

# SOCIAL NEED IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

## REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2013 AT HOVE TOWN HALL

### BRIGHTON AND HOVE CITY COUNCIL AND FAITH LEADERS

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#### Introduction

This report captures the discussions and workshop activity of the Social Need in Brighton and Hove Inter-Faith Event, facilitated by the Council's Communities and Equality Team.

The aims and objectives of the event were:

- To present an overview of the city's population and the particular issues and need facing disadvantaged communities.
- To gain a collective understanding of the nature, issues and impacts of financial exclusion and welfare reform in Brighton and Hove.
- To overview some of the council's work on financial inclusion and welfare reform and the services and activities available to those affected.
- To provide a space for discussion and partnership working to identify activities, projects and solutions that may help to increase the range of support available to people most affected by financial exclusion.
- To consider the ways in which we can continue to work together in the future.

#### Attendance

Over 40 people attended the event from a huge range and diversity of faith groups and organisations across Brighton and Hove. An attendance list is attached to this report. In general terms the event was very popular and unfortunately we had to turn away at least another 10 interested attendees.

#### Presentations

A number of presentations were made as follows (copies of these presentations are available on our website and on request):

- BHCC (Communities and Equality) – Census 2010: What does it tell us about the population of Brighton and Hove?
- BHCC (Welfare Reform Team) – What does the government’s welfare reform programme mean for Brighton and Hove?
- BHCC (Communities and Equality) – Financial Inclusion: What are the issues for vulnerable people in Brighton and Hove, and an introduction to the Council’s new Financial Inclusion Strategy and Implementation Programme.
- Brighton and Hove Food Partnership – An overview of the Food Partnership with a particular focus on its work regarding food poverty and food banks.
- East Sussex Credit Union – An introduction to the Credit Union and the services it offers to people in Brighton and Hove.
- The Advice Partnership (presented by Nicky Cambridge on behalf of the AP) – Independent Advice in Brighton and Hove
- Talks were also given by St Lukes Advice Centre and Lev Eakins (volunteer at St Lukes) with regard to the idea of a directory of inter-faith projects and services.

## Workshops

Following the presentations there were two workshops:

### **Workshop One: Mapping**

Table One overviews the mapping exercise done on the day. Each person was asked to share the activities and projects currently undertaken through their group or organisation which contributed to meeting social need. They were also asked to note who the service was open to and in which area of the city. Participants listed actions that would help increase the success of the project and finally projects they had been delivering in the past that they felt should be re-started. Whilst this exercise will not have mapped all inter-faith activities in the city it represents a good start and it was proposed that the process was continued.

Table Two lists activities that were planned or in the pipeline with several groups interested in setting up food or advice projects. The key messages coming out of this exercise were a demand for more volunteers, funding, training, support for publicising services and recruiting more service users. Most people expressed an interest in more joint working – both within the faith sector but beyond to the Council, NHS and wider community and voluntary sector.

### **Workshop Two: Gaps and The Future**

Participants were asked to think about the morning’s presentations (and in particular the services already in place) and consider what more needed to happen. Discussions from this exercise are mapped in Table 3.

## **Discussion, Feedback and Actions**

Table Four is a record of the discussions that took place as part of the feedback from the workshops and also the plenary session. Participants were also keen to attend similar events in the future – perhaps on a themed basis – and were keen to ensure that there was a regular strategic opportunity to contact the council and NHS etc. They were also keen to have ongoing development and infrastructure support and there was a question as to whether this might be possible from the CVSF (although resources would need to be made available). It was agreed that the council would meet with CVSF to discuss this.

## **Next Steps**

The following next steps were agreed:

- Council officers to continue discussions about how best to engage with the faith sector.
- Faith groups to continue discussions about how best to work together to share best practice.
- The Council and faith sector to approach CVSF with help and guidance about how best to meet infrastructure needs.
- Mapping of activities to continue – if possible through the volunteer contribution offered on the day.
- Report to be typed and distributed with copies of presentations circulated.

**Table One: Mapping of Activities**

Name of Group	Activities offered	Open to (area/people)	What would help increase success?	Past Activities
City Gate	Food Distribution project	Sussex wide and open to other charities	More food and new vans	
Brighton Mosque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling</li> <li>• Childrens classes and social/educational visits</li> <li>• Hospital visits</li> <li>• Exercise classes for youths</li> </ul>	Anywhere in Sussex – part Muslim community	Funding and language provision	Prison visits
St Lukes Advice Service	Benefit/Debt advice	Anyone in Brighton and Hove + Beyond	Volunteers and (ability for paying)	
St Lukes Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Big Freeze’</li> <li>• Community volunteering and befriending scheme</li> <li>• ‘Carpenters Arms’ monthly drop in</li> </ul>	Prestonville  Homeless and vulnerably housed	Co-ordinator  Volunteers	
Holland Rd Baptist Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians against Poverty</li> <li>• Debt advice and training</li> <li>• Friendship centre</li> <li>• Low cost food</li> </ul>	Anybody, past debt		
Brighton District Bangladesh Shomity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice in all sectors (housing/ finance/ immigration/ domestic</li> <li>• Assistance/Advocacy</li> <li>• Language classes</li> <li>• Sporting activities</li> </ul>	Brighton area	Building specifically for Bangladesh community (a centre)	
St Pauls and others (13 ch in total)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street Pastors</li> </ul>	Regency ward (seafront, central)	Volunteers	
One Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Chomp’ – Lunch Club for children</li> </ul>	Central Brighton	Increased volunteers	

Brighton	<p>and families during school hols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Life Times' – offering social activities for older people within sheltered housing schemes</li> <li>• Brighton Childrens contact centre – providing secure environment for non resident parents to spend time with children</li> <li>• 'Just Life' – weekly meal and drop in for people in temporary accommodation</li> <li>• 'In2work' – Assisting 18-25 yr olds with getting into work, training and education</li> </ul>	<p>(currently) open to anybody across the City</p> <p>Brighton and Hove sheltered housing communities</p> <p>Registered users</p> <p>Anyone in temporary or vulnerable housing</p> <p>Any 18-25 yr olds</p>	<p>and help to widen project city wide – using info from pilot scheme</p> <p>Community groups to 'adopt' a local scheme (One Church Brighton can provide training and resource)</p> <p>More volunteers and funding</p> <p>Nothing currently</p> <p>Increase profile of project and more referrals</p>	
St John the Baptist, Hove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bereavement support</li> <li>• Cornerstone Community Centre</li> <li>• St Johns Centre and Cafe</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone over 18 yrs</p> <p>Anyone</p> <p>Over 60's (run by Impact Initiatives Charity)</p>	<p>Help with signposting vulnerable people to other advice centres (mental health/benefits)</p>	
Citycoast Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 50's lunch club</li> <li>• Pre-school</li> <li>• Parent &amp; Toddler Group</li> <li>• Youth Club</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone over 50</p> <p>Anyone with children age 2-9 yrs</p> <p>Anyone with children age 0-4 yrs</p> <p>14-18 yr olds</p>	<p>More volunteers/ service users</p> <p>-</p> <p>More service users</p> <p>-</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charity Shop (Fishersgate)</li> <li>• Community Choir (Fishersgate)</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone</p> <p>Anyone</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p>	
Portslade Baptist Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday breakfast/refreshments</li> <li>• Open Fellowship</li> <li>• Mini Crus, Crusaders and CruXtra</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone</p> <p>Over 40's</p> <p>4-17 yrs</p>	<p>Increase size of kitchen</p> <p>Need younger people to help church – elderly</p>	
Brighton Buddhist Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meditation drop-ins</li> <li>• Carers Group (fortnightly)</li> <li>• Drop in Mindfulness group for people with MH</li> </ul>	<p>All Carers</p> <p>Vulnerable People with mental health needs.</p>		
Healthcare Faith Forum run by BSUH Chaplainey	3 meetings per year	Faith leaders/members of all faith groups	Connection with City CCG and Health and Well being board	
Quakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile library for winter night shelters and First Base and Clock Tower Sanctuary</li> <li>• Emergency donations for First Base</li> </ul>	Anyone at these centres	<p>Help with bus passes</p> <p>Support finding other language communities who might donate books</p>	
Brighthelm URC and Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday drop in low cost café for homeless and lonely</li> <li>• Lunch club for over 50's on Tuesdays</li> <li>• Community Christmas</li> </ul>	<p>Homeless/Lonely</p> <p>Over 50's</p> <p>Anyone but predominantly homeless and lonely</p>	<p>Joined up working</p> <p>Publicity</p> <p>Volunteers/new blood</p>	
Oasis Christian Fellowship Hangleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Playmates' Parents and Toddlers Group (Tuesday mornings)</li> </ul>	Anyone from neighbourhood		

St Johns Preston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee Pot – Weds</li> <li>• Friday Club</li> <li>• Support Food Bank</li> <li>• Street Pastor</li> <li>• Developing a community building – church members provide a broad range of support</li> </ul>	Over 50's Anyone	Help with publicity	
CCK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday night drop in meal</li> <li>• Partnering with night shelter providing sleeping spaces over winter</li> <li>• Housing unit (supported housing, education in life skills)</li> <li>• Food bank to open in Shoreham</li> <li>• Growing together farm (growing food)</li> <li>• Developing a Whitehawk project with St Peters</li> </ul>	Open to anyone City wide	Developing the partnering relationship	
Bangla Brighton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Community integration/cohesion</li> <li>• Crime reduction</li> <li>• Food (Budgeting finances)</li> </ul>	Open to anyone		
Jesus Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting asylum applications</li> <li>• Supporting benefit applications</li> <li>• Supporting vulnerable families</li> <li>• Developing 'Centre' project (2-3 yrs) for East Brighton/Kemp Town</li> </ul>	Relational, One to One  East Brighton, Tarner Hill	Mentoring through the building planning process  Key relationships	
Rabbi Charles Wallach	Providing lunch/meals for significant occasions (currently happening abroad but could happen here)	Anyone	More awareness/ volunteers	
St Cuthmans Whitehawk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day Centre – Mon/Tues/Fri for vulnerable adults and families with a</li> </ul>	Local community		

	<p>food bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical work with financially deprived people</li> </ul>			
<p>Salvation Army – Brighton Congress (+ Hove Congress offering similar activities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Café – luncheon for the elderly once a week</li> <li>• The ‘Hub’ centre for homeless, also called ‘Posh Nosh’ – provides showers, clothing, barber facilities, toiletries, sleeping bags etc (Wednesdays)</li> <li>• Part of Soup run – at the Marina on Sundays</li> <li>• Emergency Food parcels</li> <li>• After school drop in café in partnership with St Peters Church</li> <li>• Other national services include family tracing and a resource for human trafficking</li> </ul>	<p>Over 50’s</p> <p>For homeless people, sofa surfers, people in need</p>	<p>Help with appeals for mens and womens underwear (ongoing issue)</p>	
<p>St Peters Church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Haven</li> <li>• Free meal – Saturday evenings</li> <li>• Drop in for vulnerable women providing advice, food, pampering etc – Thursday afternoons</li> <li>• Drop in for vulnerable men providing advice, food, pampering etc – Friday afternoons</li> <li>• Churches night shelter (through First Base and Antifreeze) to cover coldest months (Nov to Mar)</li> </ul>	<p>For 100 people</p> <p>Homeless and vulnerably housed</p> <p>Vulnerable women</p> <p>Vulnerable men</p> <p>15 guests</p>		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free money course (including budgeting) linking in with the CAB</li> <li>• Project for recovering addicts</li> <li>• After school drop in Café in partnership with the Salvation Army</li> </ul>	3 evenings, 3 times per year to various client groups		
Elim Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mums and Tots – parenting and money advice</li> <li>• Kidz Club</li> <li>• Carden Youth</li> <li>• Community Base in church provides refreshments and other activities (in Patcham)</li> <li>• CAP (Christians against Poverty) – free course – money/employment (in Patcham – Manager and 6 coaches in SITU)</li> <li>• Job Club Course – 6 weekly course followed by mthly drop in advice surgery</li> </ul>	<p>For 6-8 participants every Thursday during term time (Very heavily subscribed and high demand)</p> <p>9-11 yr olds</p> <p>11-18 yr olds</p> <p>Job seekers</p>	<p>Link in with Parenting team and Parenting forum (do not know about PPP)</p> <p>A system of referral across partners offering employment and financial advice so people can be referred where places are available.</p> <p>Training from Welfare Rights Unit or Benefits people.</p>	
Church on the Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Night Shelter in partnership with St Peters Church</li> </ul>	One night per week for homeless people	Want to learn the	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Befriending the elderly and isolated. Have linked with Age UK, Impetus and Lifeline</li> </ul>	Elderly in sheltered accommodation and isolated people in Kemp Town area	<p>'how' element of project.</p> <p>Volunteers, training, safeguarding training, understanding safe practices.</p> <p>Mentoring.</p> <p>Linking in with the sheltered accommodation (BHCC)</p>	
Arabic Community Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the elderly</li> <li>• Support asylum seekers</li> <li>• Help for Homeless: food &amp; night stay</li> </ul>	Over 50's	<p>Linking in with the Older People's Council &amp; City wide Structures</p> <p>Linking in with the Racial Harassment &amp; Refugee Forum</p> <p>Linking in with the First Base.</p>	

**Table Two: Projects in the Past and Pipeline**

Projects in the Past (that worked)	Who/Where
Toy Highway (Toy Library)	
Food collection outside supermarkets	
Projects in the Pipeline	
Cook well, cook for less	Oasis Christian Fellowship, Hangleton.
After school drop in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutritious snacks</li> <li>• Homework space etc</li> <li>• Chill out</li> </ul>	Oasis Christian Fellowship, Hangleton.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E Local – possible start September 2013</li> <li>• Getting people into employment. Access to computers and internet.</li> <li>• Funding and set up cost has been acquired.</li> <li>• Volunteers sourced and trained.</li> <li>• Additional volunteers and staff required.</li> <li>• Sourcing training from the council for the volunteers of E Local programme</li> </ul>	Salvation Army
CAP (Christians against Poverty) course – possible start Oct 13	Elim Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Befriending the Elderly and Isolated – 2014</li> <li>• Working towards inclusion of older people in the area by building a database of individuals.</li> </ul>	Church on the Rock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pathways for job training (e.g. barista/hospitality) potentially for anyone any age</li> </ul>	Church of Christ the King
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop in, ESDL, IT centre – hoping to set this up in Kemp Town/East Brighton. Funding for start up would come from national church and ongoing costs would be paid by local church.</li> </ul>	Jesus Army/Jesus Fellowship

**Table Three: Gaps and the Future – What do we think is needed?**

<b>GAPS AND THE FUTURE - WHAT DO WE THINK IS NEEDED?</b>		
<b>What?</b>	<b>How does the City make it happen?</b>	<b>Who can help?</b>
Network of provision mapped and disseminated to interested parties	This process and then further research followed by "collation of services" and short description about it/them, and distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lev Eakins from St Lukes volunteering to take this forward</li> <li>• Small amount of community team time</li> <li>• The organisations themselves</li> </ul>
Network of advice centres in local religious centres – well trained volunteers	Develop training sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Lukes?</li> <li>• CAB?</li> <li>• B &amp; HCC?</li> </ul>
Up to date information about resource and services available to signpost people to	A central website/office providing info on current advice centres	ROC (Redeeming our communities) (help build capacity in voluntary sector and provide community projects that address proven social need)
Signposting	Help communities to network and resource people and churches with information to help the vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council?</li> <li>• Advice Centres etc</li> <li>• CVSF?</li> </ul>
Need for a central 'one stop' way to get information to the faith community	Hosting a website or other accessible forum that makes this possible	Can council 'host' this with 'key' faith leaders working together
Guidance for organisations to find out what the local needs are	Guidance, contact and the questions to ask i.e. local council, police, surgeries, schools etc	BHLIS – Brighton and Hove Local Information Service
Partnership of faith groups and BHCC/CCG	Establish a regular (quarterly) forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council</li> <li>• CVSF</li> <li>• 'Gather'</li> </ul>
Late night youths in city centre	Partnership, especially in data sharing with council and police in areas of focus and solutions	
Recording of activities for data sharing & stats		
Banking: Non-automated service would be welcomed for individuals who are not	This is an issue for private sector banks but could be raised at the new banking	Banking Forum?

used to this type of system and would find difficult to use. Request for a 'live person' to be available to talk to.

forum.

**Table Four: Feedback and Action Points**

<b>FEEDBACK, DISCUSSION AND KEY ACTION POINTS</b>	
Feedback Point/Question	Answer/Action
Where is information about work done by faith organisations recorded?	Some work on this was done as part of the 'Engage' project which Ian Chisnall was involved in, however this is very out of date. The proposal from Lev Eakins to undertake a further mapping exercise may help with this and could build on the work done today.
How can we find out about hubs/partnerships where we <u>can</u> influence? Support from other organisations (locally traditionally) can be <u>very</u> useful. Can the council provide links and advice on this? Highlighted : CVSF – local infrastructure organisation – request that faith groups <u>become members to ensure all relevant information is received.</u>	The Brighton and Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) is the umbrella body for community and voluntary sector organisations and groups in the city. One of its roles it to help facilitate representation and influence on city wide partnerships where key decisions are made. Joining CVSF membership is free <a href="http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/">http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/</a> can be obtained via their website. Details of the partnership and influencing work they do is here: <a href="http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/partnerships-amp-representation/-partnerships">http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/partnerships-amp-representation/-partnerships</a>
Can the Council help bring faith communities together? Can it also provide information? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wish for single sources</li> <li>• Highlighted Inter faith contact group – provide data</li> <li>• Need for social action group</li> </ul>	The council is currently working on a new policy and commission for how it works with community and voluntary groups in the city. The issue of faith communities has been raised in this. Details of how to get involved are available from Michelle Pooley in the Communities and Equality Team. <a href="mailto:michelle.pooley@brighton-hove.gov.uk">michelle.pooley@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a> , Tel. 01273 295053.
Help with publicity – getting the word out	There are a number of community and voluntary mailing groups in the city – CVSF run a list and there is also the well established SCIP list which people can join via this link: <a href="http://scip.org.uk/scip/scip_projects/community_brighton">http://scip.org.uk/scip/scip_projects/community_brighton</a> . Furthermore the Resource Centre in Brighton can provide help with publicity and cheap printing costs as well as being a source of information about how to share this in the city.

	<a href="http://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/">http://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/</a>
Help with how to develop partnerships, share best practice, avoid duplication and work together in complementary ways, including managing referrals etc.	The faith community needs to decide how it would like to work together – discussions about this are continuing amongst leaders, but the request for support on this is noted and will be taken back for discussion. There was also a suggestion that CVSF might be able to help.
Request for training faith leaders (on welfare advice)	The council will take this action forward by arranging suitable training with its Welfare Rights Team.
Archie Coates of St Peters Church requested further info on the 20% children living in poverty item raised in the meeting	This has now been sent to St Peters.
<p>Universal Credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A question was raised as to whether the system for payments (i.e. monthly only/payment to one family member only) could be subject to change for some families. John Francis advised that the government are looking at making provisions for some cases, though nothing confirmed as yet.</li> <li>• A question was raised regarding if faith leaders are aware of people who are struggling with Universal Credits, will there be a system in place where they can approach the council and flag up cases? John Francis advised that we do not know what systems can or may be in place as yet.</li> </ul>	Answered on the day (see column to the left)
<p>Credit Union:</p> <p>A question was raised regarding specific requirements of Muslim clients of the Credit Union as they have a different specific approach to money matters. Nicky of the Credit Union confirmed that no special arrangements were currently in place.</p>	The council will discuss this further with Muslim communities and the Credit Union.
St Lukes Advice Service offered to give others who may want to offer similar services a copy of their 'procedures book' and also are open to offering help to other organisations.	
Lev Eakins (Beyond) spoke to the Group about a mapping exercise and is prepared to take this role on (on a voluntary basis)	Organisations should contact Lev directly if they are interested in this opportunity. The council will signpost Lev to other mapping projects in the city and possible sources of help.

Brighton and Hove Interfaith Contact Group – more information requested on this group and what they do

To follow.

Rabbi Wallah offered his help with any work going forward