



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**CABINET
EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT
CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

4.00PM, THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

EIA CONSULTATION PAPERS

The following papers are provided for information and relate to the responses from various organisations in regard to the consultation process on the proposed Council Budget for 2012/13 and the drawing up of the Equalities Impact Assessment.

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20th December 2011

Dear Mary,

Re: Possible cuts to Early Intervention Grant (EIG), Disabled Children's Services and youth employability service

I first want to thank you for putting the budget papers out for consultation earlier than normal, and for setting out a 2 year plan. I understand difficult choices will need to be made in order to balance the Council's budget over the next two years, but I ask that you reconsider the needs of some of the most vulnerable families in Brighton and Hove.

We estimate there are about 7,000 children and young people in the City with special needs, 3,400 have a significant disability and whilst they live across all wards, a disproportionate number live in the poorest wards. Over half of disabled children are living in (or on the margins of) poverty and we know it costs three times more to bring up a disabled child than one who is not. 43% of parent carers in touch with Amaze, tell us they haven't had a single day's break from caring for their disabled child in over six months, 25% have never had a day's break. 27% say their caring role has contributed to a relationship breakdown and 84% feel isolated, or sometimes isolated, with 20% feeling unwelcome at venues and amenities across the City [source: Parent Carer survey Dec, 2011].

As such these families already face incredible challenges and I am concerned that, whilst individually the cuts are relatively small, the affect on these families will be cumulative, disproportionate and unacceptably high. Some proposals will directly impact on these families ability to cope and short term savings now are likely to result in higher costs later if families go into crisis and their child needs residential care. I understand that the average annual cost of just one family falling into crisis and needing a residential placement for their disabled child is £180,000.

In addition, national research indicates disabled children are three times more likely to be abused than non-disabled children and locally there has been a significant and marked increase in disabled children having a child protection plan (source: BHCC EIG on budget p.41) to the point where the City is now 3rd highest in the country. Can you please provide us with these trend statistics?

As such, the importance of intervening early and investing in support for parents or carers of these children is vital. The administration proposes protecting investment to support carers of adults and I would like your assurance this can **protection can be extended to investment in the support for parents and carers of children with disabilities**. These carers need access to regular short breaks and I would like your **assurance that investment in short breaks is protected**.

Other key proposals which Amaze believes will disproportionately impact on vulnerable families with disabled children and impact their ability to cope are tabled below. Please see my questions, or requests for further information, in the last column.

Page	Description of saving	Saving IDied 2012/13 '000s	Concern	Questions
Children's Services				
51 & 54	Reduce educational welfare service to statutory minimum & Attendance strategy	£217 & £20	No capacity to monitor attendance city-wide nor support schools to work with families where attendance is an issue. This will lead to more exclusions and ultimately impact on YOT and NEETs especially if you link this to the CAMHS reductions... a lot of young people that are having problems will lose out on the necessary support to turn situation around.	This cut will disproportionately affect families with child with special educational needs (more at risk with attendance problems) – how will this be addressed in the EIA?
52 & 57	Youth Employability service	£30 & £120	Significant cuts made last year and team not had chance to recover! Reduction in posts by 10 fte – big impact! Research highlights the transition to adulthood for disabled young people is often the most negative and stressful time for young people and their families. We would question that there will be enough capacity to fulfill its statutory requirements to all the young people in special schools, mainstream schools, out of county placements and colleges and further cuts here will lead to an increase in the NEET figures.	The Council has a statutory obligation to provide moving on advice to young people with SEN in transition. Will the Council be protecting the 2 LDD advisors that are left within the team?
53 & 58	Home to school transport – strict implementation of allocation for SEN children	£100 & £28	Fewer children transported to school will add to pressures of parent carers. Need to be involved in the EIA. Community Transport's contract ends in 2012 and concern that the social value added of their provision might be lost e.g. CT currently provide transport to Extratime after school clubs etc.	What is the total school/home transport budget ie. What proportion is being cut? Will eligibility criteria be changed again? Need to understand the impact on proposal to change the eligibility of home-school transport for children travelling to faith schools and whether this affects children with SEN.

49	EIG review	£192	Much of this document refers to the need to invest in early intervention/preventative services to avoid high cost interventions later – so why cut the EIG here? Key evidence suggests cuts to early intervention services are short term, false economy.	How can such a large saving be made with no impact on posts? What did the EIG review show, where are proposed cuts to be made? Please share results of this review urgently.
49	CAMHS – reduced work with children and professionals in schools to raise awareness of mental health	£107	We know mental health issues in children are increasing (Compass database shows almost 200 CYP with mental health problem). 40% rise in referrals last year! Particular problem in West Hove and Aldrington. Brighton has one of the highest rates of suicides in under 25's in the UK. Early intervention is key here especially in training people what the warning signs are. Cuts here are a real concern.	What % is £107k from total CAMHS budget for schools? Where would cuts be made – what elements of service would no longer be delivered? Need to increase awareness/training for teaching staff of mental health issues, not decrease!
??	Disabled children's services – voluntary sector service redesign	£120	Not clear how such big savings can be made through changes to contracting without huge impact on level of service and redundancies and ability of VCS organisations to survive. Need to understand that once this funding is taken away from the VCS, services will be gone as impossible to find other funders to replace statutory income. Need to stress that lots of work done in 2010 to develop Disabled Children's Needs Assessment and Commissioning Strategy. Any proposed changes should be in line with priorities set out in this.	Why are VCS being singled out for savings here? What proportion of total VCS budget is this? Proposed savings to in house services are only £50k, but against much larger budget. Impact therefore will disproportionately impact the VCS.
56 + 51	Children Centres	£642 & £50	Biggest impact on most vulnerable families and worse outcomes for them. Children with disabilities live across all the areas of the City. If some CC close, will families with disabled children be supported to access venues further afield?	Can we see breakdown of services provided which might be at risk and who currently access these? Can CC evidence that their current service offer has been helping the poorest families (closing the gap)? Can we have profile of current users of

				children's centres e.g. % living on benefits, % with special needs/disability, % single parents etc. Is idea to retain CC in areas of highest deprivation?
51 & 56	CC nurseries, Childcare quality	£140 & £80	Reduction in funding for workforce development for early years providers will reduce quality of provision. Again concern that reduction in quality of early years provision will impact on closing the gap of achievement in key stage 1. Reduction in quality of early years provision and less choice esp in disadvantaged areas (where we need to be doing more to encourage parents to return to work)	
50	FIS	£50	Suggests providing more information on-line.	Need to ensure that some written information can be made available for those families who do not have access to the internet.
	Youth services	+£300	Amaze has fed into the Youth Services Commissioning strategy and review process and have lobbied for more investment in more inclusive and welcoming youth services as well as investment in specialist youth service provision.	How will the £300k investment be prioritised? Will there be a commitment to encourage universal youth services to be more inclusive and welcoming (20% of Amaze families state they feel unwelcome at City's amenities and venues)
<u>Housing Services</u>				
p.64	Housing – squeezing Supporting People contracts			
	Changes to benefits for those in temporary accommodation		6% of families which Amaze helped to access DLA families in 10/11 are currently living in temporary accommodation.	I would like some more information about whether families with disabled children living in temporary accommodation will be required to move out of the City.
p.64	Putting up rents and service charges in social housing		Biggest impact on most vulnerable families and worse outcomes for them. 52% of families which Amaze helped to access DLA families in 10/11 live in	How much will rents increase by? It is understood water rates will increase by 9% and service charges by 20% - this will lead to a real cut to families living standards.

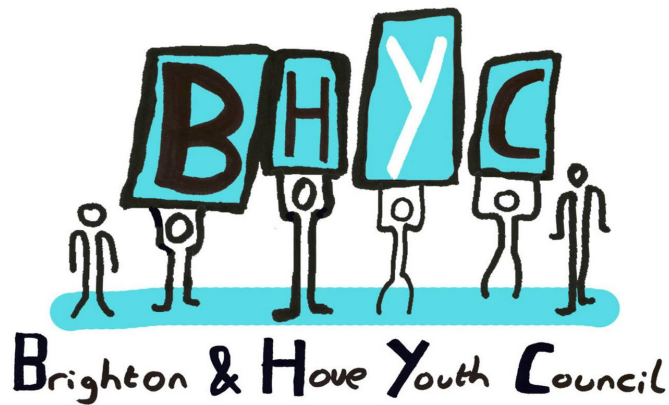
			social housing, The recent Amaze survey shows 58% of parent carers are already struggling to cope with debt, are making ends meet by extending their overdraft or using credit cards. 14% have taken out a loan.	How does this proposal sit alongside the Child Poverty Strategy desired outcomes?!
<u>Infrastructure</u>				
	Closing public toilets		11% of children on Amaze's Compass database are incontinent as are some of their parents and carers and would struggle to go the extra 200m or so to the next nearest public toilet. Whilst the 'use our loo' initiative is a good idea, we understand not many shops have signed up to this as there is no incentive for them to do so. Also these might not be accessible.	Please can you provide a map of the public toilets which would remain and the 'use our loo' providers (marking those which are 'accessible') so we can circulate this to families for comment?
	Less investment in road markings, pavement repairs and street lighting etc		This will disproportionately impact the visually impaired and families with a disabled parking bay outside their home.	Commitment to continue to invest in road marking for disabled parking bays etc

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss any of these issues at your convenience and extend you another invitation to visit us and meet some of the parent carers we work with. Alternatively I would really welcome a reply with some of the additional information I have requested as soon as possible so that we can help the parent carers we are in touch with what the proposals are in more detail.

Best wishes and season's greetings

Rachel Travers

Amaze, Director
 (I work part time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)
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Budget EIA Workshop Report

The views of Brighton & Hove Youth Council on the
BHCC Budget 2012/13 - Equality Impact Assessment

December 2011

Article 12 UNCRC – Children and young people have the right to express opinions on matters which affect them and to have those opinions taken seriously.





Brighton & Hove
City Council

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Listening to Young People from Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove EIA: reflections of young people aged 13 – 25

Introduction

About this report

The purpose of the report is to highlight the views of young people on the proposed service changes and impact to young people and the wider community around 6 key areas identified in the Budget 2012/13 – Children’s Services, City Regulation and Infrastructure, Housing, Adult Social Care, Resource and Finance and Communities.

The following details the potential impact and specific changes to each key area as identified by service managers.

Impact and service changes

1. Children’s Services

Impact

- Protection of funding for carers and respite care
- New Youth Services strategy
- Targeting of those most in need
- Provision of services to schools

Specific changes

Looked after children, Education Welfare, Sure start, and Youth Employability.

2. City Regulation and Infrastructure

Impact

- Less revenue spend but more capital spend on transport and the public realm
- Review of refuse & recycling service
- Increases in fees and charges
- Less subsidised bus routes
- Closure of less used public toilets

Specific changes

Less spend on preventative highway maintenance and reduction in street lighting and street cleaning.

3. Housing

Impact

- Efficiency savings on Supporting People provision and repairs contract
- Protection of the Preventing Homelessness Grant
- Use of leasing for temporary accommodation

Specific changes

Rent and service charge increases, staff restructures in private sector housing renewal and commissioning.

4. **Adult Social Care** **not about reduction in services but about doing things differently*

Impact

- Personal budgets
- More independent living
- Targeted services to those with most complex needs
- Activity rather than building based services

Specific changes

Transport and accommodation.

5. **Resources and Finance**

Impact

- Efficiency savings in accommodation, ICT and other internal services
- Development of woodland burial site
- Reorganisations in Registration Service and Life Events team
- Reduction to Benefits Service
- Hove Town Hall no longer to be used as ceremony room
- Review of fees and charges in Bereavement Services and Register Office

6. **Communities**

Impact

- Generation of income
- Changes to library opening hours
- Withdrawal of Mobile Library
- RNIB subscriptions for individuals
- Family Intervention project changes
- Reduction in sports development projects
- Access Manager post
- End of 8-13 year olds youth pilot projects

Service Information

Brighton and Hove City Council Budget 2012/13 - Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

The council is currently setting the budget for its spending in the city over the next two years. The amount of money available is less this year and next so changes must be made in the way we offer services. BHCC want to make these changes as fair as possible to everyone.

As part of this process BHCC are committed to identifying the potential for positive and negative impacts of budget changes on different groups in the city – and then using that information to make decisions.

BHCC would like views from groups and individuals in the city on:

- what should be considered in the budget-setting process, and
- what actions might help to reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts.

All services areas which might be subject to a change have completed an Equality Impact Assessment screening document for the budget proposals in their area.

BHCC Budget EIA consultation

Following a presentation to the full Youth Council at their monthly meeting on 7th December 2011 young people signed up to a consultation workshop to discuss and explore service changes and impact.

On the 13th December, 11 young people from the Youth Council – 5 female and 6 male, 3 are BME – attended a two hour workshop, facilitated by the Participation Team, a volunteer and the Youth Service Manager.

Following a brief introduction and presentation the group divided into 2 smaller groups, jointly facilitated by youth workers and the young people themselves, to discuss the 6 areas. Each group focused on 3 areas each, main points of impact and addressed 5 key questions. The groups then rotated. The views of each group were written down on flip chart and then both groups were brought back together at the end to feedback their views as a whole to each other.

Their important messages and suggestions will be given to BHCC Head of Equalities.

The following are the 5 questions that formed the focus of the consultation:

- **Are they the right ones?**
- **What other impacts are possible?**
- **Are the actions identified the right ones?**
- **What else would help?**
- **What is the likely overall impact?**

Executive Summary

The following consultation findings summarises responses to 5 key questions and main impact points of the Budget EIA.

The actual notes and list of comments can be seen under Appendix 1*

Main findings and recommendations

Children's Services

This was expectantly an area that the young people have experience; felt was important and directly affected them. Young people highlighted

- The needs of vulnerable people, including respite care for carers to give families a deserved break.
- They also felt that those most vulnerable should get more opportunities, regardless of any changes to the budget.
- More interesting activities need to be provided also.
- Sure Start was considered to be very important to parents.
- Some also felt that all areas need to be provided for, not just the obvious ones in need.

On the subject of youth employability, young people felt that employers need to be more accepting to young people, as they need to gain experience for jobs later on in life.

City Regulation and Infrastructure

This was a very popular subject of discussion and young people demonstrated their awareness of the needs of others and how this area affects the wider community.

- More power given to the local authority (decentralising) to have a say and make decisions on issues locally.
- More influence on being able to use capital money to fund revenue projects and vice versa.

Bus transport systems in the city were the biggest issue with the young people.

- They felt that local bus routes should be more subsidised, as it is more beneficial to improve certain routes.
- Changing or reducing bus routes – especially school buses - could have a negative effect, such as even more overcrowding, less frequency and more people using their cars instead.
- Creating and maintaining cycle lanes in the city is also important.

Improving the quality of public toilets and provision of baby changing facilities is an important issue, as is keeping the streets consistently clean and street lighting provided and maintained in essential areas.

Housing

Further explanation of this service was needed as it may not be something they have direct experience as young people.

- Rent or service charge increases should be avoided, as it could create more inequality.
- Everyone should be entitled to a bare minimum standard of living and not go without what is essential.
- Council building contracts should be renegotiated, to get the best deal possible.
- Try to create more temporary accommodation in Brighton & Hove.
- Vacant properties in the city should be made into affordable housing.
- Need to keep Sussex Central YMCA as a viable housing option.

Adult Social Care

- They felt that there should be a more practical approach to personal budgets and independent living.
- Needs to be more sheltered accommodation and that unused accommodation should be used for sheltered housing.
- They suggested more activities to take place in sheltered accommodation too.
- Resources need to be focused more towards those in need, with enough provision and a degree of consistency of staff working with those with more complex needs.

Resources and Finance

- It was generally felt that those that earn a higher wage or receive big bonuses – such as Bankers – should pay more towards things, including the Bereavement Service. This service shouldn't charge more and provide a grant to those below a certain level of earnings.

Young people felt impact and changes for the service needed to be explained in more detail as the information provided was unclear “*which cuts are proposed to the benefits service.*”

Young people said that a woodland burial site is a good idea, but it is important to concentrate on looking after the living first.

Communities

A lot of discussion was had around Communities.

- Access to affordable activities was a big issue, as activities are too expensive already.
- If fee's increase, such as Music fee's, then this could increase inequality.
- The Family Intervention Project is too important to cut. Families should be supported, as feel this will have a detrimental effect on young people in the long term if they're not.

The group felt that it is important to have services operating from key community buildings more, such as Schools and Leisure Centres. Young people use or would use libraries in their schools more than separate dedicated buildings, so cutting opening hours in these would not have too much effect on young people.

Existing projects were agreed to be more important than setting up new ones at the moment. These are important to young people, especially being healthy. Less duplication of projects or services as well, spreading them out across different areas was felt to be a good idea. If they help peoples future, then that is more important than just having short term 'fun'.

Extra services such as for parents and toddlers are thought to be important too.

Consultation Analysis and Conclusion

The young people who took part embraced and engaged well in the consultation, contributing very useful and constructive varied feedback, which helped to make an interesting and lively debate. Even when opinions were conflicting, they respectfully listened.

Young people understood the basis of the impact cuts will have on service areas but further explanation was needed to summarise an otherwise a long and complex document.

Due to the tight timeframe a 'drop-in' session was organised. This was very well received as it enabled greater participation of young people; some were able to join in later or leave earlier. Young people's voice may have been lost if times of attendance were strict and restrictive. The presentation given the previous week proved beneficial as it gave them a better understand of the 'refresher' at the beginning of the session and the purpose of the consultation. This in turn allowed more time for discussion.

However, with so much to cover in detail, there almost wasn't enough time for both groups to cover all of the subjects in one sitting – even though all the areas were covered between the groups. It was very intense and the group worked extremely hard.

The team of workers performed well together with the different groups, to help assist and facilitate the workshop in a meaningful and structured way to time. It was also good to have the Youth Service Manager there, who had the knowledge and experience to be able to answer young people directly – which I'm sure his face-to-face presence was appreciated by the young people there.

The findings were very useful and relate directly to the areas potentially affected by the EIA; this is a better process than using the consultation portal.

Members of the Children in Care Council were invited to attend, but unfortunately none came to the workshop. It would have been good to have their perspective, especially from care leavers around housing issues for instance.

Overall, the young people displayed a great awareness of the issues that they and the wider community face around the potential impact on equality in different area of society. They also learned a lot too.

The youth council members enjoyed the experience and seem keen to do any follow up that may be necessary – which may mean another focus workshop or taking it to wider community of young people, who they represent.

Appendix 1

EIA notes from BHYC consultation group on 13/12/11

Children's services

- Protection of carers and respite care is a good thing and has a positive impact- gives families a break which they wouldn't get without respite care
- Everyone is included in the new youth service strategy
- Giving more vulnerable opportunities no matter budget
- Looking at all areas not just obvious (in need) areas
- More interesting activities
- School nurses needed if they go schools will have a choice
- Sure start important to parents!
- Employers be more accepting to young people
- Gain experience for a later job

City Regulation and infrastructure

- Revenue and capital should be more inter-linked
- Council should have more power on local issues than the government
- Decentralising will need admin cost
- More beneficial to let bus companies subsidised bus routes
- More people using their cars if less buses
- More subsidised bus routes
- Do not cut school buses as over crowding happening already
- Target reasons why people drink more in Brighton e.g. think 25, they don't think it's the right action to take
- Congestion charge?
- Provision needed for baby changing facilities- must be available
- Street lighting needs to be maintained
- Like idea of more money on transport
- Don't get rid of age restriction barriers (Alcohol and Tobacco)
- Increase charges on certain things such as fines and museums
- Don't you dare unsubsidised bus routes, certain bus routes need reviewing. Changing bus routes have a negative effect
- If they put money up on parking people are encouraged not to drive
- Add bus routes and increase frequency on certain bus routes
- Close or improve quality of public toilets focusing on the grotty ones on the random corners. Improve quality that way people wont mind paying
- Street clean must be kept in essential areas
- Street lighting in important places such as parks and alley ways and shop road lighting
- Highway maintenance is good if needed
- Cycle lanes need to be made up for long term – more people in Brighton cycling, maintenance is a problem if roadwork timings are not good, change to before and after

Housing

- Try not to increase rent or services chargers as it creates more inequality

- Everyone should have bare minimum
- Renegotiate building contracts
- Vacant properties in the city should be made into affordable accommodation
- Should keep Sussex Central YMCA housing
- Try to make more temporary accommodation in Brighton and Hove

Adult Social Care

- Personal budgets/ independent living – practical, should be more sheltered accommodation, unused accommodation use for sheltered accommodation
- Target resources to more in need
- Activities should take place in sheltered accommodation
- Complex needs- keep same people as they are aware of people's needs- need to make sure you provide

Resource and finance

- Bereavement service shouldn't charge more- should grant exemption- should charge more to people who earn over a certain amount
- Vague info- what cuts to benefits service? – needs to be clearer
- Silly should cut bankers bonus!
- Should target those on good wage
- Woodland Burial site – it's a good thing but important to look after the living first

Communities

- Use schools and leisure centres more
- Centralization- put everything in the same place
- Important for young people and being healthy
- Less duplication- spreading out of services for different areas
- Would have a domino effect if cut as people won't be able to get to services
- Existing projects are more important than new ones
- If they help people's future that's more important than if it's just for fun
- Will increase inequality if music fees rise
- Important for young people
- Too expensive already
- Cutting hours in libraries wouldn't have too much impact- for young people they have libraries at school
- Expensive enough already
- Provide important extra services e.g. for toddlers and parents
- Definitely no increase in car parks in important places like hospitals
- Family intervention project – we believe it's too important to cut, important for equality, cutting would be bad in the long term
- RNIB loss of audio books and general decrease of funding for RNIB

Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership – comments on Budget EIAs

NB: approx 25 BMECP members attended a session to discuss the Budget EIAs.

Overall Comments:

- Concern for the impact on the next generation. Once the damage is done it is hard to undo.
- It's hard from the papers to identify actually what impact there is likely to be on BME people.
- There is real concern about lack of knowledge of need in the communities – population statistics are not up-to-date.
- Though the overall budget for grants has not been reduced, the award size has been. Specific question about future funding for celebrations and events (eg: Black History Month).
- Crime is likely to increase with less street lighting.
- Impact on refuse collection?
- What is the impact on big businesses?
- Numbers of refugees are increasing, so there is concern about the impact on classrooms.
- How were these proposals arrived at? What were the criteria used? Has there been consultation with people using the service?
- Roads: planning not thinking it through.
- What is the actual saving from the changes to toilet provision?
- Could there be a change to the bus pass for older people so that it has a dual use and carers can also use it?
- If people are made redundant then there is more of a cost in terms of benefits.
- Voluntary training for BME people living here.
- Reductions in housing budget mean that the mediation service is now asking for donations: this may have a bigger impact on BME communities, if they are over-represented among users of the mediation service, due to issues around racial harassment.



BWC Response to Budget EIAs

As the Director of Brighton Women's Centre and the Gender Representative for the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum, I am submitting this response to the Brighton and Hove City Council Budget EIAs.

My general comments are followed by a commentary on each EIA for the service area that will have an impact on women and children.

General Comments

Overall the production of EIA's in response to budget cuts is very pleasing to see. The fact that an assessment has been performed on the way in which budget reductions may or may not affect groups with protected characteristics enables a fair and just process for budget setting for next year. I was particularly impressed with the research and consideration given to the impact on Gender with reference to the Child Poverty Action Group, the Fawcett Society and the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

However, there is substantial variation on the calibre of the EIA's with some having been performed very robustly and others very simply. Information regarding when the full EIAs will be performed on service areas and how this will fit in with the timeframe for the 2012/13 budget setting would be useful.

In addition, how will the results of the EIAs result in changes to budget decisions where the impact of budget cuts to one service area is seen to impact on the budget cuts to another service area? In other words, how will the EIAs be considered in a joined up way? Also, lone parents and children living in poverty are considered under 'Any Other Groups' – how will this be assessed as having an impact on Gender as the majority of these groups are disproportionately made up of women?

People

Adult Social care – Day Services

Group – Sex

How will consultation with women occur?

What gender specific activities will be available for women?

Children's Services

Group – Disability

'The intention to shift, wherever appropriate, from Residential to Intensive Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements, from intensive IFA to standard IFA placements and from standard IFA to in-house fostering placements'

How will this fit with reductions in welfare benefits especially where fostering placements are in families headed by single parents – the majority of whom are women – see EIA Fostering and Adoption –Gender – ‘A significant number of foster carers are single women’.

Will this be addressed in the light of Child Poverty Action Group and the Fawcett Society Research that lone parents are more affected by the Government’s changes in taxation and benefits?

Education Welfare Service

No impact shown for Gender because the split between girls and boys accessing the service is more or less equal but will the impact be taken into account in terms of families and the fact that lone parents are disproportionately women?

Sure Start and related Service Areas

Strongly agree with assessment under Age and Gender and the importance of free/low cost provision for women who are living in poverty may potentially like to access training/employment – see EIA for SureStart nurseries under Gender.

SureStart Children’s Centre – changes to designations

Assessment under Other Relevant Groups have an impact under Gender.

Youth Offending Service

LAC – YOS and LAC to work closely with Inspire (Women’s Community Service working with women offenders) to prevent 1st time entrants of CIC and also to reduce risk of reoffending.

Lone Parents – ‘88% have birth parents who have separated (unknown how many are living as single parents)’. This is important data to collect and figures nationally would predict a disproportionate number are single mothers.

Housing Commissioning

Gender - How will this impact on women offenders’ resettlement into the Brighton and Hove community with a minimal housing stock for women. This will potentially lead to an increase in homelessness.

Housing and Social Inclusion

Assessed as no impact under Gender. How many council tenants are single mothers? How many women are living on welfare benefits/low income?

Revenues and Benefits

How will reductions affect the different groups?

Community Safety

What will be the impact on Gender in relation to services for survivors of domestic violence/sexual violence and offenders?

Lisa Dando

Director, Brighton Women's Centre

(January 2012)

CVSF Position Statement on the BHCC Draft Budget 2012/13(14)

11 January 2012

1. Aims of CVSF in BHCC draft budget scrutiny

CVSFⁱ seeks to exert as much influence as possible during the budget scrutiny process to ensure that priority services, delivered by the community and voluntary are protected. We will:

- Maintain clear & transparent communication with all political parties on Brighton & Hove City Council and retain political neutrality
- Aim to protect the sector from disproportionate cuts
- Aim to protect the grants programmes from disproportionate cuts
- Collect & present supporting evidence

2. Overview of members' views

Whilst we are grateful for the ongoing commitment to maintain the grants programmes in 2012/13, our membership believes that small volunteer run services need greater support than ever from the City Council. The loss of national funding in adult learning means that the training provider that many volunteer run organisations relied upon is closing, in addition thresholds for other grant streams are rising. This part of the sector delivers thousands of volunteer hours which benefit the city's economy and quality of life. We urge the City Council to commit to protecting the grants programmes for 2013/14 and, in addition to help find a way to ensure that the training required for volunteers is available on a no-cost basis.

Our membership do not see clear evidence of a desire to invest more in preventative community led services in this budget, we believe that it does not go far enough to shift the emphasis from high cost crisis service provision. We believe that this is only achievable through a partnership approach with the sector and investment should reflect this. In young people, prevention of homelessness and Supporting People in particular the preventative community-led services provided by our members are impacted by this budget. We believe that by working to reduce Council overheads these services provided by non-profit providers could be protected. These voluntary sector cuts impact not only on service provision itself but on the ability of these providers to lever in vital resources to the city.

3. Key recommendations of Brighton & Hove's community and voluntary sector:

1. The open manner in which the budget proposals have been brought forward is to be welcomed and built-upon in future years. The sector would welcome early dialogue on how this will happen with the proposed return to a committee system.
2. The impact and outcomes from all council spending (both internal and external) should be measured and clearly understood. More work is needed to make this a reality. We believe that this is an essential component to decision making on resource allocation and that this evidence should be open and transparent.
3. Budget reductions should be made in relation to priorities, impact and value for money. In-house services should not be protected at the expense of those provided externally merely because they are council-run.ⁱⁱ A cost-benefit analysis would be useful evidence in understanding these decisions.
4. Funding provided to the third sector should be monitored to ensure it is not disproportionately cut.ⁱⁱⁱ The rationale for plans to reduce the grants programme in 2013/14 is not clear especially in view of corporate priorities.
5. 'Salami-slicing' still seems apparent within the budget. The sector does not believe the Star Chamber approach which was undertaken moves the BHCC forward from this process and favours parts of the organisation which have the resource to make a strong case rather than allocating according to need and corporate priorities. Given the scale of the cuts required to 2015/16 this is no longer a viable approach and work needs to speed up a cross council/partner approach.
6. In order to protect services the council will need to work more closely than ever with partner organisations. It is concerning that the council and partners are looking to reduce funding to partnership working.^{iv}

7. We believe that reducing resources to the Learning Disabilities partnership, especially in supporting users and providers to participate in consultations is unfair when a major service redesign exercise is planned for 2012/13.
8. Work should be done to understand the impact on job losses in the community and voluntary sector throughout the budget reduction process. National research^v suggests that the sector is losing 9% of posts, which is further and faster than reductions in the public sector. Our membership believes that this information, together with information on volunteer hours should be gathered locally as part of understanding the impact of decision making on our sector.
9. The Equalities Impact Assessment once completed, should highlight any cumulative impacts on groups and, should identify older people and poverty as themes.

ⁱ CVSF (Community & Voluntary Sector Forum) is the umbrella body for the city's community and voluntary sector. We have over 500 groups within our membership. www.cvsectorforum.org.uk Twitter @cvsfbrighton Email emma@cvsectorforum.org.uk or telephone 01273 810230

ⁱⁱ In particular the sector would point to the budget lines Children's Services on p 57 where £120,000 will be removed from the voluntary sector providers of services to children with disabilities. No clear rationale for this decision was provided during the scrutiny process. In addition the cuts planned for Supporting People and preventing Homelessness are concerns for the sector. A lot of this provision is carried out by the community and voluntary sector.

ⁱⁱⁱ The funding provided to the sector whether via grants or through service contracts should be properly flagged when entered onto the payments system.

^{iv} In particular the sector expresses concern about the proposed cut of £25,000 to the Policy Team of LSP/PSB support on p83

^v NCVO Labour Force Survey <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/people-hr-employment/charity-workforce-shrinks-nearly-9>



The Equalities Engagement Consortium

**The Federation for Disabled People, Mind in Brighton and Hove, LGBT Health Involvement Project,
Black and Minority Ethnic Community Project, The Carers Centre,
Pensioner Action, Amaze, Speak Out**

C/O CVSF
Brighton Junction
1A Isetta Square
35 New England Street
Brighton
BN1 4GQ

11th January 2012

Dear Mary,

Re: Proposed budget for 2012-4

We first want to thank you for putting the budget papers out for consultation earlier than normal, and for setting out a 2 year plan. We also appreciate this is the first year a draft Equalities Impact Assessment has been developed and made publically available at this stage and appreciate the opportunity to feed into both elements. It is very positive that this is being considered alongside these key budget decisions in such a transparent way.

However, as a group of organisations representing some of the most vulnerable groups in the City, we are concerned that their needs should be considered in more detail as budget decision making process continues, and have found the EIA still lacking in detail in many areas.

For instance, we believe that many of the risks identified in the EIA for vulnerable groups are very broad and we need to develop more fully how these risks can be mitigated or these groups supported so as not to be adversely affected by the budget cuts. For instance, could these groups be supported to access more advocacy support in order to contact the council about needing road/pavements improvements, road signage or street lighting.

Also we are concerned that there are some hidden vulnerable populations who may be affected but who are not mentioned in EIAs e.g. adults with less severe learning difficulties or those with mental health needs are not considered within the assessment of increasing social rents and service charges.

We would be happy to discuss this more in person with you at our next EEC meeting, which is taking place on Monday 23rd January at CVSF, or alternatively look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Sarah Pickard – Speak Out
Sarah Danily – Mind
Chris Lau – The Carers Centre
Doris – BMECP
Nick Douglas – LGBT H.I.P
Rachel Travers - Amaze
Geraldine Des Moulins – The Fed

FED: Centre for Independent Living response to Budget EIA consultation

Not about reduction in services but about doing things differently

- Personal budgets
- More independent living

Although we agree with these sentiments the reality of the situation is that personal budgets currently do not offer the sort of flexibility to allow people to make the decisions they need to achieve independent living this is particularly the case for adults and older people, payments are mainly about pay for personal care and the bare essential.

- Targeted services to those with most complex needs

Services also need to be targeted at people who have moderate needs to prevent their needs becoming more complex. If the drive is to allow people to living independently preventative services are key to the council achieving this.

There are concerns regarding the use of Telecare in homes which could cause older and disabled people to become even more isolated, however it is recognised that more assistive technology can support people to live more independently this should be view as enhancement to service not instead of.

- Activity rather than building based services

There should be choice as there will always be individuals that will need building based services, one size does not fit all.

We welcome a more integrated approach to transport.

Rent and service charge increases.

This will have an adverse effect on disabled people and their families and could drive them further into poverty.

- Less subsidised bus routes
- Closure of less used public toilets

Specifics:

Less spend on preventative highway maintenance and reduction in street lighting and street cleaning

These proposals will make part of the city inaccessible for older and disabled people particularly the closure public toilets. Some roads and pavements in the city are currently in poor repair and are inaccessible and poorly lit, there are concerns that this will effect outlying parts of the city in particular. The loss of some bus routes will also badly affect disabled people as in most cases this is the most accessible and cost effective way people can travel.

The council does not currently "subsidize" Churchill Square the withdrawal funding will the **closure** of the scheme. There are no other alternative schemes in the city to meet this need. This will mean less independence and choice particularly for older people who currently do not have complex needs becoming

more housebound and more reliant statutory services. It would also make the city inaccessible to many disabled visitors.

Reduction to Benefits Service

- This would appear to a false economy when the benefit system is going through such great changes and there is the need for more help not less and when in parts of the city residents are already financially excluded and 46 percent of families are living in poverty.
- RNIB subscriptions for individuals
- Access Manager post
-

(The RNIB will make a response with regard to withdrawal of subscriptions). Here again there is an assumption that people will be able to access this service through their personal budgets but again our experience there is not this sort of flexibility within current budgets. Personal budgets are not the only panacea to ASC budget cuts if you wish disabled and older people to achieve independent living flexible and preventative user-led service are essential.

From: Geraldine Desmoulins [mailto:Geraldine.Desmoulins@thefedonline.org.uk]
Sent: 19 January 2012 09:20
To: Sarah Tighe-ford
Subject: FW: RNIB Talking Book subscription cancellation

Morning Sarah

Yes I did mean to say something about the loss of the Access post. That this has created a huge gap within the communities and equalities team, there is now nobody who has the skills knowledge of the barriers that disabled people experience when accessing council run services or to work with other departments to ensure they are disability aware. There is a need of greater support not less as disabled people are under threat with the current proposed welfare reform which if implements will drive more disabled people into poverty.

Below is an email from someone who uses the RINB service which speaks for itself. It is obviously a specialized service. Diane is wheelchair user who has very limited mobility, a fluctuating health condition as well as being blind her personal budget is already stretched to the limit. This is a valuable service. I have written to the RNIB to ask them to contact you directly a.s.a.p.

Regards

G

Geraldine Des Moulins
Chief Officer
Office: 01273 29 67 47
Mobile: 07795 312709
e.mail: geraldine@thefedonline.org.uk

The Fed Centre for Independent Living is a user led organisation that promotes independent living for all. The Fed works towards equality by inspiring disabled people to identify barriers and define solutions. To find out more about our work please go to our website www.thefedonline.org.uk or Facebook here

This email is confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the addressee it may be unlawful for you to read, copy, distribute, disclose or otherwise use the information in this email. If you are not the intended recipient please notify us immediately.

Registered Charity No. 1114435 Co No. 05706441

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Fazackarley [mailto:dfazackle@sky.com]
Sent: 18 January 2012 12:13
To: Geraldine Desmoulins
Subject: RNIB Talking Book subscription cancellation

Dear Geraldine

Re: Brighton & Hove Council stopping RNIB Subscriptions

I am writing to you in the hope you will be able to bring some pressure on the council to stop their proposed cutting of essential services for blind people.

Background:

Many years ago the B & H council began paying for blind people (registered blind/severely sight impaired) to have a subscription to the Royal National Institute of the Blinds talking book service. The cost of this currently is £70 per year including a loan Daisy player. This service stopped taking on new members about 15 years ago so only the few people who were already on the list could enjoy this service, I am one of them. Today I received a letter from the council stating that they are no longer paying for the service with effect of the 1st of April (it's no (April fool's joke though)

I just feel this is disgusting, realistically there are probably only 100 to 150 people who receive this service paid for by the council so we are talking about a very small amount of money but something that will greatly impact upon the lives of the people who receive them. I am sure you are aware but the RNIB talking book service allows you to have a permanent loan of a talking book machine and as many books as you can read in a year. The books are professionally read by actors and are of a very high quality. Daisy books also have the advantage of being able to jump to the parts you want. For example if you are reading a cooking book and you know there is a recipe for chocolate cake (Had to be chocolate cake) then you can navigate directly there. The other services offer either CD, tapes MP3 format none of which have the ability to jump to the section of your choice.

I hope you can appreciate that having access to books that come directly to you at home, with a huge range of books & other services such as the book club which I belong to, is vital and it is disgusting that they are stopping it. The amount of money we are talking about could be saved by stopping sending out so many stupid letters to people rather than stopping a service that is a lifeline to those who cannot fight for themselves.

Sorry about the rambling but I just feel quite strongly about this.

If you want any more information I'm in on Thursday so maybe we could chat about it then.

Take care

Best wishes

Diane x

Council Budget Proposals Consultation – Health Impact Response

People – Adult Social Care: Transport, Learning Disabilities Accommodation and Adult Social Care Day Services

1. Are the identified potential impacts the right ones?

Transport – Yes, if “more appropriate transport provision” is public transport it may increase social inclusion.

Learning Disabilities Accommodation - Yes

Adult Social Care Day Services – Yes, social exclusion may be reduced by increasing use of mainstream community services, rather than specialist day services.

2. What other potential impacts are possible?

Transport – If other “more appropriate transport provision” includes greater use of public transport, vulnerable groups such as older people with mental health needs and people with learning disability may experience prejudice or stigma from the general public when using this transport – which could have a negative impact on their self esteem and mental health.

Learning Disabilities Accommodation - Moving to a new home and having new support and care staff may be stressful. May have an adverse impact on mental health and behaviour.

Adult Social Care Day Services - Negative response from local community to widening of access to local community services.

3. Are the actions identified the right ones to address these impacts? Are there others which would help?

Transport - Increased involvement and engagement of the community at an early stage.

Learning Disabilities Accommodation – Insufficient information to comment further.

Adult Social Care Day Services – Increased involvement and engagement of the community at an early stage.

4. What is the potential cumulative impact (the change across more than one area)?

Transport – Not known.

Learning Disabilities Accommodation – Insufficient information to comment further

Adult Social Care Day Services – Not known

People – Children’s Services: Education welfare service, Sure Start nurseries and children’s centres, Youth Offending Service

1. Are the identified potential impacts the right ones?

Education Welfare Service - Yes

Sure Start Nurseries and Children's Centres – Yes

Youth Offending Service - Yes

2. What other potential impacts are possible?

Education Welfare Service- Schools will have less support in early identification and follow up of primary and secondary school children having difficulty with school attendance. Schools with catchment areas in areas of deprivation are likely to have more children requiring support but no longer able to access this to the same level – thus increasing inequalities. This could lead to poor educational performance, reducing life chances in employment and increasing likelihood of poor health.

Reduced input from EWOs might mean health problems, particularly mental health ones are not identified at an early stage. This could widen health inequalities.

Sure Start Nurseries and Children's Centres- Early childhood development will be harmed for families in lower socio-economic groups, if the level and quality of support accessed from Children Centre Nurseries is reduced. This could have a negative impact on children's emotional, cognitive, linguistic, social skills and health. This could contribute to widening health inequalities if they can no longer afford to access care. Children's centres play a key role in promoting resilience (Annual Public Health Report 2011).

Mental health of parents and lone parents in particular will be harmed if they are unable to access early childcare – thus being prevented from a break in caring and taking employment opportunities. This could have an impact on domestic violence, child protection and on child poverty (and we know from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment that lone parents is the majority family type living in poverty in the city – one of the objectives of the Child Poverty Strategy is to increase the number of lone parents gaining employment so proposed budget cuts in childcare seems to be counter to that?).

Youth Offending Service – A reduction in service may see an increase in the number of 15 -17 year olds offending, as they are the majority of service users. The crime score for the city from the Child Wellbeing Index is already relatively high. These children are more likely to have low educational attainment; the majority of young offenders have SEN. All of which is likely to have a negative impact on health and wellbeing.

If people from disadvantaged communities are less able to access support from the YOS when they first enter the criminal justice system, they will not have the support to maximise their capabilities or develop their resilience and self-esteem all of which will help them in resisting further crime.

3. Are the actions identified the right ones to address these impacts? Are there others which would help?

Education Welfare Service – Consideration could be given to targeting the reduction of EWO support to schools, so that the level of input remains higher in schools in areas of deprivation.

Sure Start Nurseries and Children's Centres- Insufficient information to comment further.

Youth Offending Service – Not known

4. What is the potential cumulative impact (the change across more than one area)?

Education Welfare Service – Not known.

Sure Start Nurseries and Children’s Centres – Increase in health inequalities.

Youth Offending Service – Other potential long term health implications from an absence of early intervention work by the YOS include an increase in teenage pregnancies, domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health problems.

PLACE – CITY REGULATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Planning and Public Protection

1. Are the identified potential impacts the right ones?

Planning and Public Protection (under age alcohol sales work, home adaptations) - Yes

2. What other potential impacts are possible?

Planning and Public Protection (reduction in under age alcohol sales work, home adaptations).

Reduction in age restricted sales work for alcohol, will increase the number of young people at risk from alcohol harm due to underage drinking. Alcohol misuse is a vulnerability for young people in the city, over 40 under 18 year olds require admission to hospital due to alcohol each year (Annual Public Health Report 2010)

Reduction in advice for home adaptations for the disabled could limit their ability to lead independent lives. Social isolation could increase if accessibility advice is not built into planning proposals.

3. Are the actions identified the right ones to address these impacts? Are there others which would help?

Planning and Public Protection (under age alcohol sales work, home adaptations) – Insufficient information to comment.

4. What is the potential cumulative impact (the change across more than one area)?

Planning and Public Protection (reduction in under age alcohol sales work, home adaptations) – Not known

COMMUNITIES: Community Safety, libraries, sport and leisure commissioning

1. Are the identified potential impacts the right ones?

Community Safety - Yes

Libraries- Yes

Sports and leisure commissioning – No mention is made of the link to obesity and the health benefits to be gained by engaging in physical activity. Physical activity helps to reduce the risk of developing long term health conditions associated with obesity i.e. diabetes, cardiovascular disease.

2. What other potential impacts are possible?

Community Safety – Children’s health and welfare may be at risk from the reduction in the Family Intervention Project. They will have reduced opportunities to maximise their capabilities and develop their resilience and wellbeing.

Changes to the Family Intervention Project may mean reduced capacity to address domestic violence. This would mainly have a negative impact on women.

People from areas of deprivation are more likely to need the support of the Family Intervention Project and will receive less support if the capacity is reduced, which could increase family stress.

Increased flexibility in new case work team will make them better able to support victims of racist and disability hate crimes and so potentially reduce the negative mental health consequences, and help reduce social isolation.

Libraries- Closing the mobile library service may increase the social isolation of some older people with mobility problems, who may have to travel further to the library. It may also have a negative impact on other users, such as children whose developing literacy may be affected.

Not all the needs of people with visual impairment might be met by the library talking book scheme rather than the RNIB scheme and could increase social isolation.

Sports and leisure commissioning - A reduction in sports development projects could have a negative impact on the health of young people, in particular it will affect the ability to tackle obesity. This in turn will place an increased burden on the NHS as a more people develop and require treatment for long term health conditions linked to obesity.

A reduction in sports development projects could widen health inequalities, as socially disadvantaged groups may only be able to access sport through council provision. It will limit the opportunities for young people to maximise their capabilities.

3. Are the actions identified the right ones to address these impacts? Are there others which would help?

Community Safety – Target access to the Family Intervention Project to those in greatest need. Although this might widen health inequalities for the second most deprived quintile.

Libraries – Insufficient information to comment further

Sports and leisure commissioning – Consideration could be given to targeting the reduction in sports development projects, so that less projects are affected in disadvantaged areas.

4. What is the potential cumulative impact (the change across more than one area)?

Community Safety- Not known.

Libraries – Not known

Sports and leisure commissioning – Potentially the health impact could be an increase in obesity of young people (particularly those from socially disadvantaged groups) and the subsequent development of long term health conditions.

Equality impact Assessment for Council Budget 2012 – 13 Response by Brighton and Hove Speak Out

Brighton and Hove Speak Out welcomes the opportunity to feed into the council budget proposals and the impact that they will have on people with learning disabilities.

We have scrutinised the budget proposals 2012 – 2013 and commented on potential negative impacts to the learning disabled community. Given the size of the budget document and the broadness of the document, it has been difficult at this stage to judge the impact with great accuracy.

Adult Social Care – Centralising Transport

- People with learning disabilities often have very specific support needs. Removing specific transport for this group could result in people not getting the support they need from people who know them well.
 - To minimise risk, there is a need to provide a consistent staffing who understand client's needs.
- A centralised service carries a risk of being more disjointed and less reliable. This could be compounded if people are living in more independent settings and have less staff support to manage any routine changes. People might become agitated or upset presenting difficulties for themselves, staff and other passengers on the transport.
 - Good planning (with good knowledge of passengers needs) and enough resources is essential to minimise this risk.
- Some people with learning disabilities do not want to travel on minibuses as their main form of transport and want to learn to travel independently on public transport which offers more choice and control and is less institutionalised. There is not enough investment at present in travel training (ie travel buddies).
 - Could some travel budget be put aside to train people, therefore reducing costs in the long run?

Learning disabilities Accommodation

- Speak Out broadly welcomes the move to review accommodation however people might be denied the right to choose where they live and who they live with. The implication of these plans is that some people might have to move, even if they are happy where they are. This could cause distress, poor mental health and behaviours that are difficult to support which will cost more money in the long run.
 - We know that people with learning disabilities find it difficult to challenge decisions from authority without support to do so advocacy provision needs to remain in place.

- People might be denied the choice of who supports them and how they are supported, having to move from one support package to another which is unfamiliar.
 - The council needs to work alongside people with learning disabilities in order that they understand the need for change and are given time to work out what they want to do and have good choices available to them. Making sure people have adequate time for this is essential.
 - Money should be made available to make sure that people with learning disabilities can get help to challenge decisions so their rights are upheld.

- The possible consequences of in **house services focussing on people with higher support needs** are that more independent people with a milder learning disability may be more at risk of social isolation, health and mental health problems should they move to accommodation with less staff and support. This risk increases if people are subject to unplanned for events such as illness, accident or bereavement that are not catered for in their care package.
 - Care providers need to make sure that there is contingency funds available to help people cope with unplanned for events in order to prevent bigger crisis’.
 - Providers and the council need to make sure that people are supported to find social opportunities and build friendships and links with their communities

- **Lack of employment** could further increase risk of isolation for people who do not access day care options. (as above)
- People moving to **more independent accommodation** will be more vulnerable to financial, physical and other abuse from the public as well as other difficulties, for example neighbour disputes, money management etc
 - People will need good support and training on staying safe and good back up support should they feel worried, under threat or in other difficulties.
 - Support workers will need to be more aware of other support services available (ie money advice)
 - People living in more independent accommodation will need increased support to understand tenancies, money management etc
 - Care packages will need to be regularly reviewed to make sure that they are up to date and provide the necessary support
- Use of **assisted technologies** might be appropriate for some people with learning disabilities. It is unclear whether this is what is being proposed. However, the use of such technology needs to be balanced with people's needs to see other people in order to reduce risk of isolation and mental health issues.
 - People with learning disabilities talk a lot about wanting to see friends more. Proposed changes to the council budget need to make sure that social opportunities are increased, not decreased.

Adult social day care services

- **Less building based services** could lead to increased social isolation. People with learning disabilities have told us that they value day services because they get to see their friends. We know that many people already say that they do not see their friends enough at present and are not supported to do so by some staff. This plan could increase this problem.
 - In order to minimise this risk, community based day opportunities need to include the social element as a key part of the planning process, not just as a by product.

- Less centralised (building based) support could result in people's care packages/Person Centred Plans lacking coordination and not working properly. This is already happening (so we've been told) as day services have become less building based leading to lack of clarity about lines of responsibility.
 - Services need to make sure that Person Centred Planning is well coordinated so that people's plans are meaningful.
- It is important to get people out in the community as suggested by the **Embrace model**. For this to work with people with learning disabilities there need to be good, accessible information and signposting available. People with mild learning disabilities tell us that they find it intimidating to go to different departments/offices to get information. People have not heard of the Access Point.
 - The council needs to find creative ways to get information to the learning disabled community so they know what opportunities are there and feel confident to access them. This sort of outreach is possible through organisations that already support people with learning disabilities and in the voluntary sector.
 - Mainstream services need learning disability awareness training so they know how to support people with learning disabilities well

Housing

- **Re rent and service charge increases** to people with mild learning disabilities who are not in receipt of full housing benefit. It is unclear how many people with learning difficulties this will affect. At least 5000 are estimated to live in Brighton and Hove, although other estimates range to 7000. Learning disability services only know about 1,000 who have a learning disability, leaving many unknown and unsupported. Many of these live on low incomes and/or rely on benefits and do not have equal access to employment and training. The EIA lists only disabled people with a physical or sensory disability as being affected by increase in rent, although we can estimate that this figure will also include people with a learning

disability given the above statistics. 85% of people with learning disabilities nationally are unemployed (83% locally) and statistically others will be on a low income.

It is difficult for people to get out of the poverty trap and these actions will affect them more negatively than other groups.

Parents with learning disabilities often live on benefits. There is a likelihood that these actions will impact on their ability to look after their children as well as themselves.

Advice and signposting is often difficult for this group to access due to the need for accessible and simple information.

Re moving housing offices. There are likely to be more council tenants with learning difficulties than 1.4% (see above)

- Improved knowledge of numbers of people with learning disabilities in the city would help to minimise risks better to this group as better plans to protect them could be made

Regulation and city infrastructure

- People with learning disabilities on **subsidised bus routes** will be less likely to access city services therefore increasing the chances of social isolation (less likely to benefit from the 'Embrace' model). It is not clear where these routes are so difficult to comment more.

Planning and public protection

- Many people with learning disabilities have additional mobility issues. Less access advice on major planning proposals will result in less access to new buildings.

Infrastructure

- Many people with learning disabilities have additional mobility issues and have spoken about problems they already experience with **pavements in poor conditions** resulting in less confidence to walk and travel independently. As we understand it, city plans are for maintenance work on pavements/ roads to be carried out in response to concerns from the public, not as planned activities. A vast majority of

- people with learning disabilities could not independently contact the council and need external support to do so.
- The council need to make that that there is support from either themselves or existing community/voluntary sector groups to enable people to contact them
 - Council could decide to check pavements around day services and other places known to be populated by people with learning disabilities to ensure their safety
- **Street lighting** is an issue identified by people with learning disabilities as having an impact on their decisions about whether to go out independently, thus limiting people's choice. Good lighting is important in order that they feel confident to travel.
 - Less impact will be felt if reductions in street lighting are from 11pm onwards when people are likely to be at home
 - **Public toilets** closures could result in people not being able to access all areas of the city as they might have less confidence to go out,
 - Toilets closures need to be planned and well spaced out to ensure most people can access them if needed
 - Citywide signage needs updating to reflect proposed closures
 - **Reduction in quality of life**
 - Planned spending cuts will have an impact on how the city feels and looks. People with learning disabilities often perceive threats and danger based on this. There is likely to be more poverty, homelessness and disrepair in the city. This is likely to reduce the confidence of the learning disabled community to go out independently. They are more likely to feel threatened.
 - Work needs to continue to support people to understand key messages about safety and to educate them about the need for cuts locally.