



Briefing Pack

Tuesday 26th April
4pm-6pm
Jurys Inn Brighton Waterfront
King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS

Outline for Discussion

The meeting will consist of short presentations on the following areas, highlighting:

- The recent successes over the last 12 months
- The challenges for the next year
- Areas that you think could benefit from further collaboration or input from other partners.
 - Economy
 - Housing
 - Transport
 - Learning employment and skills
 - Communities and equalities
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Advice and welfare
 - Environment
 - Community safety

Presentations will be no more than 10 minutes and then there will be some time at the end for questions and answers/ discussion.

Our intention is to gain an understanding of the breadth of work that is undertaken across the city and provide an overview/ stocktake of where we are in the city in the different areas of work, and the challenges we face together.

Outlined below is a brief overview of the recent financial and policy developments which will hopefully aid the discussion.

Policy Context

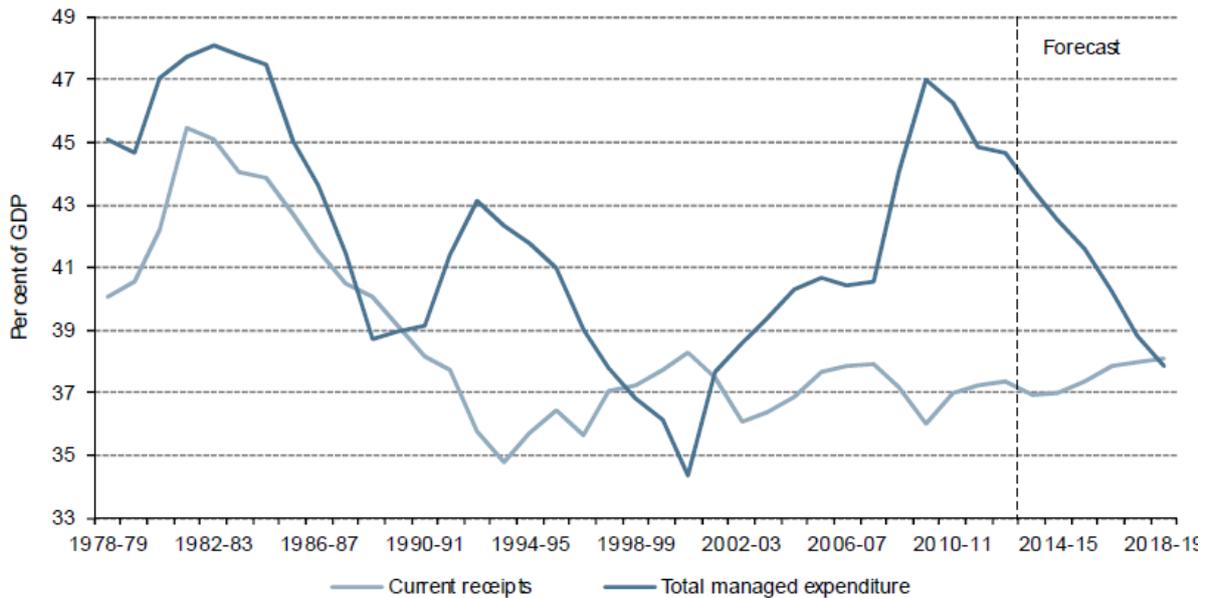
The national and local policy context continues to evolve with ideas such as increased devolution, Whole Place/ whole system approaches and demand management.

- Increasingly the role of the state, including local authorities, is not principally about 'delivery' but building stronger communities.
- Drives toward reductions in public sector funding and efficiencies will continue (see graph below)
- It is understood that Communities that are more connected and resilient will be less dependent on public services.
- Public bodies can **involve and support** communities in decision making around creating better places to live and producing better social outcomes.
- Citizens should not be seen as passive recipients of services and should have an active role to play in creating better outcomes for themselves and others.
- Local Government, with its partners is increasingly asked to focus on the health and wellbeing of its local population

- Government is focussed on the devolution agenda believing that it provides increased efficiency and local accountability. Current devolution approaches focus on city regions rather than individual cities.

Financial and Demographic Context

Total Public Sector Spending and Receipt



Source: ONS, OBR Excludes Royal Mail and APF transfers.

The Local Authority faces budget reductions of approximately £26m PA

Our population has grown. In the 2011 UK population census the resident population of Brighton & Hove was estimated at 273,369 people, an increase of 25,552 since the 2001 census. The latest ONS mid-year estimate, for 2014, is 281,100 residents with the population projected to increase by a further 6.9% to 300,400 by 2025.

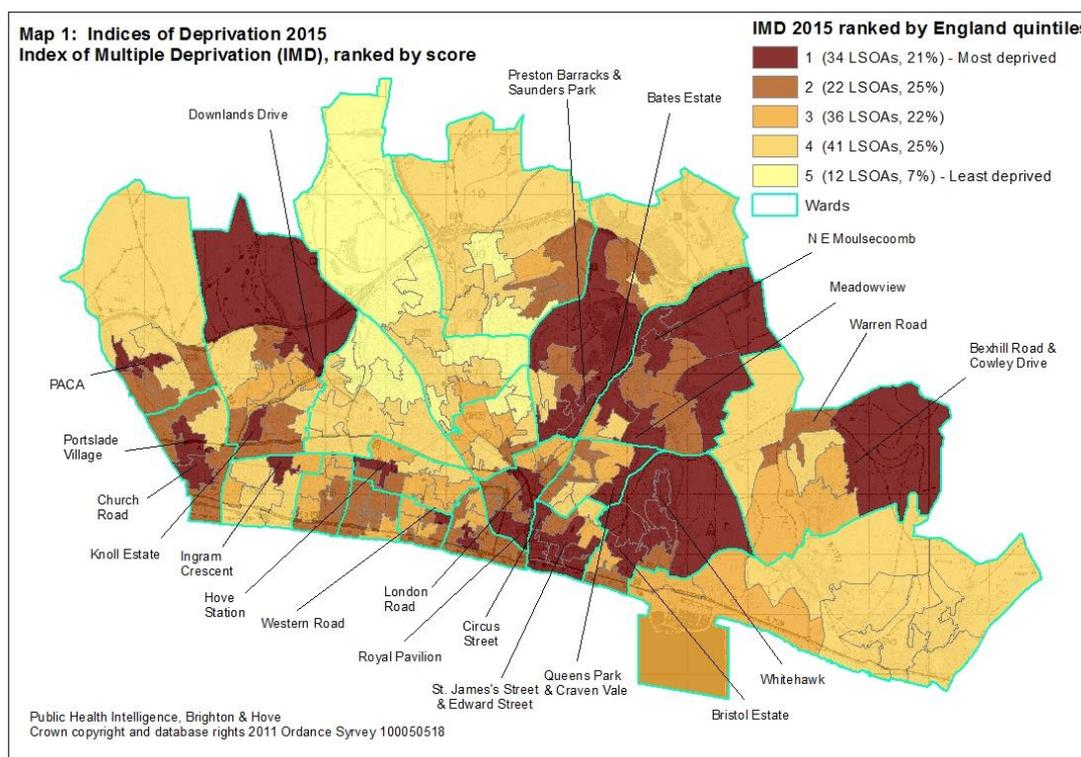
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD 2015)

Out of 326 authorities in England, Brighton & Hove is ranked 102 most deprived authority, meaning we are among the third (31 per cent) most deprived authorities in England. In IMD 2010 we were ranked 66 most deprived, meaning Brighton & Hove has become less deprived relative to other authorities in England. Relative to other authorities, Brighton & Hove has seen the eighth biggest improvement in its IMD ranking.

Looking at the IMD at the LSOA level (LSOAs are small geographies containing on average 1,500 people) there are 17 neighbourhoods (10 per cent) in the 10 per cent most deprived in England, the same number as were in the 10 per cent most deprived in the 2010 index. Of the 17 neighbourhoods currently in the 10 per cent most deprived, 15 were also in the 10 per cent most deprived in the 2010 index.

The most deprived Brighton & Hove neighbourhood is the northern area of the Whitehawk Estate and is ranked 331 out of 32,482 most deprived in England. In total five LSOAs in the city are in the 500 most deprived LSOAs in England. Three are located in East Brighton ward and two in Queen's Park ward. In total 34 LSOAs in Brighton & Hove (21 per cent) are in the 20 per cent most deprived areas in England.

Map 1 shows that deprivation is distributed across the whole of the city but is more concentrated in some areas than others. The highest concentration of deprivation is in the Whitehawk, Moulsecoomb, and Hollingbury areas of the city but also found around St. James's Street and Eastern Road. To the west of the city deprivation is more isolated but equally deprived and includes neighbourhoods around Downlands Drive, Hove station, Portslade Academy, the Knoll Estate, North Hangleton, Church Road in South Portslade and Ingram Crescent East and West. In Woodingdean there is one neighbourhood based around Cowley Road and Bexhill Road. All these areas are in the 20 per cent most deprived in England.



Brighton & Hove's Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) population is increasing. At the time of the 2001 census 12 per cent of our city's population (29,683 people) were from a BME background (defined as anyone who is not White UK/British). By the 2011 census the figure has risen to 20 per cent (53,351 people).

Twenty two per cent (13,018) of our 0-19 year olds were from BME (non White UK/British) backgrounds in 2011. However, this ranges widely, so while only seven per cent of our White Irish population are 0-19 years old, 50 per cent of our Mixed/multiple ethnicity population are.

The English Indices of Deprivation shows that of 326 local authorities in England, Brighton & Hove is ranked 140 most income deprived for children, meaning that we are just in the third quintile (43 per cent) of most deprived authorities in England. Nearly one in five children aged under 16 (18 per cent, 8,201 children) live in income deprivation. However, in one LSOA in Moulsecoomb, more than three in five children (61 per cent, 222 children) live in income deprivation. In another 13 LSOAs in the city, two in five (40 per cent) or more children live in income deprivation.

The needs of our vulnerable residents continue to increase and our responsibilities towards safeguarding them must remain.

We have been really successful in generating public and private and investment in the city. This ensures much needed jobs, infrastructure and housing.

However there are social costs to economic success across the city. High housing costs exclude people on lower incomes from the housing market. High land costs make it more difficult for the provision of housing by RSLs and Local Authorities which in turn impacts on the ability on support services to be delivered to our most vulnerable residents.

In addition the high housing costs are resulting in labour shortages in lower paid professions as potential employees are not able to afford to live in the city.

Key Information

- **Economy**

Over 6500 residents commute from Brighton into Greater London (inc Croydon). More 25-49 year olds commute outside the area from Brighton and Hove than travel into Brighton and Hove. There is more commuting into rather than from Brighton and Hove for all other age groups.

Despite some changes between years, there has been little change in employment sectors since 2010, with some increases in employment by sector including transport, communication and other services (since 2013), making it distinctive from the Greater Brighton area and decreases in distribution, hotels and restaurants, manufacturing and construction.

Trends in employment by occupation also show little change overall since 2010, although employment in caring, leisure and service and elementary occupations has increased in the past year.

- Public administration, education and health remains the highest employment sector representing over one third of employees. Even accounting for projected cuts in public sector employment this position is unlikely to change substantially.
- Financial services remains the second largest employment sector (one fifth of employees), yet is concentrated in a small number of employers.

Requirements for higher level skills and qualifications(4 and 5) represents a key skills challenge as current skills gaps in retail services are reported at being between levels 1 and 3.

- Similarly employers are reporting skills gaps at lower levels (customer services) rather than higher levels predicted. Nearly half (47%) of local businesses employ at least one graduate, but more than half of these (56%) believe that none of the jobs that graduates in their organisation do require a degree.
- The CDIT sector however is reporting skills gaps and these have worsened, rather than improved. This sector is a key contributor to the economic growth of the City.
- Although there will be jobs growth in the City and opportunities to take advantage of regeneration programmes and devolution, replacement demand for jobs outstrips net jobs growth by eight times.
- 24.9% of employers have reported that at least one member of their current staff is not considered fully proficient at their job (around 9% of all staff).

Our Gross Value Add (GVA) per head was lower than the South East and UK averages in 2012, as it was in 2011.

In 2015 there were 15,210 businesses in the city.

Businesses in the city are, on average, smaller in terms of employee numbers than the national average.

Our city has a strong entrepreneurial culture, reflected by high levels of business startups compared with other cities. In fact new business formation is the highest on record since 2004, with 1,620 new enterprises registered in 2012.

A much higher proportion of our GVA comes from art and cultural services than in the UK.

Brighton & Hove's unemployment rate is broadly in line with the Great Britain average although higher than the South East rate.

Between 2009 and 2012 the city generated a net increase of 6,120 jobs.

We have a large self-employed working population.

We have a large part time working population.

Residents' wage levels are not as high as in the South East, but are higher than in Great Britain.

The median wage of Brighton & Hove residents is higher than the median wage of people working in the city.

In 2012/13 business floor space in the city decreased by 8,364 square metres.

Brighton & Hove attracted some eight and a half million visitors in 2011, generating significant income for the city

- **Housing**

Brighton & Hove has a very challenging, high demand and increasing expensive housing market which has continued to fuel rising rental and purchase prices; displacing middle, lower income and vulnerable households into poor quality housing, out of the city, or to becoming homeless.

Brighton & Hove has some of the highest population density levels in the South East. Brighton and Hove has a population density of 33.1 persons per hectare, seven times higher than that for the South East (4.5 persons per hectare).

At the time of the 2011 census, only 53 per cent of our 121,540 households were owner-occupied, meaning that our city is below-average in this respect when compared to the South East region (68 per cent) or to England (63 per cent).

The city has one of the largest private rented sectors in the country, the second highest proportion outside London, comprised of 34,000 homes (28%), with 2 in 7 of the city's households now renting privately.

The average monthly rent on a one bed flat in the city at the end of March 2016 was £913 with a three bed house costing £1,500 per month. 1 bed flats require an income of around £50,000 to be considered affordable and 3 bed houses, an income of £80,000-£90,000. The average household income is around £30,000 in Brighton and Hove.

For those receiving a subsidy, the gap between Local Housing Allowance limits and rents continues to grow, with the shortfall against average 1 and 3 bed rents being £250 and £500 per month respectively.

The Council's Assessment of Affordable Housing Need Report 2012 identified that almost 88,000 Brighton & Hove households (72%) cannot afford market housing without spending a disproportionate level of their income on housing or some form of subsidy.

Rough sleeping has been increasing, with the latest estimate in November 2015 identifying 78 people sleeping rough in the city on a single night, however, services working with 775 people through the year.

Over the past few years there has been a steady increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation. On 31 March 2016 the number of households staying in temporary accommodation was 1,636, compared to 502 on 31 March 2011.

The new City Plan has set a target for 13,200 new homes by 2030 however; this is much less than need.

The growth in student numbers will add further pressure to the housing supply. At the same time, welfare reform and the wider impact of reduced public spending will continue to impact on lower income households.

Brighton & Hove City Council is responding to these challenges through the Housing Strategy 2015:

Improving housing supply by:

- Building new council housing with more than 250 homes in the pipeline
- Exploring the potential for a joint venture company to develop new affordable housing (looking at options such as modern off-site manufacture, living wage rents and mortgages)
- Helping owners bring more than 150 empty homes back into use each year

Improving housing quality by:

- Expanding additional licensing of houses in multiple occupation into the city centre wards
- Exploring the evidence to support or reject the need for licensing across those whole private rented sector (citywide or in certain locations)
- Continuing to invest in council homes

Improving housing support by:

- Improving the provision of adaptations and disabled facilities grants to support residents to be independent at home
- Working with key stakeholders and partners (CCG, HWB, NHS, RPs St Mungo's Police, voluntary sector, businesses etc) in the city on early interventions to sustain tenancies and tackle, prevent and reduce homelessness
- Providing a comprehensive home options service for those seeking homes as a first point of contact with the council, including sustaining tenancies and early interventions with hospitals and GPs to prevent homelessness
- Developing a new Rough Sleeping Strategy to make sure no one in Brighton & Hove has the need to sleep rough by 2020

- **Learning, Skills and Employment**

GCSE attainment rates are improving in the City and are aligning with those of neighbouring areas and the South East. The sharp decline in rates in 2013/14 are attributed to changes in assessments and follow a national pattern. Although this was felt more in Brighton and Hove and East Sussex for attainment rates A-C including English and Maths. Latest data suggests that this has improved for Brighton and Hove students aligning with achievement rates in South East and West Sussex and has exceeded West Sussex by 0.7%.

Employers report that many young people leaving school are not well prepared for work in the City and it compares much worse compared to the English average. This reduces however dependent on the age of the young person. At age 16, employers state that 62% of young people are poorly or very poorly prepared however this reduces to 31% for those that are between

17-18, suggesting that elements of post-16 support are helping to support work readiness. Although this is still less than 50% saying that young people are very well or well prepared -focusing efforts on improving work-readiness support in schools is important.

There are differences in the skills shortages identified by employers between 16 and 17-18 year olds. However there are common issues which are less related to technical and work related skills but are focused around softer skills and behavioural/attitudinal issues. Improving understanding of the working world, working attitudes and motivation appears equally important as providing the required skills and educational achievements. Work experience and appreciation of different employment environments could go some way to addressing these shortfalls.

NEETs have reduced by nearly 2% since 2013 and unknown from 8.1% of young people to 2.3%. Numbers of young people leaving school at Key Stage 5 and 4 in 2013/14 had doubled from the previous year although numbers are relatively low compared to the number of apprenticeship starts.

- **Communities and Equalities**

Residents have a high level of satisfaction with their local neighbourhood. In 2015, nine in ten residents (89%) are satisfied with their own local area as a place to live, only 6% are dissatisfied. Brighton & Hove residents are generally more satisfied with their local area than residents across the UK as a whole, Local Government Association survey (82%) and the Community Life Survey (86%).

We have an even gender balance, with 50 per cent males and 50 per cent females.

Our city had the highest number of people in same-sex civil partnerships at the time of the 2011 census, with 2,346 residents aged over 16, or one per cent, reporting living in a same-sex civil partnership. This is five times higher than the proportion found in both the South East (0.2 per cent) and England (0.2 per cent).

For one in 12 residents (21,833 or 8.3 per cent) aged over three years English is not their main or preferred language. Arabic is the most widely spoken language in the city after English.

One in six residents (44,569 people or 16.3 per cent) is disabled or has a long term health problem that limits their day-to-day activities to some degree.

More than two out of five city residents (42 per cent) stated that they had no religion in response to the 2011 census, significantly higher than in the South East (28 per cent) and England (25 per cent) and an increase on 27 per cent recorded in 2001. The largest religious group is Christian at 43 per cent. Muslims are the largest non-Christian religious group in the city at two per cent.

Brighton & Hove has a lower proportion of older people, defined here as aged 65 years or over (37,722 people, 13%) than either the South East (19%) or England (17%). It is only at 85 years or above that we align with these averages. Brighton & Hove (6,084 people, 2.2%), South East (2.6%), England (2.3%)

Of the 121,540 households in Brighton & Hove, 12 per cent (14,468 households) are occupied by people aged 65 years or more, who live alone.

Our city has proportionally fewer children and young people aged under 19 years (54,074 people, 19 per cent) than the regional and national averages (23 per cent each).

The 2011 census estimates that a quarter (29,809) of the city's households has one or more dependent children living in them.

Twenty two per cent (13,018) of our 0-19 year olds were from BME (non White UK/British) backgrounds in 2011.

At the time of the most recent (2011) Child Poverty Index, 19.6 per cent of our city's dependent children were living in poverty. Whilst this is in line with the national average (20.1 per cent), it is some way in excess of the regional average (14.6 per cent).

A relatively high proportion of our pupils have Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Following seven years of continuous year on year and significant falls in the proportion of pupils at both primary and secondary schools saying they have been bullied, the 2015 Safe and Well at School Survey shows a small increase. The primary school figure has increased from 15% in 2014 to 17% in 2015 while secondary schools have seen a smaller increase from 14% to 15%. The proportion of children who said they had been bullied when the survey was first introduced in 2007 was 27% for primary school and 26% for secondary schools.

There were 543 young carers in the city aged up to 16 years according to the 2011 census.

The number of families in the city has increased. In 2011 there were 29,809 households in the city with one or more dependent child, an increase of nearly 4,000 since 2001.

Twenty-nine per cent (8,637) of our 29,809 households with dependent children are lone-parent households.

The diverse third sector in Brighton and Hove Taken from Taking Account

There are approximately 2300 third sector organisations in Brighton and Hove. This figure is based upon data gathered from several local databases.

The majority of respondents stated that their main activities are empowering people to improve the quality of their life (42%) and bringing people together (23%).

Organisations report their main provision to be running activities (23%), followed by providing support (11%) and information, advice and guidance (11%), with users most supported being those needing health and wellbeing services (18%) and children and young people (11%).

The median number of paid employees is 3. This is less than the 2008 median number of 5. The estimated number of employees in the whole third sector in Brighton and Hove is 6,900 people this is less than the 8,000 estimated in 2008. The sector is therefore more reliant on the people of Brighton and Hove to volunteer.

The median number of volunteers is 12 with 26% of organisations having 5 or less volunteers and 31% having 30 or more. 5% of organisations have 1 or no volunteers. 10% of organisations have 100 or more volunteers and 50% of those organisations are considered to be large (with an income over £203,001k).

There is an estimated ratio of 4:1 volunteers to paid staff in the community and voluntary sector

33% of paid employees and 68% of those on management committees have a Level 4 qualification or higher.

Data revealed the average full-time equivalent salary in the sector was £28,855. This is higher than the Brighton and Hove average full-time employee salary of £24,049. This may be a reflection of the types of jobs available in the sector as they often require higher level management skills.

19% of small organisations and 23% of large organisations reported a decrease in income from grants in the past financial year. 1% of small organisations and 29% of large organisations stated that they had seen an increase in service contracts.

Approximately, 6,900 people work in the third sector in Brighton and Hove, which is 6% of the total employee jobs in the city. This is slightly smaller than Brighton and Hove's Arts and Leisure services sector. The Brighton Fuse report estimates 6,500 employees in the creative-digital-IT sector so the third sector is comparable.

The estimated income of the third sector in Brighton and Hove is approximately £73 million per year. Much of this is spent in Brighton and Hove on local projects, which creates further economic benefits so that the third sector contributes approximately £127 million to the Brighton and Hove economy each year. This equates to 2.2% of the total economy.

17% of income comes from grants, 71% of which came from outside the city. There has been a decrease in the number of Grants coming from inside the city (down 9% from 2008).

47% of income comes from service contracts, 62% of which came from outside the city. There has been a decrease in the number of service contracts coming from inside the city (down 14% from 2008).

There are 27,600 volunteer positions in the third sector in Brighton and Hove. In addition, there are 13,800 positions on management committees and boards of third sector organisations and almost all of these positions will be filled by volunteers.

Volunteers donate 110,400 hours per week to third sector organisations in Brighton and Hove or 5,740,800 hours per year.

If volunteers were paid the Living Wage for their work in the third sector then their donated time would be worth £845,000 weekly or £44 million annually.

- **Travel**

Road vehicles were the greatest contributing factor to poor air quality in Brighton & Hove in 2010 with the main pollutants being Nitrogen Dioxide and particulates (PM10).

In 2012/13 highway condition surveys indicated that 7% of our A roads were in the category of 'maintenance should be considered' showing a slight deterioration from six per cent the year before. The proportion of non-principal roads classified as requiring maintenance was four per cent, the same as the year before.

In the 2011 census, car and van ownership was relatively low, with almost two out of five households (38.2 per cent) not owning a car or van.

The total number of cars and vans increased by nearly 4,500 to nearly 104,500 between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. However, due to an increase in the number of households we now have an average of 0.86 cars per household compared to 0.87 in 2001.

Less than two out of five Brighton & Hove residents (37%) drive to work, which is considerably less than in the South East (61%) and in England (57%).

Brighton & Hove now ranks second in the South East for the percentage of people who travel to work by bus, minibuss or coach (14%), which is also 3 times the South East average).

Almost double the national and regional averages of residents walk to work in the city (21%), and cycling to work has doubled between the 2001 and 2011 Census and now stands at 5%.

The total number of bus journeys starting in the city has more than doubled since the early 1990s to nearly 46.5 million in 2013/14.

Managing demand for parking within the city with an increasing population and over 11 million people visiting the city each year is a significant challenge. There are 16 controlled parking zones covering over 750 streets and 11 off-street car parks in the city.

There are 3 rail lines which terminate at Brighton station, and eight rail stations in the city. The total number of visits to all of our stations was over 22 million in 2012 of which the majority occurred at Brighton station, making it the busiest station on the south coast between Kent and Hampshire.

children were living in poverty. Whilst this is in line with the national average (20.1 per cent), it is some way in excess of the regional average (14.6 per cent).

A relatively high proportion of our pupils have Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Following seven year of continues year on year and significant falls in the proportion of pupils at both primary and secondary schools saying they have been bullied, the 2015 Safe and Well at School Survey shows a small increase. The primary school figure has increased from 15% in 2014 to 17% in 2015 while secondary schools have seen a smaller increase from 14% to 15%. The proportion of children who said they had been bullied when the survey was first introduced in 2007 was 27% for primary school and 26% for secondary schools.

There were 543 young carers in the city aged up to 16 years according to the 2011 census.

The number of families in the city has increased. In 2011 there were 29,809 households in the city with one or more dependent child, an increase of nearly 4,000 since 2001.

Twenty-nine per cent (8,637) of our 29,809 households with dependent children are lone-parent households.

- **Health and Wellbeing**

There is a clear relationship between life expectancy and deprivation; the higher the deprivation, the lower the life expectancy. In Brighton & Hove this means that males living in the most deprived areas of the city can expect to live nine years and seven months less than males living in the least deprived areas. For females the difference is six years and eight months.

For more than one in twenty residents (20,445 people, seven per cent) their day to day activities are 'limited a lot' due to a long term health problem or being disabled.

Nearly one in ten residents (23,987 people, 8.8 per cent) provided unpaid care to a family member, friend or neighbour who had either a long term illness or impairment or problems related to old age at the time of the 2011 census.

We had the ninth highest suicide rate in England between 2012 and 2014 at 12.0 per 100,000 members of the population, compared to 8.9 in England.

Between 2012 and 2014, over half or 52 per cent of adults in the city were overweight or obese compared to England (65 per cent).

We have the highest rate of 15 year olds who are current smokers in the country (15 per cent) compared with 8 per cent in England. We also have significantly higher adult smoking rates (23 per cent) compared with England (18 per cent).

Male adult deaths that are directly attributable to alcohol, at 30 per 100,000 members of the population, were almost double the rate in England at 16 and more than double the regional figure of 14 in 2012-2014.

Most respondents to the 2012 Health Counts Survey (60 per cent) had never taken drugs not prescribed to them or not available at a chemist. However, 17 per cent of Brighton & Hove respondents said they had taken drugs in the last year compared with nine per cent across England and Wales. Forty per cent of respondents said they had never taken non-prescription drugs.

With 36 deaths, we had the second highest rate of drug related deaths of all English local authorities in 2013.

There are over 500 sports clubs in the city catering for a wide range of sports at all levels, from grass roots participation to elite competition.

It's estimated that, in 2014, around 2,850 people aged 65 years or more in Brighton & Hove lived with dementia.

Around 3,250 people aged 65 or over were thought to suffer with some form of depression in 2014.

According to census 2011 data 3.9 per cent (1,755) of our 0-15 year olds' day to day activities were limited a little or a lot because of a long standing health problem or disability.

- **Advice and Welfare**

Advice Partnership: working together to develop a strategic approach to delivering advice in the city.

The city is making progress in bridging the equality gap. The provision of good quality and timely advice contributes to making the city a fairer place. In the last financial year, 2 advice agencies alone advised over 9,000 people.

The Advice Partnership works to ensure high standards of advice, by encouraging advice agencies to obtain the recognised 'industry' standard (the Advice Quality Standard), coordinating training and promoting partnership working.

For most, the need for advice is triggered by a change of circumstances which could happen to anyone; new baby, relationship breakdown, becoming a carer, business downturn, loss of tenancy, redundancy/loss of job, physical or mental illness, accident, varying income, gap between jobs, taking a lower paid less secure job. Overall, **28% of the British population faced a change of circumstances** which created a serious change in income in the last 12 months.

Whilst the majority of people are able to help themselves by using information available on the internet and elsewhere, there needs to be an awareness of the difficulties faced by some.

"You go on the Government website about benefits and supposedly all the information is there, but it is so complicated... You need someone to advise you and I could never go ahead without this kind of support. There is a very emotional and personal level which is beyond the legal which is involved in filling in [disability benefit] forms. Access to one to one advice is essential"

There is increasing research and evidence that advice helps improve well-being and that this has a positive impact on the demand on statutory services. In the case of debt advice, a report by the Royal College of Psychiatrists found that the more debts people have, the more likely they may be to have a mental ill health. The study also found that debt may have indirect effects on household psychological wellbeing over time, as it impacts on feelings of economic pressure, parental depression; conflict based family relationships, and potential mental health problems among children.

"When I was first diagnosed with a mental health condition I had to give up work, that was shocking enough for me but I then found myself in a situation I never thought I would be financially – I spent all my savings and got into loads of debt, I also started behaving in a really risky way as a result of this – I just wish I had found out about what I was entitled to at the beginning"

There are over 7 million people in Britain turning to credit to pay for their everyday essentials at least occasionally and over 13 million who would need to borrow money to cover emergency costs. There are an estimated over 4 million people in Britain who are likely to be using credit as a safety net. However, the trend in debt is shifting so that debt to local and national government is now higher than credit debt. From 2012 to 2014 those with Council Tax debt rose from 22% to 28.3% and those with rent arrears rose from 20% to 25%.

Successes

- There has been a good deal of progress in organisations working together to provide joined up services to residents. For example Moneyworks which includes voluntary sector advice agencies and

community hubs and is funded by B&HCC and the Department of Work and Pensions, is providing support to people who are struggling with money with the aim of helping find sustainable and more long term solutions. Advice has brought further funding to the city, for example British Gas Trust Fund has awarded £395,158 to a partnership based on the Moneyworks model.

- Advice can also improve individuals' income, which in turn impacts on the city. Over £4.5 million was realised for clients by 2 agencies alone in terms of increased benefit income, charitable grants, refunds, compensation, debt write offs, reduced debt repayments and unpaid wages.
- The Partnership has supported pilots, such as advice via video conferencing. This method is now integrated as an advice delivery channel.

Challenges

- There are 25,000 households in the city in receipt of Housing Benefit. Of those 11,000 rent from private landlords, 1500 live in accommodation leased by the council from private landlords and 12,700 rent from social landlords.
- Housing Benefit rates in the private sector (Local Housing Allowance) will be frozen over the next four years. This is against a significantly inflating private rental market. Around one third of the 34,000 private rents in the city are supported by housing benefit.
- In total benefit reforms have reduced benefit spending in the city by around £59million per year.
- A number of other welfare changes will start to rollout in the City over the next year, they include:
- The reduction of the benefit cap to £20,000 from £26,000. This will affect between 800 – 1000 households who will have their housing benefit payments reduced.
- From April 2017 anyone who has a third or subsequent child will not see an increase in rates for Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit. This will result in those families receiving up to £52 per week less in benefits than they otherwise would. There are 3698 families in the city who are supported by benefits who currently have 2 or more children.
- The possible wider rollout of Universal Credit.
- The ability of advice services to cope with demand is dependent on funding. As funders budgets reduce so does investment in advice with agencies chasing an ever shrinking pool of funding.
- With the end of 2 Big Lottery funded posts, which supported the Advice Partnership, it will be difficult to maintain the level of co-working between the voluntary and statutory sectors, continue to develop and find funding and coordinate social policy work and cost effective training.

- **Environment**

Air quality

- The most recent results suggest an improvement in Nitrogen Dioxide, but this had not happening everywhere for example: Hollingdean Road and parts of London Road and Grand Parade
- Successes in Central Brighton in providing travel choice and reducing dependency on the private car
- 62% of households in Brighton's main Air Quality Management Area do not own a car which is exceptional for England
- Bus patronage has more than doubled in twenty years
- BHCC Environmental Protection team has won almost £1.5 million for the retrofit of the bus and taxi fleet for lower emissions of oxides of nitrogen
- Air Quality is to be considered in all aspects of council policy including decisions on transport, planning and tourism

Challenges

- Diesel vehicles emit a lot more Nitrogen Dioxide than their petrol equivalents
- There are more diesel cars, buses and vans than ever before whilst the number of petrol cars has decreased
- Taxis and vans have become bigger meaning emissions of oxides of nitrogen are many times more than for a small petrol car
- Government had hoped that emission standards will solve the problem

Climate projections are telling us that we will experience hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and more extreme weather patterns including heatwaves, storms and intense rainfall

By 2011 Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions per resident from energy and fuel consumption have reduced by 23.2 per cent since 2005, when a new baseline was set for CO₂ emissions in each local authority area.

Brighton & Hove is identified as a national Flood Risk Area by the Environment Agency, as it is the eighth most vulnerable locations in the country - with 36,412 people potentially at risk from principally surface water flooding.

There are 910 properties in the city at risk of flooding from the sea

The South East region is considered to be water-stressed and locally our area is vulnerable to short term drought events

Groundwater quality from the chalk aquifer, which supplies all of our drinking water locally, is still deteriorating and is failing the EU Water Framework Directive standards mainly due to pollution by nitrates from agricultural fertiliser applications.

There has been a considerable improvement in the quality of bathing water along our coast over the last 20 years.

Household waste collected that is not sent for reuse, recycling or composting increased slightly in 2012/13 to 590.9kg per household, a 1.7 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Our total recycling and composting rate in 2012/13 was 26.8 per cent compared against the national average of 41.6 per cent.

UNESCO recognised the Brighton & Lewes Downs as a World Biosphere Region in 2014, one of an international network of 669 demonstration areas for sustainable development.

Many important and rare wildlife habitats occur here – from chalk grassland on the South Downs to wetlands in the river valleys and estuaries, and from the networks of urban greenspace to the vegetated shingle beaches, chalk cliffs and coastal reefs. These in turn support over 200 species on international conservation lists, over 300 national priorities, and more than 1000 that are locally rare.

We have eight Local Nature Reserves spanning 8.2 per cent of the land within the city

Beachy Head West, the chalk shelf lying offshore between Eastbourne and Brighton Marina, was designated a Marine Conservation Zone in November 2013.

Seven of the city's 36 parks and recreation grounds of significance in the city were awarded Green Flags in 2015, up from five in 2010

- **Community Safety**

In 2015/16 there were 23,622 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove, although not all crimes are reported to the police. The number of crimes per resident, our crime rate, was higher than both the England and Wales average and our city's peers in 2014/15.

The number of police recorded violence against the person crimes reduced between 2006/07 and 2013/14, but has risen in the two years since then strongly affected by improvements in police recording systems. This has also had the effect of increasing recorded numbers of hate and domestic violence crimes.

In 2015/16, about three in ten assault patients attending Accident and Emergency were not resident within our city.

Robberies account for one per cent of our crimes and were on a long term declining trend until 2014/15, but have risen in 2015/16 to 279.

There were 667 sexual offences reported to the police in 2015/16 and this is a steep increase compared with 373 three years ago. During this time, there has been a steep increase nationally in response to disclosures related to sexual abuse by well-known public figures which has encouraged more

people to report. The increase in reporting is positive in that it enables victims to get the support they need, as well as acting as a deterrent to potential perpetrators. However, there are believed to be many people who remain reluctant to report.

Domestic violence is also known to be under-reported, but even so, there were over 4,575 crimes and incidents recorded by our police in 2015/16.

The police recorded 462 racist and 64 religiously motivated hate incidents and crimes in 2015/16.

In response to a local survey conducted with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in 2013, 39 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 2014/15 was marginally higher the average in England and Wales as a whole.

In terms of domestic burglaries per number of residents, Brighton & Hove was marginally higher than England and Wales levels in 2014/15.

Criminal damage makes up 12% of total recorded crime, numbering 2797 in 2015/16.

People tend to feel less safe in the city centre than they do in their local area, especially after dark.

There were comparatively few first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2012/13, and the trend is decreasing.