



COMMUNITIES

Strengthening Communities & Involving
People

April 2017



Our aim

To ensure that the city has an increasingly efficient and more effective Third Sector¹; one that is ready and able to bid for and deliver public services, that enables citizens and communities to have a strong voice in decision making about public services and supports community resilience and well-being through independent citizen and community activity.²

Introduction

The Brighton & Hove City Snapshot Report 2014³ paints a picture of a popular, tolerant and diverse city:

- Nine out of ten residents (92%) are very or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- Nine out of ten residents (92%) agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- However, only half of respondents to the 2013 City Tracker survey felt that they could influence decisions affecting their local area.
- More than two out of five city residents (42%) stated that they had no religion in the 2011 census. The largest religious group is Christian (43%) and Muslims are the largest non-Christian religious group (2%).
- Almost 1 in 5 (19.5%) of the population identified themselves as having a black or minority ethnic background (53,351 people) and 16% of residents were not born in the UK. This cultural diversity brings with it a wealth of different knowledge and experience.
- For 1 in 12 residents (21,833 people, 8.3%) aged over three years English is not their main or preferred language. Arabic is the most widely spoken language in the city after English, with 0.8% of residents (2,226 people) using it as their main or preferred language.
- One in six residents (44,569 people, 16.3%) is disabled or has a long term health problem that limits their day-to-day activities and we have a large number of people with mental health needs or at increased risk of mental health problems.
- Estimates suggest that 11-15% of the city's residents aged 16 or over are LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender).
- The 2011 Child Poverty Index estimated that 19.6% of our city's dependent children were living in poverty.

The local third sector, also referred to as the community & voluntary sector, supports the city's communities by enabling community voices, strengthening

¹ The Third Sector comprises not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation. It is a term which encompasses the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and not-for-private-profit organisations, e.g. social enterprises (SE) and charities.

² Brighton & Hove Communities & Third Sector Development Policy 2014-17:

[http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000689/M00004687/AI00037001/\\$20131127105955_004931_0020111_BHCCcommunitiesandthirdsectorpolicy.docx.pdf](http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000689/M00004687/AI00037001/$20131127105955_004931_0020111_BHCCcommunitiesandthirdsectorpolicy.docx.pdf)

³ Brighton & Hove Connected: <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/reports>

collaboration, delivering effective services and generating resources to enhance the social value and voluntary action in our communities.

The Equality & Inclusion Partnership (EquIP) works to improve community engagement, specifically collaborative working between public services and communities, to reduce inequality and foster community resilience and activity.

The challenging financial circumstances currently faced by the public and third sectors provide a greater imperative to work more closely, more effectively with communities and citizens. There is the obvious need to decrease costs while meeting growing demand, but with that the opportunity to fundamentally rethink how we can collectively create better outcomes for communities.

This means bringing about a cultural shift and creating genuinely collaborative, empowering and transformational relationships. Public services have to release more of the control they have traditionally held and invest in community skills and capacity so that citizens in turn can take on more responsibility.

Thriving Third Sector

Brighton & Hove is fortunate to have a diverse and active third sector, developed over decades. Over 2,300 community & voluntary sector organisations play a vital role locally in shaping and delivering the city's social, economic, educational, environmental, wellbeing and cultural activity.

Taking Account 3

Taking Account 3, the most recent survey of the third sector in Brighton & Hove was published in 2014 and found that⁴:

- Approximately, 6,900 people work in the third sector in Brighton and Hove, which is 6% of the total employee jobs in the city.
- 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.
- 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.

⁴ Taking Account 3: An economic and social audit of the third sector in Brighton and Hove, Community Works, June 2014. <http://bhcommunityworks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FINAL-TAKING-ACCOUNT-3-REPORT.compressed.pdf>

- If volunteers were paid the Living Wage for their work in the third sector then their donated time would be worth £44 million per year.

What Has Happened Over The Last 3 Years

The Equality and Inclusion Partnership has overseen a range of actions to reduce inequality and promote community resilience. These include:

- Development and delivery of an improvement plan in response to the findings of the city's first ever trans needs assessment
- Commission of two data snapshot on experience of disabled and of BME people living, working and studying in the city
- Oversight of two equality in employment research commissions; one addressing barriers to employment for disabled people and those with long term limiting illnesses in the city and one on race equality in employment in Brighton and Hove. These have informed the action plan of the city's new Employment and Skills Plan
- Taken on responsibility for oversight and monitoring of the delivery of the recommendations produced by the city's Fairness Commission in 2016. Input to the Fairness Commission engagement process, determining a set of priorities intended to increase fairness in the city
- The pooling of CCG and council budgets to commission community development and engagement activity including with faith, BME, disabled and LGB and Trans communities
- Development of a city Collaboration Framework setting the operating model for public sector organisations in the city
- Development and adoption of a city Social Value Framework and production of a social value guide for commissioners and procurement, and suppliers and providers
- Development of a cross-sector subgroup to deliver the five pledges of the city's Power of Volunteering commitment including a joint council and CVS initiative to improve the on-line promotion of and application for volunteering opportunities across the public and third sector.

Current Position

EquiP is providing an opportunity to work more collaboratively, avoiding duplication in work areas and activities, and is a conduit for shared learning and opportunities to champion equality, community development and engagement within the city for example the 2017/18 priorities for the partnership including sharing learning and approaches to increasing workforce equality and exploring joint initiatives.

Brighton & Hove City Council's **Communities & Third Sector Development Policy** established a clear framework for coordinated third sector commissioning, enabling the local authority and its partners to collaborate more and pool budgets. A key platform for the council and CCG's recent Communities and Third Sector Commission which saw pooling of budgets

from across the council and from the CCG and a single process for the commissioning of a wide range of outcomes including:

The policy, also, emphasises the importance of and connections between community development, community engagement and the role of the third sector, underpinned by the promotion of equality and community cohesion

Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) **Patient and Public Participation Strategy** outlines plans to ensure that the views of those using local health services, and their carers, are at the centre of all commissioning activity. The strategy includes ways to ensure that individuals are involved in decisions about their own care.

The CCG increasingly works in partnership with the local authority and third sector to maximise opportunities for participation and development activity and minimise duplication of engagement, working with all communities to ensure feedback brings about change in local health services. This has been achieved through joint commissioning of engagement by the CCG and BHCC.

Caring Together plans seek to strengthen the role of the third sector in providing preventative, community based services. There is investment in infrastructure support to develop capacity of organisations to deliver health outcomes for local people. **Patient Participation Groups** are developing their voice and connections with the third sector. **Social prescribing services** are increasing patient referrals into the third sector.

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove, an independent, third sector organisation, supports local children, young people, adults, and communities to influence the design, delivery and improvement of their local health and social care services. It allows people to make informed choices about their health and wellbeing, assisting them when they have concerns or complaints about these services.

Council working with wide range of community members has established and will continue to facilitate **One Voice Partnership** which is focused on empowering communities by ensuring positive media messages on local BME communities, developing community resilience against extremism, ensuring joint working to support cohesion and integration and facilitating these communities to come together to celebrate shared values around promoting inclusion, pluralism and partnership working. The partnership has overseen a programme of wide ranging activities from media training for community spokespeople to WebGuardian training for Muslim women.

The council is also building a strategic relationship with the Sussex Community Foundation to maximise the impact of bequests and endowments bequeathed to the city and encourage philanthropic action in the city through the establishment of the **Brighton and Hove Community Legacy Fund**.

What We Plan To Do

To strengthen communities and involve people, we will build this relationship between residents and service providers, focussing on:

- **Equality**; to make sure we have a city free from discrimination that enables every individual to have an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents.
- **Inclusion**; to remove barriers and make sure residents feel a part of our city and are able to take advantage of the education, employment, services and cultural opportunities that living here brings.
- **Engagement**; to make sure we collaborate effectively with citizens so they have a voice in the decisions that affect them and are empowered to take a more active role in the provision of services.
- **Third Sector Delivery**; to make sure we commission effectively and develop the voluntary sector marketplace so that it is able to respond to need and opportunities.

Specifically, we will:

- Advise, drive, guide and support the Brighton & Hove Connected family of partnerships on community development, equality, inclusion and community engagement
- Use research and data to gain insight into our communities, service users, customers and social capital to identify opportunities, needs and service gaps for championing across the family of partnerships
- Work to ensure services hear the voice of residents from protected groups and from all parts of the city
- Develop a business case for BHCC collaborating with the third sector in the context of increasing service demands and financial pressures, including case studies of successful collaboration
- Develop placed based engagement and commissioning linked to the neighbourhoods agenda and Caring Together Plans around multi community speciality providers
- Develop a new Communities Fund themed around Collaboration, Engagement and Resilience

Chapter Contributors

This Chapter represents the work of the Equality & Inclusion Partnership (EquIP) and is supported by:

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group
- Brighton & Sussex University NHS Trust
- Business via member of the Chamber of Commerce
- Community Works
- Cross Party Councillor Representatives

- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
- Learning Partnership
- Sussex Police
- Third Sector Equalities and Communities Representatives

For more information on EQulP visit its webpage on the Brighton and Hove Connected website at [Brighton & Hove Equality and Inclusion Partnership](#)