

Subject:	Commissioning Culture for diverse agendas		
Date of Meeting:	24th November 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director: Communities		
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Wards Affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Brighton and Hove is moving to a model of commissioning service delivery across all areas. One of the pilot areas for this has been in the services dealing with domestic violence. One of the aims of a commissioning model is to open up the potential for a wider range of partners and delivery organisations to be part of service delivery. Cultural partners in the city are being engaged in the agenda to deal with domestic violence through the commissioning process. This report outlines the progress to date and the future plans in this pilot area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committee note the contents of this report, thank the Brighton and Hove Arts Commission for its proactive role and offer any further advice or guidance for future plans.
- 2.2 That the Committee receive a further update on this activity to a future meeting.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Commissioning services in the area of reducing and alleviating Domestic Violence was selected as an area for pilot activity as part of the city council's move to a commissioning model. The Brighton and Hove Arts Commission, the city's independent cultural partnership, is working with the city council in developing pilot activity in the cultural sector in parallel to deliver on this agenda.
- 3.2 One of the reasons to focus on this area was the broad relevance of domestic violence to a very broad constituency; it affects the lives of many people nationally and locally. It is an issue of huge significance and impact on people's lives and in terms of budget; the costs locally of domestic violence are in the region of £32m.

- 3.3 The Brighton and Hove Arts Commission was asked to host a number of sessions on Domestic Violence for the cultural sector and the first of these was held in late August of this year. The session presented the findings of the detailed audit process on domestic violence in the city in a clear and accessible format. The information was also circulated in a summary document. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session plus some small group discussions.

The session was very successful; bringing together two different worlds with their own professionalism, practice, language and history. We were able to start with very clear statistics; good information presented in a really clear way, both in writing and with the presentation. The specialist officer making the presentation was completely on top of the subject and able to answer any questions that were asked and it was a safe space where there was room for any questions that people might have. We also had organisation there that had done some work in this area to talk briefly to the work done.

- 3.4 An initial action plan has been formed from that session falling into immediate, medium and longer term objectives:

- In the immediate term, there will also be more of the sessions for further sets of cultural organisations replaying the same session for those who were unable to attend but are interested in getting engaged. We have also been able to develop a small event programme to mark the UN initiative – 16 days to mark efforts to end violence against women and girls – this will be a small programme of events from November 25th through to December 10th including a play written around these issues with discussion panel following the performance, some sports and self defence sessions and a comedy evening. We would hope that in the longer term this would become a feature of the city’s cultural calendar and inspire a wider range of artistic work to be commissioned.
- In the Medium term, the groups of cultural organisations who attend the initial sessions will be invited to be part of a more permanent network that will meet regularly. This could form the basis of a consortium for bidding for funds/work for example and be a where best practice is developed and disseminated.
- The Arts Council has also expressed an interest in funding elements of this initial activity.

- 3.5 This is early days, there is a lack of funding in preventative work and it will take time to make the case for using cultural providers in this kind of area. However, the session was successful and there is energy behind the immediate action plan and some longer term aspirations. We are fortunate to have an engaged and talented creative sector in this city and need to continue to explore ways to use it more and more.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been consultation in the preparation of this report with senior service area officers, members of the Brighton and Hove Arts Commission.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any costs arising from the sessions held this financial year will be met from existing resources. The costs of any future initiatives will need to be identified and funded in due course. The £32m estimated cost to public services referred to in paragraph 3.2 is detailed in the Chief Executive's report Domestic Violence: Intelligent Commissioning Pilot, Spring 2011.

<http://www.bhlis.org/resource/view?resourceId=889>

Finance Officer consulted: Michelle Herrington

Date: 08/11/11

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this scoping report.

Lawyer consulted: Bob Bruce, Principal Solicitor

Date: 01/11/11

5.3 Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report itself. However, the impact of projects that may arise from the initiatives outlined in the report would have positive equalities implications particularly in terms of the gender agenda.

5.4 Sustainability Implications

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. However, there could be positive implications for the reduction of crime and disorder from projects or initiatives that stem from the work outlined in this report.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

Both risk and opportunity management implications have been considered in the shaping of the initiative to date that is outlined in the report. Further risk and opportunity management implications resulting from any work supported out of the initiative would be considered as part of future projects.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications

The initiative is citywide in its scope both in terms of initial information and networking sessions and any resulting projects; domestic violence is a citywide issue.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

None