

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 18 March 2021
Report of: Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Wall **Tel:** 01273 291006
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive any petitions received directly by Democratic Services in accordance with the required timeframe.
- 1.2 The committee will need to consider how it 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the petition.

3. PETITIONS

RISE UP! BRING OUR WOMEN'S REFUGE HOME

Lead Petitioner – Nicola Benge / Dani Ahrens

- 3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 27,741 signatories:

We are devastated to learn that the Brighton & Hove based **domestic abuse charity RISE has just lost the contract to deliver many of their essential services** from 1st April 2021 onwards. RISE has been a lifesaver for many women & children over the past 26 years. They have unparalleled expertise, which the city cannot afford to lose.

RISE offers practical help ranging from direct advice to refuge accommodation for those **whose lives are at risk**. Thousands of local women will continue to turn to RISE first when they need help.

We ask Brighton & Hove City Council to:

1/ Fund RISE - Ensure RISE has dedicated and sufficient core funds to maintain vital telephone helplines and specialist client services.

2/ Bring our women's refuge home! - Keep services based on trust, local connections, and fundamental provision for the vulnerable.

#BringOurRefugehome #WomenRiseUp #CancelContracts
#StopStonewaterSteal