

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2004

NOTICE OF MOTION

Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Service

This Council:

- ◆ Recognises the excellent contribution that the Youth Service makes to the personal and social development of young people in Brighton & Hove.
- ◆ Recognises that Youth Services help to create strong and cohesive communities by bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds and by steering them away from the circumstances that predispose them to involvement in crime.
- ◆ Agrees with the National Youth Agency that “the benefits to the local authority of investing in Youth Services are way beyond the cost of the service itself.”
- ◆ Recognises that, nationally, almost 1 million 13-19 year olds make use of local authority youth services every year.
- ◆ Welcomes the commitment of this Council to young people in its Corporate Plan (priority 4: “Thriving 14 year olds able to participate in the life of the city”) and in its recent successful application to become a ‘Children’s Trust’.

However, this Council notes:

- ◆ The Government’s intention in *Transforming Youth Work - Resourcing Excellent Youth Services* that all local authorities should aim to achieve a target spend of £100 per head of 13-19 year olds per annum by 2005.
- ◆ In 1999-2000, Brighton & Hove had the sixth lowest spending per head (£34.35) on Youth Services out of all 150 Local Education Authorities.
- ◆ Latest Best Value Performance Indicators (2002/03 - BVPI 33) show little improvement, with Brighton & Hove still in the bottom quartile of unitary authorities (£63.08) and requiring a £36.92 per head increase in funding to achieve the Government’s 2005 £100 target.
- ◆ There are significant recruitment and retention problems for Youth Workers both nationally and locally – the 2001 JNC Workforce Survey reported that 45.7% of local authorities report recruitment problems for full-time qualified Youth Workers.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 has given local authorities many new powers to clamp down on youth crime in terms of curfews, increased scope for using ASBOs and issuing of fixed-penalty notices for public nuisance offences. However, alongside these new powers, the longer-term deep-seated problems of youth disaffection need to be addressed, and the Youth Service has a vital role to play in this process.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- ◆ Increase the budget allocation for the Youth Service for 2005/06 to at least the median level for unitary authorities (£77.65 per head of 13-19 year olds).
- ◆ Investigate new ways of addressing the staff recruitment and retention problems in the Youth Service and to report progress back to the Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee by 6/9/04.

Proposer: Councillor Dee Simson Second: Councillor David Smith

Other Signatories: Councillor Vanessa Brown
Councillor Garry Peltzer Dunn
Councillor Brian Oxley
Councillor Ted Kemble
Councillor Geoffrey Theobald
Councillor Carol Theobald
Councillor Peter Willows
Councillor Ann Norman
Councillor Ken Norman
Councillor Geoff Wells
Councillor Lynda Hyde
Councillor Mary Mears