

Brighton & Hove City Council has set up an independent Commission to look at ways of addressing poverty and inequality in the city. It is called the 'Fairness Commission'.



Why has it been set up?

Brighton & Hove is an economically and culturally thriving city: it has one of the fastest growing economies in the country and 10 million people a year come to the city to visit or for their holidays.

But many residents do not benefit from this growth in success and wealth.

In some parts of the city, over 40% of children are growing up in poverty; the city has the highest number of pensioners over the age of 65 claiming Pension Credit; housing and rents are very high and many jobs are low paid.

The population of Brighton & Hove is growing and there is greater demand on local councils and yet the funding from central government to local government is reduced every year, putting a squeeze on many services. As the council shrinks, many services are shrinking too, some even stopped.

This is why the Labour and Co-operative Group set up a Fairness Commission.

They want the Commission to make recommendations that will inform the council from 2017 to 2020 to ensure the council spends its budget fairly, so that people already struggling are not impacted. Brighton & Hove City Council has set up an independent Commission to look at ways of addressing poverty and inequality in the city. It is called the 'Fairness Commission'.

Who are the Commissioners?

There are 12 Commissioners: they were all appointed because they bring expertise, knowledge and experience in areas that are important to social security and social justice: child poverty, health, debt and money management, housing, skills and employment.

You can read more about the Commissioners by looking at the web pages at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fairness-commission

Although the Commission has been set up by the City Council, it is completely independent and the Commissioners do not represent any particular group, sector, organisation or interest.

What will they do?

The Commission will gather evidence from residents, experts, professionals, community groups and businesses. It will review all data, local strategies and policies and look at how things are working in the city. They will look at what works well and what needs changing. They will consider whether public agencies need to work better together to find solutions to difficult issues.

How will they get views from residents?

They will get views from residents in a number of ways:

1. Through a 'Call for Evidence and Ideas' – they are asking all residents:
 - How do you think the Council and its partners can make Brighton & Hove a fairer place to live?
 - What can residents do to make Brighton & Hove a more fair and equal place to live for everyone?

You can answer these questions directly from the Fairness Commission web pages at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fairness-commission

Or you can write your answers and send them to the Fairness Commission or give them in by hand at any library.

2. They will hold a series of special meetings and invite expert and community witnesses to speak to them and suggest ways to improve things. Here are the dates of the meeting and the issues they want to hear about:

- 26th November – Moulsecoomb (**Strengthening Communities**)
- 10th December – Hove (**Children & Young People**)
- 20th January – Whitehawk (**Employment & Skills**)
- 18th February – Brighton (**Housing**)
- 16th March – Portslade (**Older People & Wellbeing**)

All these meetings will be held from 6 to 9 pm and will be web cast live. If you would like to come along to a meeting you can ask us for a British Sign Language Interpreter.

3. They will visit residents and service users and meet with frontline workers. One of these visits will be to the Our Space meeting on 23rd February at the Queens Hotel in Brighton from 7 pm. You can come to the meeting and tell the Commissioners your views.

What will it do with all this evidence?

The Commissioners will look at all the evidence and make recommendations to the council and its partners on how it can improve services, reduce poverty and make the city a fairer and more equal place to live.

Where can I get more information?

- Website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fairness-commission
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FairnessCommission>
- Twitter: @FairnessBH
- Libraries

Send your suggestions to:

- Drop it off at any library
- Email: julia.reddaway@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- Or post it:

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