensures public trust and support.

There are an estimated 13,800 trustee positions in the voluntary & community sector in Brighton & Hove.	Community Works governance network offers trustees an opportunity for peer support through sharing skills and knowledge.	There are 853 volunteer school governors in the city who ensure that schools are well managed and head teachers held to account.
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Brighton Unemployed Family Centre Project users are supported to stand as management committee members once they feel confident enough to do so.	“I decided to join Trust for Developing Communities when I became aware of the range of good community projects they deliver across the city. It seemed a good way to contribute my skills around Equality & Diversity, whilst developing my knowledge of community work and governance.” Edith Eyo, Trustee	Healthwatch Brighton & Hove the 'consumer champion' for health and social care services across the city, recently recruited new Directors for their Board from groups whose voices tend not to be heard - Black and Minority Ethnic Communities and LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer).
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RAISING FUNDS

Commitments: raise awareness and promote good practice

Fundraising is a lifeline for so many organisations and community groups in the city and fundraising volunteers play a vital role, such as serving in charity shops, running stalls at events, selling raffle tickets and taking part in sponsored events. Brighton & Hove hosts a variety of innovative fundraising events.

Charity Chuckle at Komedia , Brighton's No.1 Comedy Fundraiser, has raised more than £17,500 for local charities with a monthly show.	The Martlets has 238 retail volunteers across 9 shops which raise nearly £2m per annum, plus another 91 fundraising volunteers.	Running for charity is one of the top 3 reasons runners take part in the Brighton Marathon . There were 9,300 runners in 2015.
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Sara Snood raised funds and awareness for **Macmillan Cancer Support** after being diagnosed with triple Negative Breast Cancer. She shaved off her golden locks and embarked on a 365 Daily Different Headgear Challenge, posting photos on social media. She has raised over £16K for the new local Macmillan Horizon Centre which will offer information and advice to people affected by cancer.

Volunteers helped organise **Age UK Brighton & Hove's** '50th Anniversary' Swinging 60s Charity Dance and Raffle at the Emporium, with lots of dancing, magic and some amazing fancy dress outfits. Raffle prizes were generously donated by a variety of Brighton-based businesses.

ROUTES INTO VOLUNTEERING

Community Works provides a city-wide resource for the development and support of volunteering across all sectors through its volunteer centre services. It helps people looking to volunteer to find the right opportunity, promotes volunteering opportunities on behalf of other organisations, helps businesses wishing to volunteer their workforce skills to do so, and also provides information and advice to help organisations develop their volunteering programme.

e mail: volunteercentre@bhcommunityworks.org.uk

call: 01273 234826

<http://bhcommunityworks.org.uk/volunteering/>

or for alerts on all the latest volunteering opportunities

http://twitter.com/bh_cw or <http://facebook.com/bhcommunityworks>

REFERENCES

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