



Brighton & Hove – The Connected City

**Community Safety in the City
Centre
Tuesday 23rd June 2014**

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Outline for Discussion

This information pack is designed to brief members on the discussion scheduled at Brighton & Hove Connected concerning community safety in the city centre. We have included information from our Sustainable Community Strategy, extracts from our City Snapshot report, as well as views of our residents as expressed through the City Tracker survey.

Community safety and resilience forms a major part of our Sustainable Community Strategy, and is a challenging area of work for us all. Our population is relatively young in comparison to other parts of the country; we are a tourist destination with a high number of bars and clubs and have a successful night time economy. We also have high incidences of substance misuse and mental health issues.

In the face of service changes and reorganisation, increasing demand and significant budget pressure across a range of organisations, how can we meet the challenge we have set ourselves?

This item will raise a discussion concerning community safety in our city:

- How can we work together to make it a place where everyone feels as safe as they can do?
- What does future service provision in this area look like?
- What is the role of all partners in achieving our aim?

Sustainable Community Strategy Priority – Community Safety & Resilience

We all want everybody to feel safe within our city. We work hard to ensure that children are as safe as they can be and that young and old feel safe to be in the city centre at any time of the day or night.

Our city is diverse, in terms of gender, sexuality, age and ethnicity. Our community safety services work with a wide variety of groups to understand their concerns and meet their needs.

We are a very busy city and it is important that we continue to strive to make our roads and travel systems as safe as possible for all of our residents and visitors.

To improve community safety the police work with the local authority, probation services, voluntary organisations and others. We are regarded as an example of good practice for the way in which we manage our night time economy and for our work in reducing business related crime.

What has happened over the last 3 years?

1. People & Places

- Local area improvement work, for example, in Brighthelm Gardens and Bartholomew Square, involving volunteers from the local resident or business community has improved neglected areas with landscaping or other innovative solutions to make them safer and more accessible.
- Support has been offered to Local Action Teams. This has included help to provide better internet presence and to improve communications.
- The 'Soundscape' project has been trialled in response to unwanted night time street noise and anti-social behaviour in the city centre.
- Ongoing work with the Probation Service which benefits the city's physical environment (as well as building skills and profiling visible justice) is delivered through the Community Payback project.
- Alcohol and drug hotspot areas have been the focus of work to support families and communities. Initiatives include providing an information pack around staying safe for primary schools teachers.

2. Drugs Misuse

- There have been significant improvements to encourage access and engagement in treatment by substance misusers. This has included the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Scheme where those in custody or court are screened and referred where appropriate to alcohol, drug or mental health treatment services. Further information can be found in the section on Reducing Reoffending.
- European funding has been obtained to develop the way that families and communities respond to people who misuse drugs, encouraging recovery of not only the substance misuser, but also benefitting those who surround them. This could include the people who are victims of crime due to someone's substance misuse.

3. Alcohol Related Crime & Disorder

- Work to tackle problematic alcohol use in the city has been guided by the Alcohol Programme Board since 2010 and works within the broad themes of changing attitudes, alcohol availability (including to young people), the night time economy, and treatment for problematic users.
- The 'Big Alcohol Debate' in 2011 sought to encourage a cultural shift in attitudes to alcohol by challenging and changing tolerance to problematic drinking. Other work has included encouraging events/entertainments in the city which are not strongly focused around alcohol, an example of which is the Bevendean Community Pub Project which aims to provide an alternative approach to the traditional 'drinking environment'.
- May 2012 saw the introduction of the Alcohol Diversion Scheme in the city. This offers adults who have been arrested for drunken behaviour or public order offences to attend a £40 course which encourages them to

face the reality of their behaviour as well as threats to their own health by drinking too much. This is an alternative to a £80 fixed penalty notice.

- A revised licensing policy in Brighton & Hove came into effect in 2011, increasing the coverage of the Cumulative Impact Zone in the city centre. It introduced a new methodology for assessing new licence applications based on characteristics of the local neighbourhood with the aim of helping to reduce the negative impact of alcohol.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour

- The Community Safety Casework Team has brought together support services to victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and hate crimes into a single team and has published service standards outlining the service that it is committed to provide. During 2012 a duty service started, enabling victims or witnesses to speak directly to officers at any time during working hours. From these reports, cases may be referred to the appropriate agency (eg. council housing) for their attention, or they may become cases for the Casework Team.
- A 'harm-based approach' has been adopted whereby the circumstances of victims are assessed. Victims at highest risk are prioritised for attention and their cases are considered at regular Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Tasking meetings.
- Brighton & Hove has been one of a few local authority areas to pilot the 'Community Trigger' which requires local authorities to take action to deal with an anti-social behaviour problem which has been flagged up by a number of residents. Findings from this pilot have fed into the development of the new ASB Act.

5. Reducing Reoffending

- A programme of Integrated Offender Management, involving close partnership working, has focussed on:
 - Enabling offenders to access and maintain suitable accommodation
 - Improving and sustaining the health and wellbeing of offenders
 - Helping offenders recover from drug and alcohol problems
 - Providing support to families of offenders
 - Supporting the development of a productive, stable, offence-free lifestyle with non-offending associates
- Reducing reoffending for those on the programme, with a 77% reduction over 12 months and 80% over 24 months against predicted rates.

The following pieces of work have been developed:

- The use Restorative Justice has been further embedded. This involves bringing into communication those harmed by a specific crime and those responsible for it.
- The Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Scheme is a partnership project based in custody suites and court and provides information to the judiciary and other decision-makers within the Criminal Justice process to

support charging and sentencing decisions. The scheme is aimed at diverting vulnerable people from re-offending by, for example, attaching conditions to sentences which require engagement in specific services to address mental health and other problems linked to offending, for example alcohol and drugs misuse.

- Offenders are among those affected by changes which have come about through the Welfare Reform Act 2012. They have been supported in adjusting to these changes so their health and wellbeing are not negatively affected and they avoid homelessness.

6. Children, Young People & Families

- Schools and a wide range of other agencies provide services to meet the various needs of young people. These include the Youth Offending Service, Youth Service, Young People's Substance Misuse Service (ru-ok?) and the Youth Information Advice and Counselling Service.
- A significant development has been the extension of the work under the government's 'Troubled Families' programme. Work in this area has been expanded locally through the Stronger Families, Stronger Communities initiative and is led by the Integrated Team for Families.
- The Early Help Strategy has been developed to ensure that the needs of vulnerable young people are identified in a consistent way and responses co-ordinated so that these needs are addressed at an early stage before problems become more entrenched or escalate.

7. Violence Against Women & Girls

- In 2010 the government set out its vision in 'A Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls'. In line with national approaches, Brighton & Hove has adopted a 'Violence against Women and Girls' strategy, which addresses those crimes which are typically gender-biased towards females.
- The city has commissioned specialist domestic abuse services, including adult and family support, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and refuge provision. We have been managing work with high risk victims of domestic violence and abuse through Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and our capacity to do so has been increased. Brighton & Hove was awarded 'White Ribbon status' in recognition of the approach in the city and have run the '16 Days' programme on an annual basis to raise awareness and knowledge among local communities, families, friends and employers and to encourage and increase reporting.
- The Sussex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) was opened in 2009 and has continued to provide immediate support to victims of sexual assault and forensic services. The SARC refers victims on to local services where the victim can receive further support through Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), counselling or other services (including Sexual Health)
- Our local provision also includes support for women offenders in recognition of the range of needs they may have, as well as other forms of

specialist services, including interventions for victims of child sexual exploitation and those engaged in the sex industry as well as work to develop our response to harmful traditional practices and to provide preventative education in schools.

8. Modern Slavery

- Modern slavery is a new area of focus for the Safe in the City Partnership, although some work has been carried out to raise awareness among frontline services whose roles take them into scenarios where modern slavery may be encountered.
- Central government is paying increasing attention to this issue and the Modern Slavery Bill is likely to come into force in 2014, providing a legislative framework for the prosecution of perpetrators and other structures are being formulated at a national level. It is not yet clear how national changes will impact locally, but we must be flexible and be able to respond locally as necessary.

9. Hate Incidents & Crimes

- There are various ways in which hate incidents can be reported by victims or by third parties and online reporting has been extended. Training has been delivered to statutory and community-based organisations to help them identify hate incidents and respond to them. In particular, work to encourage disability hate incidents to be reported has been developed in the last three years.
- The Community Safety Casework Team has brought together support services to victims and perpetrators of hate crime and anti-social behaviour into a single team. During 2012 a duty service started, enabling victims or witnesses to speak directly to officers at any time during the working week. (See the anti-social behaviour section for further information.)
- Another part of the work of the Safe in the City Partnership has been around building resilience and preventing extremism. This work is ongoing and involves helping key organisations to identify at an early stage individuals who are at risk of extremism and helping them to manage that risk.

Brighton & Hove City Snapshot – Our Community Safety

Police recorded total crime breakdown: April 2012 to March 2013		
Type of crime	Number	% of all crime
Theft excluding vehicle	9,825	41%
Violence against the Person	4,150	18%
Criminal damage	3,005	13%
Burglary	2,051	9%
Vehicle crime	1,739	7%
Drug offences	1,231	5%
Sexual offences	373	2%
Robbery	257	1%
Other	971	4%
Total police recorded crime	23,602	

The number of crimes per resident, our crime rate, was higher than the England and Wales average but just below the average rate experienced by our city’s peers in 2012/13. The total number of crimes per 1,000 residents was 86, compared to 66 in England and Wales.

In 2012/13 there were 23,602 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove, although not all crimes are reported to the police. The table on page 17 shows how total recorded crime breaks down to different crime groups.

The number of violence against the person crimes has been reducing since 2006/07. In 2012/13 there were 4,150 reported crimes, accounting for just less than a fifth of all crimes in our city. Our city has a poorer violence against the person crime rate (12.8) per 1,000 resident population than the England and Wales average (10.6), but is roughly the same as the average of our crime risk peers.

In 2012/13, around a third (34 per cent) of assault patients attending Accident and Emergency were not resident within our city. Most violence against the person crimes are committed in central Brighton, which has the highest density of licensed premises and is the focal point of the night-time economy.

Crimes of robbery were much fewer in number in 2012/13 than in previous years at 257, accounting for just one per cent of our crimes, and the trend in recent years has been downwards.

There were 373 sexual offences reported to the police in 2012/13, but we know this type of crime often goes unreported. In fact, using national estimates about the level of under-reporting and 2011 census data, it is estimated that in the last year 2,953 women aged between 16 and 59 will have experienced sexual assault in our city.

Domestic violence is also known to be under-reported, but even so, there were over 3,400 crimes and incidents recorded by our police in 2012/13. Domestic violence is defined as 'any incident or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

The police recorded 164 racist and seven religiously motivated hate incidents and crimes in 2012/13.

In response to a local survey conducted with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in 2012, 23 per cent of respondents reported they had experienced a hate incident or crime due to their sexual or gender identity in the past 12 months.

The number of vehicle crimes per head in 2012/13 was on a par with the average in England and Wales as a whole. There were seven vehicle crimes per 1,000 members of the population in both Brighton & Hove and England and Wales. Compared to our peers we're slightly better than average. There are more vehicle crimes in the city centre where parking is denser and there are fewer options for off-street residential parking.

In terms of domestic burglaries per number of residents, Brighton & Hove was in line with England and Wales levels in 2012/13. There were four domestic burglaries per 1,000 residents, as there were for England and Wales. Areas with a higher density of domestic burglaries were Seven Dials, Brunswick and Montpelier, as well as Central Hove, Kemp Town, Roundhill, London Road and the Triangle areas.

Criminal damage is one of the most prolific types of crimes. However, following a long term increase up to 2006/07, offences recorded by the police have declined steeply from 6,155 crimes in 2006/07 to 2,735 in 2013/14. The highest density of criminal damage offences was in the city centre. Criminal damage is costly on account of the high numbers of offences.

People tend to feel less safe in the city centre than they do in their local area, especially after dark. City Tracker survey respondents' overall feelings of safety during the daytime were broadly similar; 96 per cent or more said they felt very or fairly safe in their local area or outside in the city centre during the daytime in 2013. However, the proportion decreased to 80 per cent feeling very or fairly safe in their local area after dark (compared to 77 per cent at the GB level) and to 63 per cent in the city centre.

City Tracker Wave 6 Results April 2014 – Social Issues

Brighton & Hove Connected commission M·E·L Research to undertake a city wide tracker survey with 1,000 residents aged 16 and over. The aim of the survey is to find out what residents think of Brighton and Hove as a place to live, and to track key performance indicators including satisfaction with key services.

Social Issues: If you could change one thing about Brighton & Hove, what would it be?

Issue	Number	%
More support for alcoholics, drug addicts, homeless people	18	2%
Take action on ASB (drunks, noisy students)	8	1%
Get drunks, homeless people off the streets	6	1%
Make less crowded/limit residency	4	-
Deal with noise	4	-