

Appendix 5: The Local Context

1. The Area Served : Social, Economic and Cultural Profile

Brighton & Hove was officially awarded City status at the beginning of 2001. Easily accessible from London by road and rail the 'City by the Sea' has become both a desirable place to live and to spend leisure time combining traditional seaside attractions with an increasingly thriving and diverse nightlife and tourist and conference industry. Since 1998, the City has been governed by a single unitary authority administered by Brighton & Hove City Council.

However, despite the very positive image that the City presents to visitors and those employed in these successful industries, the City has a significant 'under-belly' of disadvantage. It is home to many thousands of people whose economic, social, housing, health and other quality of life indicators are significantly lower than those of the rest of the community. Additionally, the population of the City exhibits an unusually high degree of transience. Together these circumstances create a substantial set of challenges for young people growing up in the City and, consequently, for the provision of services for these young people.

There are significant levels of homelessness which has been recognised through funding from the DETR Rough Sleepers initiative.

Recognition of these challenges means the City attracts funding to tackle these problems. Brighton & Hove has an Education Action Zone, New Deal for Communities, Sure Start, Neighbourhood Renewal and On Track areas developing and delivering specific strategies around improved education attainment, school attendance, youth offending and community action.

Black and Minority Ethnic groups make up 3.1% of the population, however, this figure is exceeded in some areas of the city. There are significant numbers of refugees and asylum seekers settling in the city. Brighton & Hove also has a large gay and lesbian community, 15-20% of the male population is gay.

Substance abuse in the City has been expressed as a subject of concern especially amongst under 25's in a number of consultation exercises including the NDC Action Plan and SRB5. Working to the Government's ten year drug strategy, Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain, Brighton & Hove DAAT is putting in place exclusive services related to early intervention and drug treatment for young substance mis-users.

New 2001 census figures show that the population of Brighton & Hove is 247,820. This represents an increase of under 2% over the past ten years. This is similar to national population growth since 1991 but lower than growth in the rest of the south east (4%). The figures are far lower than most recent sub-

national population projections from the Office for National Statistics. These projections put the population of Brighton & Hove in 2001 at 262,300

2. The Local Youth Population

a. General Trends

The number of children aged under 15 has grown by about 2000 children since 1991 (almost half the total increase in the population since 1991- full census figures do not become available until the end of March 2003). Despite this growth however, they represent only 16% of the City's population compared with nearly 19% both nationally and in the rest of the South East.

The lower than average percentage of children in the population is linked to the distinctively large proportion of 20-39 year olds in the City. 35% of local people are aged 20-39 above the national average of 28% and the figure of 27% for the rest of the South East. In East Sussex only 22% of the population lies within this age range. This partly reflects the presence of two universities in the city as well as the city's reputation among young adults as a fun place to live.

Resident population estimates mid-2001

	Persons	Males	Females
All ages	248,073	120,093	127,980
10-14	12,832	6,378	6,454
15-19	13,903	6,475	7,428
20-24	20,501	9,572	10,929

b. Children in Need Survey, 2001

The second national Children in Need Census took place over 7 days in October 2001. As with the first census held 18 months earlier, the purpose was to identify the numbers of children seen by Social Services departments or their equivalent, by taking a snapshot view of a typical week. This survey takes account of all young people within the age range 0 -25 years and is repeated every 18 months.

Results of the Children In Need survey provide the Youth Service with very important up to date indications of the nature and scale of severe needs experienced by children and young people in the City.

Key findings from the survey included:

A total of 2,397 Children in Need in Brighton and Hove in 2001

Of these Children in Need :

- 369 were looked after Children and the remaining 2,028 were other Children in Needs
- Brighton & Hove City Council provides services to around 2,105 Children in Need in a typical week
- 99% of Looked after children and 81% of other children in need receive a service or have money spent on their behalf in a typical week
- The predominant need was due to “abuse and neglect” which accounted for just over three quarters (79%)
- About 10% of the Children in Need population was disabled
- Almost 11% of the children are from ethnic minorities
- The total number of children for this year of 2,397 was an increase from the previous survey when the figure was 2,161
- Of the children for whom some activity was reported 52.5% were males and 47.5% female. These are in line with previous years’ results

This data is used in the planning process in service design and resource allocation across the City .

c. Findings from Connexions Mapping Tool

As a result of the original mapping exercise undertaken for the development of the Connexions Partnership in the City the following points were raised. The mapping identified a number of key points further to the data already produced :

- The two wards with the largest population numbers including young people, Moulsecoomb and Marine are also the wards with the most social problems. These factors will make demands on Connexions resources as these young people will need considerable support
- Young people with Special Educational Needs require considerable extra help at transition points due to the additional problems they may have with, for example, literacy, behaviour and attendance. There are 253 statemented and 2,319 unstatemented young people in mainstream schools in the area and 300 local young people in special schools
- There were 263 temporary and 23 permanent exclusions last year from local schools
- 1347 students received free school meals last year which is an indicator of deprivation
- The teenage pregnancy rate is above the national average, though half these pregnancies are terminated. The live births for 11-15 is 7, 16 year olds 18, 17 year olds 35 and 18 year olds 44
- Estimates produced by the ESBHHA Public Health Department estimate there to be 1,828 16-19 males with alcohol dependency, 1,285 males with drug dependencies. The number of 16-19 year old females with alcohol dependencies was estimated to be 1,075 and 886 with drug dependencies.

The mapping exercise will be undertaken again during the coming year. This will be used to show any changes from the original findings, evaluate the impact of existing programmes of work and the deployment of resources both within the Connexions Partnership and the Brighton & Hove Youth Support Service.

d. Youth Crime and Young Offenders in the City

Up to date information is available in relation to youth crime and young offenders in the City through the data collected to inform the Youth Justice Plan, drawn up by the City's Youth Offending Team for the period 2002-2005. The key issues related to young offenders and youth crime in the City with statistics available are :

- There were 356 young people with substantive outcomes during 2001, Court outcomes have increased from 206 in 2000 to 246 in 2001
- The majority of known youth crime is in the offence categories of theft and handling, motoring offences and criminal damages
- Vehicle theft represents 8.6% of the total of youth crime and is being committed by 16.6% of the young people known to the YOT
- Domestic burglary has shown an increase in the main outcomes for this offence 8 in 2000 and 20 in 2001 which was committed by 7 and 17 young people respectively
- Violent crime as a whole in the city has remained broadly consistent with 2000 levels, with around 75% linked to violence in a public place around the nightclub centre area. A significant number of young people 99 were involved in offences of violence against the person. They were mainly 15-17 year old males, and the most common offence was common assault. The most frequent victims were other young people. Alcohol was frequently associated with these offences
- While drug offences represent a small percentage of overall youth crime, the assessment of young people appearing most frequently in the system reveal a high level of drug misuse, particularly class A drugs
- The most serious offences are being committed by a relatively small number of young people who are known to the YOT and to other agencies
- The Black and Minority Ethnic community comprise 3.1% of the overall population of the City, for youth crime 38 out of 988 offences were committed by young people from a black or other ethnic community. This represents 5.2% of youth crime
- 84% of offences were committed by young males
- A significant proportion of young offenders live in the Whitehawk, Moulsecoomb and Portslade/Hangleton/Knoll areas of the city (There are Local Authority youth centres in each of these areas.)

3. Geographical distribution of service provision in the City

When the Unitary Authority took over responsibility for the Youth and Community Service four years ago it focused its work on targeted areas, which reflected the youth population, levels of deprivation and social issues.

This is reflected in the chart - youth work by neighbourhood and ward - showing service provision by ward and the nature of that provision. This chart can be found at Appendix 24. See also the maps at Appendix 8 illustrating the distribution of Children in Need across in the City,

This geographic distribution of Youth Service provision will continue to inform prioritising of delivery where needs are greatest in the period 2003-2006.

4. Conclusions : Impact of this data on Youth Service Planning

All of this data about young people is used to inform the planning of Youth Services and the setting and monitoring of key targets and goals. Data collection and analysis is constantly being improved and within the re-structured directorate of Children, Families and Schools and with the advent of the Connexions Service and its integrated information collection mechanisms, the Youth Service hopes to make continued improvements in the information it collects and analyses in the period 2003-2006.

A couple of examples demonstrate this:

a. Youth Offending Work.

The Youth Support Service works in an active partnership with the Youth Offending Team and one of the senior workers is at present part funded by the YOT. Within the Youth Justice plan 2002-2005 there are key targets which reflect the young offending, the Connexions Targets and the future work of the Youth Support Service.

b. Connexions

Many of the facts and findings as evidenced above have been reflected in the development of the Connexions Service with an Intensive Personal Adviser allocated to the Leaving Care Team, and three intensive PAs allocated to the Careers Service to focus on young people with Special Education Needs.

