



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

COUNCILLOR PAT HAWKES MBE

Opposition Spokesperson for the Children & Young People's Trust
Deputy Leader,, Labour Opposition.

Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Ms Di Smith
Director of Children's Services
Brighton & Hove City Council

5th August 2008

Dear Di,

Tackling Child Poverty: Invitation to submit expressions of interest in local authority led pilots.

I was interested to read of this government initiative aimed at reducing child poverty levels still further and helping the government to reach its goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020.

From the assessment criteria supplied by the government it would seem that Brighton & Hove is ideally placed to be able to submit a very creditable expression of interest in running one or more of the pilot schemes suggested. In particular, the government is looking at seaside towns, pockets of deprivation within affluent areas and deprived communities suffering higher than average rates of child poverty.

In Brighton and Hove there is above average poverty with 10,000 children living in low income households. Teenage pregnancy rates remain high and we have 4 electoral wards within the 25% most deprived in England.

I believe that the pilot programmes aimed at providing more accessible and affordable childcare, the distribution of early childcare grants in return for parental engagement with their local Children's Centre and funding to enable the authority to look at new ways of tackling the causes and consequences of child poverty are especially worthwhile pilot programmes to bid for.

This council has had a strong record of successfully bidding for and piloting government programmes that tackle social exclusion and using the experience gained to improve our service delivery in conjunction with our partner organisations.

I very much hope that the authority will be submitting an expression of interest to enable us to participate in one or more of these programmes.

Best wishes,

Councillor Pat Hawkes
Opposition Spokesperson for Children and Young People



