

Brighton and Hove Deaf Services Liaison Forum - Terms of Reference

The Deaf Services Liaison Forum brings together organisations who have a stake, expertise and interest in championing and working to increase equality for D/deaf communities in Brighton and Hove.

Background

The Forum has emerged from two workshops in 2017 involving D/deaf residents, voluntary sector organisations, Brighton and Hove City Council and Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) exploring how working together they can improve services to D/Deaf residents in the city. The workshops resulted in a range of recommended actions one of which was for an ongoing forum for service providers working with and for D/deaf residents to meet with the council and the CCG.

What is the purpose of the Brighton and Hove Deaf Services Liaison Forum?

- To work collaboratively towards improving services for D/deaf people in the city
- To bring together a range of perspectives including feedback from D/deaf residents to inform service development and changes and provide an 'expert' panel where changes can be 'tested'
- To participate in start-finish task groups where possible and appropriate
- To agree a set of annual projects for forum members to carry out and oversee
- To provide an ambassadorial function, taking key messages out to D/deaf residents and other stakeholders

How will the group operate?

Brighton and Hove City Council and Clinical Commissioning Group will share secretariat and administrative support to the forum. This will include convening three meetings a year with a minimum of 4 weeks' notice of date, time and venue. A record of meeting contents will be produced and circulated to the group within 3 weeks of meeting.

The Forum will be facilitated by the council and the CCG.

Member organisations will nominate a member of staff to represent their organisation at meetings. Where possible, if the primary representative can't attend, another member of staff will attend.

Members will respect and co-operative with each other and keep all information shared in forum meetings confidential unless otherwise declared.

The forum is a collaborative structure with no formal decision making power.

