



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMISSION  
ADDENDUM**

**4.00PM, TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2012**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

# ADDENDUM

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## Agenda Item 63

To the Head of Scrutiny  
23 January 2012

### Trans Scrutiny

Further to our conversation last week I would like to request that a Scrutiny Panel on the rights and needs of the trans community is convened. I am to understand that a request must go to yourself to be added to the papers for the next Commission viz next Tues. I hope that this item can be added.

In the light of the [murder of Andrea Waddell in 2009](#) and the ongoing situation with the trans community in Brighton and Hove, the Leader of the Council and myself met representatives of the trans community a few weeks ago and we agreed a joint work programme.

The trans community throughout the world and in Brighton and Hove face discrimination in society and through provision of services and their needs are too often marginalised.

The idea of a scrutiny to analyse the needs of this burgeoning community in our city is fundamentally about how we as a Council and as a city shift to address the needs of this community and to reflect their agenda in the work that we do.

I hope that we can have this added to the agenda for the OSC next week. I will be subbing and can speak to the agenda item.

Best wishes

**Phelim Mac Cafferty**

Green Party Councillor for Brunswick and Adelaide

Chair of Planning, Brighton and Hove City Council  
Member of Community Safety Forum & Staff Consultation Forum  
Outside Bodies: B&H Music Trust; Citizens' Advice Bureau; East Sussex Fire Authority.



## **Trans Scrutiny: Scoping**

Please note: this isn't a scoping paper as such – we haven't yet spoken to trans people or groups and have only had brief conversations with colleagues in Equalities, the NHS etc. However, looking at work undertaken in other parts of the country and at the local "Count Me In Too" survey of LGBT lives in B&H, it seems reasonable to assume that scrutiny of the issues faced by trans people in the city is likely to include the following:

### **Possible Issues**

#### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is a very significant issue for trans people, and features as a overarching factor in all the issues identified below.

#### **Physical Health**

Trans people may report having more physical health problems than non trans people representing similar demographics. A significant factor here is likely to be access to services, with some trans people reporting that attitudes of healthcare professionals (particularly GPs) discourage them from using services – people who do not regularly access primary and preventative health services are at significantly greater risk of developing health problems.

#### **Mental Health**

A disproportionately high % of trans people are reported as having mental health (MH) problems. This may be due to several factors: to the impact of discrimination causing depression anxiety etc; to MH professionals over-diagnosing MH problems in trans people (i.e. incorrectly assuming that being trans is itself indicative of MH problems); to MH problems associated with trans status – e.g. gender dysphoria. For trans people seeking gender-reassignment there is significant dissatisfaction with 'locally' available services (accessed from Charing Cross hospital, London).

#### **Housing**

A high % of trans people have experienced homelessness; a high % of trans people live in social housing; a high % of trans people report problems with accessing private-rented housing – particularly due to discriminatory behaviour of some private landlords. Many trans people report suffering discrimination/harassment from neighbours etc.

#### **Safety**

Trans people are more likely to experience all forms of hate crime than non-trans people, and generally more likely to have experienced hate crime than other LGBT groups. Trans people may also experience discrimination from other LGBT people.

#### **Accessing Services**

Trans people often report problems in accessing services (e.g. council services) and report much greater dissatisfaction with services than other

LGBT groups – in terms of staff being rude etc. In some instances, services which are gender specific may not be easily accessed by trans people.

### **Engagement**

It can be difficult to engage with trans people, particularly with those who are not part of the local LGBT community (and trans people frequently report rejection by others in the LGBT community). Trans people who choose to identify with their chosen gender rather than as trans may also be particularly hard to reach.

### **Workplace**

Trans people may feel discriminated against in the workplace, even in organisations such as local authorities, NHS trusts etc which have policies to counter such discrimination.

### **Potential Witnesses**

- Trans user-led groups
- Trans individuals – perhaps especially trans people working for the council or our key partners
- BHCC Equalities
- PCT Equalities
- GP Commissioners
- Statutory MH services
- Public Health
- Housing Strategy
- Local/National LGBT and Trans advocacy groups
- Academic Experts
- BHCC Community safety
- Police
- BHCC HR

### **Possible Approach**

Talk to trans people and user groups, academic experts etc to gauge scale of problems in B&H. Possibly focus on what BHCC and key partners do and don't do well as a starting point – e.g. do we follow best practice, and if not what more could we do? Look at involvement of trans people in drawing up and embedding anti-discriminatory policies and practices. Focus on general issues for trans people rather than very specific matters such as gender reassignment services